

Discovering More of the Faith...

Wanting to study in more depth than your local church can provide?

Why not try

Exploring Christianity, the Diocesan based Bishop's course for lay people in the diocese.

The course is for all lay people who want to explore faith, deepen their commitment and learn together with other.

<http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/exploring-christianity/>

Going Deeper into the Faith

Have you completed Exploring Christianity, or something similar and want to take your studies further? Then these links might help you.

Studying for Interest

Deeper Bible and Theological Study

- The GOLD Project an open learning bible study course supported by the Bible Society <http://www.goldproject.org>. At level 4 they also include theology subjects
- Wells Cathedral Lectures. In Lent and occasionally throughout the year Wells Cathedral offers lectures and talks <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/learning-outreach/theologywells/> or try their latest news.
- Sarum Exploring Theology is a two year online interactive theology course that can be attended in person at Sarum as well. <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/learning/exploring-theology>

Studying for a University Award

Exploring Christianity is a good stepping stone to a university-based Certificate/ Diploma/BA.

The following offer University Awards;

- **Trinity College Bristol**. An open evangelical Anglican training college in Bristol offering full or part-time University Awards <https://www.trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk/kingdom-learning/theology-programmes/>
- **Sarum College, Salisbury**. A central Anglican and ecumenical college offering part-time awards as well as short courses <http://www.sarum.ac.uk/learning>
- **Cliff College, Peak District**. An evangelical college with Methodist roots, offering part-time ministry and mission awards as well as short courses. <https://cliffcollege.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/ba-mission-and-ministry>
- **Spurgeon's College, London**. A Baptist College offering online distance learning Awards <https://www.spurgeons.ac.uk/distance-learning/>
- **Westminster Theological Centre**. A charismatic/Pentecostal inspired college offering part-time awards through a Bristol-based Centre. <https://wtctheology.org.uk/>
- **London School of Theology**. An independent evangelical college offering online part-time theology awards. <https://lst.ac.uk/home/ba-hons-theology-online/>
- **Church Mission Society Pioneer Course**. For those interested and involved in Pioneer Ministry. <https://pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org/>

- **Eastern Region Ministry Course.** An Anglican Ordination and Reader Training Course that offer online Awards to independent students.
<http://www.ermc.cam.ac.uk/study-with-us/independent-studies/>
- **St John's College Distance Learning.** Now operating from Birmingham this long established distance learning programme now offers Durham University Common Awards. <http://www.queens.ac.uk/what/independent/st-johns-distance-learning/university-validated-awards-sjdl>

MA Courses

Locally you can access MAs at

- Sarum College <http://www.sarum.ac.uk/learning> and
- Trinity College <https://www.trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk/kingdom-learning/theology-programmes/>

There are also online and distance MAs available through theological colleges:

The Anglican theological colleges training Ordinands and Readers offer MAs in a faith context, unlike many Universities/

- **Cambridge Theological Federation** offers 4 specialist MAs through Anglia Ruskin University: <https://www.theofed.cam.ac.uk/postgraduate/ma-aruf/>.
- **Eastern Region Ministry Course.** An Anglican Ordination and Reader Training Course that offer online Durham Common Awards to independent students.
<http://www.ermc.cam.ac.uk/study-with-us/independent-studies/>
- **St John's College Distance Learning.** Now operating from Birmingham this long-established distance learning programme offers Durham Common Awards.
<http://www.queens.ac.uk/what/independent/st-johns-distance-learning/university-validated-awards-sjdl>
- **The Church Mission Society** offer a Pioneering MA, but it will require some attendance at their Oxford centre. <https://pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org/>

MAs from other Christian Colleges:

- **London School of Theology** an independent evangelical college with a good reputation <https://lst.ac.uk/home/courses/postgraduate-programs/>

The following UK university courses offer distance MAs that may be of interest.

- **Chester University** has a good theology reputation and is fully distance learning. It offers a general Religious Studies MA, but you can weight that to Christian papers.
<https://www1.chester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/religious-studies/201810?mode=390-8141>
- **Leeds University** has a distance learning Religion and Ethics MA
<https://www.postgraduatesearch.com/university-of-leeds/56806906/postgraduate-course.htm>
- **Bangor University** has a Philosophy and Religion MA
<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/studies-in-philosophy-and-religion-mres-distance-learning>
- **Nottingham University** has a Systematic and Philosophical MA that is Christian theology. <https://www.postgraduatesearch.com/university-of-nottingham/54483002/postgraduate-course.htm>

- **Birmingham University** offers a distance MA by Research rather than modules. This requires more self discipline and research experience.
<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/research/thr/theology-and-religion.aspx>
- **Edinburgh University** has Science and Religion online MA
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/graduate-school/taught-programmes/online-msc-philosophy-science-and-religion>
- **Winchester University** has Death, Religion and Culture MA
<https://www.winchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses/ma-death-religion-and-culture/>

Funding

Non-credited courses like Exploring Christianity are generally fairly affordable and may have bursary assistance so it is always worth asking.

University credited courses are much more expensive and assume you will take out a student loan. Some Universities have their own funding assistance so do ask. There are very few charities that fund theological learning more generally, but the following may help:

- Sarum St. Michael: <https://www.sarumstmichael.org/> for those studying at Sarum College.
- St. Matthias (Bristol) - <http://www.stmatthiastrust.org.uk/> for those ministering in the Diocese of Bath and Wells and surrounding Dioceses.
- The St. Luke's Educational Trust - <http://www.st-lukes-foundation.org.uk/awards.html> specifically for postgraduate Theology study.

If you are or intend to teach RE as a result, there are a few more grant bodies to try

- All saints Education Trust <http://www.aset.org.uk/>
- Culham St Gabriel's Trust <https://www.cstg.org.uk/grant-giving/>
- Hockerill Foundation <http://www.hockerillfoundation.org.uk/Grants.aspx>
- Keswick Hall Trust <https://www.keswickhalltrust.org.uk/>
- St Christopher's College Educational Trust
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/st-christophers-educational-trust>
- The Farmington Institute <http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/>

Others

- Crewsdon Trust for study at Oxford University
<https://www.theology.ox.ac.uk/crewsdon-trust>
- Newton Trust for Cambridge University <https://www.newtontrust.cam.ac.uk/>
- The Church of England Year Book may list more charities.

Occasionally the Diocese has small grants for particular ministries. For instance, at the moment there is some funding for pioneering study. As well if the study is to benefit your ministry in the church, do talk to your minister about whether the PCC has anything to support you.