



Diocesan Certificate in Christian Studies

2021-2022

**A one year ecumenical course of 30 weeks,
which leads to a Sodor and Man
Certificate in Christian Studies.**

Aims:

- To develop theological understanding amongst the laity, encouraging Christians to deepen their understanding of their faith
 - To give people the tools for further study and exploration
 - To encourage life-long learning
 - A springboard for fostering vocations to a variety of ministries.
 - To encourage theological engagement and collaborative working in the local context which enthuses participants and excites others to learn.
- Participants should

- Inform their minister and seek their support
- Encourage others from their church to come with them
- be willing to support each other and work on assignments corporately as well as individually.

Who is this Course for?

Anyone, from any denomination, who wants to know more about their Christian faith. It is an opportunity to study and learn and to meet with others who are also exploring their faith.

Venue

The course will run from **30 September 2021 in St John's Church Hall.**
Sessions will run from 7-9 pm.

Dates

These are correct at time of printing but may change with circumstances.

Course Outline 2021 - 2022

	Module 1 Introduction	Module 2 Old Testament	Module 3 New Testament
1	<u>30 Sept</u> Introduction Exercise Getting to know you Books of the Bible	<u>4 Nov</u> Overview of module. Why study the OT when we have the NT? Divisions of the OT. Why some books got in.	<u>20 Jan</u> Canon of NT. Genres in the NT. Parallel Gospels. The synoptic problem.
2	<u>7 Oct</u> Time line of the Bible How does this relate to the OT?	<u>11 Nov</u> Law – Torah: Introduction. Look at Genesis 37-50.	<u>27 Jan</u> Gospel 1: Introduction to Mark. Mark 1.1 – 8.21
3	<u>14 Oct</u> Early Documents. Translation problems. Different translations. Brief overview of the Apocrypha.	<u>18 Nov</u> Prophets: Introduction. Look at Micah.	<u>3 Feb</u> Gospel 2: Mark 8.22 – end. The events of Holy Week.
4	<u>21 Oct</u> Who wrote the Gospels and for whom? NT Letters.	<u>25 Nov</u> Writings: Introduction. Look at Ecclesiastes.	<u>10 Feb</u> Epistle: A look at Philippians.
5	<u>28 Oct</u> The Wedding at Cana: A way of engaging with the text. Assignment Preparation.	<u>3 Dec</u> The Psalter: An ancient hymnbook? Introduction to Hebrew poetry. Assignment Preparation.	<u>17 Feb</u> Postcards: A look at Philemon, 2 & 3 John. Assignment Preparation.

	Module 4 Doctrine	Module 5 Ethics	Module 6 Worship/Liturgy
1	<u>3 March</u> What do we believe? Christian Doctrine: The sources of Theology and what contributes to our understanding of theology.	<u>21 April</u> Christology: The person of Christ and meaning for today.	<u>16 June</u> Introduction to Worship and Liturgy.
2	<u>10 March</u> How heresy determines Christian Doctrine. Trinitarian heresies and the development of the Creeds.	<u>28 April</u> What is ethics? What is Christian Ethics? How are ethical decisions made?	<u>22 June</u> Planning liturgy. Canonical requirements. Themes and structure.
3	<u>17 March</u> Reviewing 'salvation' in The scriptures. Assignment Preparation.	<u>5 May</u> Christian Ethics in Medicine.	<u>30 June</u> What is available? Service of the Word. Key elements. Service preparation in groups.
4	<u>24 March</u> Doctrine presentations.	<u>12 May</u> Christian Ethics in Finance.	<u>7 July</u> This session and the one before and after will depend on numbers in the group.
5	<u>31 March</u> Creeds and affirmations of faith. Luther – 95 theses – how did this change Christianity.	<u>19 May</u> Case Study. Assignment Preparation.	<u>14 July</u> Worship enacted. Assessing the liturgy. Concluding thoughts.

The order of sessions in modules 4 and 5 may differ. Module 5 is dependent on speakers.

Requirements

To achieve a Full Certificate, participants should achieve a pass in each assignment and have an overall attendance of 80%.

Each assignment will be graded Distinction, Credit, Pass and these grades will appear on the Certificate.

Most students 'enjoy' the assignments but, a partial certificate or a certificate of Course Attendance may be awarded.

Certificates will be presented at a service following the end of the course.

Cost

£200 per person – but this should not be a barrier to anyone.

This covers costs of handouts, use of the Hall and any other expenses.

This is not a profit-making exercise.

Fees are payable **after** the first module and may be paid in instalments.

Your church may sponsor you to help with the fees. Do speak to your minister.

Assignments

There is one assignment per module. These are examples and guidance will be given before each assignment. The word length is only indicative.

Assignments are handed in at the start of the following module.

Module 1 – Introduction

Write an article for the Parish Magazine about what you have learnt encouraging others to participate. (300-400 words)

Module 2 – Old Testament

Prepare an OT Bible Study for a Sunday School/Youth/Adult Group. (500 words)

Module 3 – New Testament

Tell the story of an incident in Mark's Gospel by imagining yourself as there.

Module 4 - Doctrine

Using Biblical texts explain your understanding of an agreed topic such as salvation.

You will explain your thoughts to the group in the first session of Module 5.

Module 5 – Ethics

Write a balanced report on an ethical issue of your choice.

Module 6 – Liturgy/Worship

With others, plan and deliver an act of worship.

This will happen in the last 2/3 sessions of the Course and marks agreed.