

Course venues and times

Details of the programme, including dates and locations, will be available on the Diocesan website www.chester.anglican.org under the *Ministry* menu.

Block one runs each Autumn term, and block two begins in the new year. We usually aim to run the course in a number of venues, across the diocese, on different evenings of the week.

There is no cost to participants or parishes: FfM is free at the point of delivery.

How to apply

For more information, and a link to the online application form, please contact the Ministry Team using the email address below.

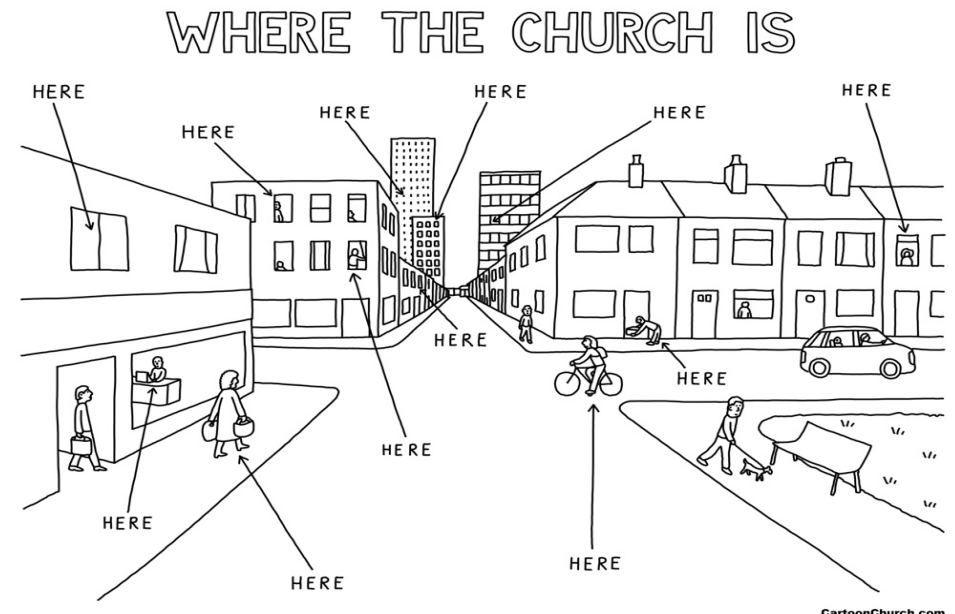
Applicants to FfM will need to have a conversation with their incumbent or equivalent (Church Warden, Rural Dean, or similar in a vacancy) to gain their backing.

If you have been selected to train as a Pastoral Worker or Reader, you will be enrolled on the course as part of the discernment and formation process.

For more information and to apply, please email ministry@chester.anglican.org

Foundations for Ministry is a programme of learning for anyone who wants to become better equipped to serve God in the world and the church. People join FfM to learn more about a variety of ways to serve God, including:

- Where they are at work, in the family, in the community.
- Roles within the church (children's work, youth work, music ministry, churchwardens, PCC members; pastoral work, outreach, administrative work and more).
- Ordained ministry.
- Licensed lay ministry (Pastoral Workers, Readers, Parish Nurses, Church Army Evangelists and more).



What will you learn?

FfM is split into two blocks of learning, which follow the themes of the Diocesan Vision, **“Together in Christ, Sharing Hope”**.

The first block explores what it means to be **“Together in Christ”**, asking what it means to be the church, and to be disciples of Christ within it. Session titles include:

- Induction day and Making Connections
- Being the Church
- Church and Kingdom
- Being the Church... of England
- Safer healthier church culture
- Being rooted: Bible and Prayer
- Stop, Think and Pray – Faith and Action
- Everyday Faith: 24-7 Discipleship
- The What and Why of Ministry
- Finding Your Way: Calling, Vocation and Guidance
- Better Together

The second block focuses on **“Sharing Hope”**, exploring how we can each play our part in the ministry and mission of the church. Session titles include:

- Gifts and Unwrapping Yours
- Growing and Sustaining Ministry
- Ministry Day: Outreach
- Mission Matters
- Church Growth
- Being Church Differently
- Applying our Faith
- Sharing our Faith
- Agape meal and worship together

What is involved?

Each block lasts for around 10 weeks. You can do one or both blocks, and if you do both you can do them in any order.

There is also a Saturday gathering of the FfM community in each block, joining together people from all the weeknight venues.

Once a year we plan a celebration evening and reunion, where participants can catch up with each other and reflect on their growth in ministry and discipleship.

The evening sessions are usually split into two parts. They begin with **opening worship**, and a **presentation** on the theme for the week. The second part of the evening consists of **small group** time, involving conversation, reflection, practical exercises, personal sharing and prayer.

The small group work is the place where people make some firm friends and learn more about themselves and each other in a supportive and prayerful environment.

There is also the option of around an hour of ‘linkwork’ between sessions. You don’t have to do this, but you will get more out of the group discussions if you do.

Come prepared to be involved! One of the gifts of FfM is the opportunity to share and learn together, and have fun. This is a great opportunity to meet with a diverse group of people, and to learn from and encourage each other.