

Award

Successful completion of the course will be marked by the award of a Bishop's Certificate *in Living Theology Today*.

Venue

The course is available at a Durham City venue, with a residential weekend at Ushaw College, Durham.

Cost

Whilst the main costs of the course will be met by Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership, applicants will be charged £55 as a registration fee, and £55 towards the cost of the residential weekend. Lindisfarne RTP invites these costs to be met by the applicant's PCC. All students will be registered by Lindisfarne RTP with the Resources Centres (at Carter House, Durham and at Church House, North Shields). There may be some additional costs for individual purchase of books and learning material but these will be kept to a minimum. All core reading will be available from the Resources Centres.

Enquiries

The Enquirers' Meeting is on 6 September 2010 at 7:00pm at St Giles Church Parish Centre, Durham. To confirm your attendance, for further details on the course or to request an application form please contact Jenny Crawford, Administrator, jennycrawford@lindisfarnertp.org or 0191 270 4144.

The completion of Living Theology Today does not qualify people to engage in representative ministry in the church. On the other hand many find it very helpful in discerning their vocation and a great inner resource for what they are already doing.

**LIVING THEOLOGY TODAY****AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN
THEOLOGICAL STUDY**

What is the course?

Living Theology Today is an introductory course in theology. It is intended for everyone with an interest in exploring Christian Faith and discipleship. It is also an introduction to study and helps people gain an appreciation of how to read, write and reflect on theology. The course is sponsored by Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership in the Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle.

Aims of the course

- to grow in faith and discipleship through learning and theological reflection
- to find out more about Christian discipleship and ministry and what participants feel called to
- to lay a foundation for more advanced study in theology and ministry

Who is it for?

The course has been designed for people who want to know more about their faith and feel that they need to reflect in a considered way on some of the key issues involved in believing and belonging to the Church. The course may also be useful for those who may be considering some form of lay or ordained ministry, and for anyone who has completed *Faith & Life* and is wondering what to do next, although this is not a requirement.

As a programme of learning, the course is designed specifically

- i) to encourage those who feel that a deeper understanding of belief and practice will benefit themselves and their church
- or
- ii) to accompany those who are either considering, or are in the formal process of discerning, a vocation to formal ministry.

Course level

The course is set at 'starter' level, it assumes no previous knowledge of formal theology, but it does assume an interest, commitment and curiosity about a deeper exploration of the Christian faith and a willingness to reflect upon it.

Assessment

Students will be required to submit:

1. One assignment of c2000 words, on one of the topics studied on the course – 40%
2. A portfolio of c2500 words, as a journal of reflection which will demonstrate what has been learned during the course – 60%.

The course and its assessment are designed to encourage the demonstration of effective learning using a range of communication skills.

Course content

Following an introductory day on study skills and approaches to learning relevant to the study of theology, the course sets out some reflection on vocation and the envisioning of faith, discipleship and ministry for the Church today. It goes on to explore foundational study in a number of topics including Scripture, theology, church history, liturgy, aesthetics, ethics, principles of preaching, pastoral care, and mission. The course concludes with further reflections on discipleship for the Church today.

Teaching methods

Living Theology Today begins in October and runs over 26 weeks. Weekly sessions are two hours long and take place in the evening. A residential weekend, integral to the course, is held in June. Teaching methods include interactive seminars and discussions led by a wide variety of speakers.