



The Church of the Good Shepherd, Brighton

Growing in Faith



Spring 2026

Welcome to the second part of our new teaching programme “Growing in Faith”. This booklet tells you what’s going on between February and April 2026. We have different groups available meeting at different times and places, and covering a wide range of topic. Some sessions are standalone, while others form part of a wider series. All of our groups are suitable to dip in and out of and to fit around other commitments you might have. All of our groups are suitable for people who are completely new to theology.

Sunday Snippets

Our short teaching session to introduce you to a wide variety of topics. These meet for around half an hour on a Sunday morning - starting around 11.30am and finishing at about noon. Grab your coffee and biscuit and say hello to your friends, then meet in the Chancel for some short snappy exploration of the Bible, Church History, Prayer, Liturgy and so much more. You’ll be home in plenty of time for lunch.

Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study that allows for a much deeper exploration of scripture. The group goes at its own pace, and there’s plenty of time for questions and discussion. Meets on Zoom each Monday at 10.15am (Zoom opens for ‘coffee’ at 9.45am). See Fr Mathew for the link.

Courses

Our **Lent Course** this year is called “The Year of Matthew” and explores who Matthew was, why he wrote his Gospel, what is included and what is not. Meets on Thursdays, both after the 10.30am Eucharist and at 7.30pm.

Sycamore is a seven week enquiry course for anyone interested

in exploring the Christian faith, aimed at those with little or no Christian background. Each session includes a simple meal, a short film and time for discussion with others.

Our **First Communion Course** is for children who have been baptised and normally are in school year 3 or above. Over six weeks we will be exploring different aspects of faith and coming to church, all leading up to receiving communion for the first time.

Confirmation

Confirmation is a special church service when you are able to publicly confirm your faith in Christ. If you were baptised as a baby, you will make the promises your parents and godparents made for you for yourself. If you are an adult who hasn't been baptised, it is most likely you will be baptised and confirmed in the same service. The Bishop will lay his or her hands on you to ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen you in your commitment. Our Confirmation course this year is part of the Sycamore course, and the Confirmation service will take place on Thursday 4th June at 7.30pm.

Book Group

Our most in-depth group. Each month we read a theological text, and then meet to discuss what we've read. You don't need any prior knowledge, but you will need to feel confident in reading a book (up to about 200 pages) in the lead up to the group, and be prepared for some slightly more academic theology and discussion. You don't need to come every month - you can just pick books you fancy. All are widely available, and we will organise group deliveries to church.

February

Sunday Snippets

Sundays: 11.30 - 12 noon

Prayer

1st February - The Jesus Prayer

8th February - Lectio Divina

15th February - Extemporaneous Prayer

22nd February - Confession

Book Group

Thursday 12th February - 7.30pm

“The Things He Carried” by Stephen Cottrell

The narrative of Holy Week is powerful and painful, and because we know how the story ends it's easy to gloss over the difficult details, and stay in the comfort zone of our understanding.

The Things He Carried is a book to stimulate thought, provoke discussion and create space for contemplation.

Thursday 12th February - 7.30pm (49 Maldon Road)

Lent Group

The Year of Matthew

Imagine for a moment that you were one of the Gospel writers, aiming to capture the significance of Christ's life, death and resurrection. What would you include? What

would you have to leave out? Could one account ever capture the impact of all that Jesus said and did?

This year in Matthew, we'll take in Jesus' birth, his calling of disciples, his authority as a teacher, his miracles, and his upcoming passion. And every Sunday, our Gospel reading will add another brushstroke to our picture of Christ. As we see Jesus fulfil God's promise we'll be encouraged and equipped to live out the mystery of faith.

Thursday 26th February

Week 1 - Introductions

11am (Church) * 7.30pm (49 Maldon Road)

March

Sunday Snippets

Sundays: 11.30 - 12 noon

Stations of the Cross and Instruments of the Passion

1st March - Stations of the Cross

8th March - The Cross

15th March - The Instruments of the Passion

Lent Group

Thursday 5th March

Week 2 - Calling

11am (Church) * 7.30pm (49 Maldon Road)

Thursday 12th March

Week 3 - Teaching

11am (Church) * 7.30pm (49 Maldon Road)

Thursday 19th March

Week 4 - Miracles

11am (Church) * 7.30pm (49 Maldon Road)

Thursday 26th March

Week 5 - Passion

11am (Church) * 7.30pm (49 Maldon Road)

April

Book Group

“Hope in Action” by Cardinal Vincent Nichols

‘Hope is not the product of opinion or argument . . . There has to be something else - an impetus to act, a vision, something that fires our imagination.’

At a time when many feel defeated by the world’s problems, Vincent Nichols reminds us why we need to hold on to hope - and how we can offer genuine hope to those who need it most. With questions for reflection at the end of each chapter, this stirring book will encourage people of all faith backgrounds to come together and work towards a better future for all.

Tuesday 14th April - 7.30pm (49 Maldon Road)

Sycamore

A seven week enquiry course for anyone interested in exploring the Christian faith, aimed at those with little or no Christian background. Each session includes a simple meal, a short film and time for discussion with others.

Thursdays - 7.30pm (Church)

Thursday 16th April

The Search for Happiness

Thursday 23rd April

The Existence of God

Thursday 30th April

A God Who Speaks

