

The Alpha Course in the Benefice

This is a course of interactive sessions which explores the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed non-judgemental setting. We plan to hold six evenings and a Saturday morning during the autumn. Each evening has three ingredients: a meal, a video presentation (about 26minutes long) and a small group discussion, where any question or issue can be aired.



Where: The Hub at St James Bix

When: Wednesday 7, 14 October, 4, 11, 18, 25 November at 7.30pm
plus Saturday 21 November 10.00 - 1.00

Who: **Anyone is welcome to come.** But the course is particularly helpful for those on the fringe of our churches who may come to church occasionally, or friends or family members who might be interested to find out more about Christianity.

How: Although we plan to have banners, posters and flyers, the main way in which we hope people will come is by **personal invitation**.

Why: As Christians we have the enormous privilege and responsibility to share the good news of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Christ. The Alpha Course is a simple, culturally relevant method of doing this.

Preparation

There are two main ways in which we can prepare:

1. Prayer

“Prayer is that apparently useless activity without which all activity is useless”

Simon Barrington-Ward, Bishop of Coventry (1985-1998)

First, you can pray on your own and we will have prayer cards available with suggestions for prayer and space to write down the names of people whom you could invite and pray for.

Secondly, come and pray with others. A number of “prayer walks” are being planned leading up to Alpha, where we can gather together to pray for our villages. The first of these is on **Thursday 30 July at 7.00pm at Bix**. (Meet outside the church).

2. Training - some of the areas we will cover

- How to summarise the gospel clearly
- How to talk about our own faith simply
- How to explain the Alpha Course simply
- How to invite someone to Alpha

Dates for training : **Tuesday 4th August 4.30-5.30 at Bix Hub**

Wednesday 19th August 7.30-8.30 at St Barts Nettlebed

Please let me know which of the sessions you are able to attend (the content Will be roughly the same in each). My email is: hughrbalfour01@gmail.com