

Application Form - Exploring Faith Accompaniment

(if you require further information prior to completing this form use the contact details below)

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	Email:
Brief Personal Statement (continue on a separate sheet if necessary) : current place of worship, involvement/role, experience of spiritual direction, interest in the course etc	
Referee: Please provide contact details of a person willing to support your application Name: email:	

All applicants will be contacted by a member of the course team for an informal conversation prior to acceptance on the course. Applications should be forwarded to...

Rev'd Paul Payton frpaulp@yahoo.com

21, The Mews, Chapel Walk, Burnley BB12 8JF Mob: 07866696891

Closing date: November 31st



Exploring Faith Accompaniment (Spiritual Direction)



'Why are you sitting here?'

'I am not sitting. I am on a journey!'

(Sayings of the Desert Fathers & Mothers)

January to June 2021

Blackburn Cathedral Conference Suite

Sponsored by The Anglican Diocese of Blackburn this 10-day foundation-level, non-denominational course seeks to...

- nurture deeper listening to and reflection on the movement of the Holy Spirit in ourselves and others in order to support the growth of discipleship
- explore the wisdom and insights of a range of Christian traditions of spiritual accompaniment
- grow a new generation of faith accompaniers with potential to serve the Church in a world living with and emerging from the challenges of Covid-19

What do we understand by 'Spiritual Direction'?

Central to the encounter between spiritual director and directee is the sense of a shared journey towards a deeper, more focussed awareness and discernment of the call to faithful living and discipleship. As companion and accompanier, the spiritual director helps facilitate a listening and reflective dialogue between director, directee and the Holy Spirit.

How is the course delivered?

The course is designed to offer a balance of practical and reflective activity. Working in individual, small-group, and whole-group settings a range of learning approaches and resource materials and media will encourage participants to engage at different levels.

In a supportive, prayerful, non-judgemental and confidential learning environment the invitation is to work with a variety of experiences which aim to promote deepening awareness and insight.

What are the main elements of the Course Programme?

There are 4 strands of growth and formation which run through each session and across the whole course...

1. **Listening and Reflecting** - building core skills and confidence in the practice of spiritual accompaniment
2. **Awareness of Self and Others**- exploring, sharing and gaining insight from our experiences of the journey of life and faith
3. **Traditions and Themes** - learning from the wisdom and experience of others
4. **Spiritual Engagement and Formation** - the place of prayer, scripture, liturgy, sacrament and spiritual direction in sustaining our discipleship

The course assumes a desire to deepen one's own journey with God and participants are expected to have (or be actively seeking) a spiritual director for themselves before the course commences.

Is there a form of course assessment?

This is a non-accredited course and completion does not in itself qualify participants to practise as spiritual directors but may confirm a call to this ministry. On completion course participants will receive a certificate of attendance and participation.

During the course, participants are encouraged to build up a non-assessed, peer-reviewed portfolio of resources that may be useful for the future.

Course Schedule: The course will run between 10.00am and 3.30pm at the Blackburn Cathedral Conference Suite on the following Mondays...

January 18th February 1st & 15th March 8th & 22nd
April 12th & 26th May 10th & 24th June 7th

NB All health and safety procedures current at the time of the course will be in place to ensure that participants remain as Covid-safe as possible.

The course will be facilitated by a core group of experienced lay and ordained tutors supported by visiting speakers.

Participants will need to bring their own refreshments - including drinks - for the day. There are numerous local eateries including the cathedral's own *Checks and Greys*.

On-site parking may be available. Blackburn bus and train stations are within walking distance of the cathedral campus.

What are the costs?

The total course-fee is £450 which can be paid in 2 instalments. Financial support may be available through your own church and for those in Licensed Ministry in the Diocese of Blackburn funds may be available through the diocesan training budget.

