



Develop your understanding and skills

# FOOTSTEPS

training courses

for everyone working in ministry and mission  
in local churches

## Information Pack

2014-15

### FOOTSTEPS 1

# Why Footsteps?

**Footsteps** is a training course in Christian discipleship for anyone who wants to deepen their understanding of faith and develop their skills in ministry. It helps you make connections between different areas of faith and practice with lively, effective mission at its heart.

This Information Pack gives you details of **Footsteps 1**, the one year course which has been running for several years in the Southern Counties Baptist Association. There is now a second one year course — **Footsteps 2** — for anyone who has already completed year one. However, **Footsteps 1** is a stand-alone course which you can follow without any expectation that you have to carry on for a second year.

**Footsteps 1** is open to anyone, supported by the local church, who wants to become better equipped for service in ministry and mission. It has been created for a range of people involved in local churches, whatever your previous experience, educational qualifications or age. Trainers also come from a variety of backgrounds, each with different knowledge and understanding, so that they offer fresh perspectives and examples of good practice. Footsteps recognises the learning and experience which you bring and encourages you to draw on these as you interact with each other and with the trainers, in exploring key issues and new ideas. The course is set in a context of worship and prayer with opportunities to support each other in small pastoral groups.

**Footsteps** seeks to support you to deepen your spirituality and relationship with God, to reflect on and extend your understanding of your faith and to develop your gifts so that they may be used more effectively in the church and the community.

## Venue

**Footsteps 1** and **Footsteps 2** are both held at Thatcham Baptist Church, Wheeler's Green Way, Thatcham, RG19 4YF. A map is included at the back of this pack.

## Dates

Both **Footsteps** courses will take place over the same 10 Saturdays, from 10am to 4.15pm. The dates for 2014-15 are:

September 13 <sup>th</sup>	February 28 <sup>th</sup>
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	March 14 <sup>th</sup>
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	April 25 <sup>th</sup>
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	May 9 <sup>th</sup> [date confirmed]
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	June 13 <sup>th</sup>

## A Typical Day for Footsteps 1

10:00am	Worship with Footsteps 2	1:35	Group Prayers
10:20	Session 1	2:20	Session 4
11:05	Coffee	3:05	Tea
11:20	Session 2	3:20	Session 5
12:05	Session 3	4:05	Reflection and Prayer
12:50	Lunch	4:15	Finish

## Refreshments

Tea and coffee are provided but we ask that you bring a packed lunch with you. [Please note: there is no longer a café at Thatcham Baptist Church.]

## Cost

The cost of the year's course in 2014-15 is **£330**. We would encourage your local church to contribute two-thirds of the costs. Please note: early applications [*PAID IN FULL, BEFORE 31st MAY*] will be held at last year's rate of £315.

# About Footsteps

## Deepening Spirituality

Central to **Footsteps** is the desire to grow our relationship with God, and we hope that a number of aspects of the course will encourage this.

### Worship and Prayer

Each day will start with worship, as participants from **Footsteps 1** and **2** gather together. There will be opportunities for those on **Footsteps 1** to lead these sessions. Those who take the 'Leading Worship' option are particularly encouraged to volunteer by signing up on a rota, once the Worship stream of the course has begun. The day ends with quiet reflection and prayer.

### Prayer Groups

You will be assigned to a small group that will stay the same throughout the course, and you will meet each day after lunch to pray together. This will be led by one of our Personal Pastoral Assistants (PPAs). We hope that the group will be supportive and helpful as you go through the year. As well as leading the small group, your PPA is also there for you to talk to about any issues that arise during the course, so feel free to approach them.

### Journal

On the first day we will give you a journal which we invite you to use during the year. This is essentially a prayer diary in which you can record anything that comes out of your own walk with God. But we also encourage you to jot down those things which are significant through the course and particular things that you have learnt. The focus of this is between you and God but there will be opportunities to talk about those things that you have been learning through **Footsteps**

### Teaching

There is also a teaching strand within **Footsteps** on Spirituality, in which various trainers will give you a wider understanding of ways of walking with God.

# Deepening Understanding and Developing Skills

In **Footsteps 1** you will be studying a number of different subjects during the year. These are identified as nine 'strands', all of which are presented by trainers who have experience of teaching as well as much experience of church life.

There are FIVE core subjects which everyone studies together in their entirety.

## Core Subjects

### Understanding the Bible

This strand looks at the background to the Bible, the different types of writing in the Bible, such as history, poetry, Gospels, letters, considers the various authors of the Old and New Testament, and thinks about how we apply the Bible to our lives today.

### Understanding our Faith

After an introductory session, this strand looks at four key themes of our faith:

- Who God is
- Creation
- Salvation
- The Church

### Mission and Culture

This strand begins by looking at a biblical understanding of mission together with an overview of culture in our contemporary society. It then proceeds to think about practical ways that the church can engage more effectively in mission, such as building missionary congregations, church planting and developing new ways of being church.

### Baptist History and Principles

This strand covers an overview of significant events in Baptist History, the first Baptist Church in UK being started nearly four hundred years ago, and then thinks about those issues that have always been important to and distinctive for Baptist Christians. Also included are very practical issues about how Baptist churches function, such as church meetings.

### Spirituality

This strand explores different approaches to relating to God through the history of the Church. After an introductory session we will explore a number of different traditions of spirituality, such as charismatic, Celtic and contemplative spirituality.

As well as the core subjects there are FOUR further subjects which are taken as options. Each is introduced in one or more whole group sessions, but is then taught within an option group.

## Options

You will need to choose two options. It would be good to think about which options you might choose before you come, perhaps talking it over with your minister or others in your church. There will also be the opportunity to talk about this on the first day, so that a decision can be made ready for the October sessions.

Option 1

Either 'Leading Worship' or 'Pastoral Care'

Option 2

Either 'Preaching' or 'Leadership Skills'

## Pastoral Care

There are three core sessions in this strand, looking at the nature of Pastoral Care, the art of listening and the ministry of healing. There is then the opportunity to pursue this further as an option, which will develop the teaching from the core sessions and look more specifically at issues faced throughout the course of a person's life and in caring for those who are especially vulnerable.

## Leadership Skills

There are two core sessions in this strand, looking at a Biblical understanding of leadership and an introduction to conflict transformation, with the opportunity to pursue this further as an option. The optional sessions develop the Biblical teaching of leadership, issues connected to maintaining a devotional life and developing as a leader, accountability and mentoring, leading teams, transformational leadership and leading small groups.

## Leading Worship

There is one core session on the meaning of worship followed by the opportunity to reflect on leading worship within an option group. These will be practical sessions that will focus on the different dimensions and aspects of a service, such as using music, silence and the senses, celebrating baptism and the Lord's Supper and will also explore the participation of children and seekers.

## Preaching

There is one core session on the nature of preaching followed by the opportunity to reflect on developing a preaching ministry. The option will help you move from engaging with the Biblical text, through discerning the message, developing a sermon, using illustrations and delivering a sermon, to gaining feedback and reflecting on the whole process.

# What is expected of me?

**Footsteps 1** aims to equip you so you are better able to serve God in your church. This intention is reflected throughout the course.

## Participation

The style of teaching is interactive, for we believe that when we participate we learn more. There will be times in each session to listen to the trainers but also times to join in, perhaps focussed on an exercise to do in pairs or in small groups.

It is a really good idea to make some notes of your own in addition to the hand-outs which you will be given. What you are discovering will 'stick' better – and you will know what you were thinking when you come to look back on the session!

## Journal

As mentioned above you will be invited to keep a journal for the year as part of your walk with God.

## Preparation

Each Saturday will contain sessions covering various elements from the nine different strands which are being taught during the year. As the style of teaching involves participation by everyone, each Saturday there may be a small number of things that you will be asked to take away to do. This will not be handed in or marked, but will contribute to future sessions so that these work to their fullest potential. We anticipate that this preparation will take no more than 2 or 3 hours over the 3-5 weeks between Saturdays.

To help you with this you will have a Reflection sheet each Saturday, on which you can jot down key ideas and reminders. This is to help everyone make links between the different strands and identify areas which you may want to investigate further.

## Assignments

In each of the strands there will be the opportunity to write an assignment. This is entirely optional, except for those seeking to become Regionally Recognised Leaders. If that is you, you will find more details on page 7. Although these are optional, and there is no sense of failure if you do not complete any assignments, we do encourage you to have a go and at least try to write some. This is because the process of thinking further about an issue and having to put it down on paper really helps to continue the learning process. We think that you will gain more from the whole course if you attempt some assignments. These will be read, so that you can have some feedback and comments on what you have written but there are no marks given. The purpose is to help you learn.

You will be guided as to when you might begin your assignments. Obviously you will not want to submit a piece of work before that aspect of the course has been covered in the teaching sessions, so that you can reflect on what has been studied and discussed.

The maximum number of assignments you would do is SEVEN: five from the core subjects and two from your option subjects. Please do not attempt the option subjects you have not taken.

## Involvement in the Local Church

As you go through the course we hope that you will be able to continue to be involved in your local church and have opportunities for service. We will encourage your minister or church leader to have regular conversations with you about **Footsteps 1** and your opportunities for service.

For your part, we encourage you to talk to your minister or church leaders about what you hope to gain from **Footsteps 1**, about which options to choose and about possibilities for service both now and in the future.

In addition, we suggest that you also ask someone to act as a mentor for you during the course to give you extra support and help you reflect on what you are learning and the way this relates to your activities within the church and wider community.

# What can I expect?

## Training

First and foremost you will receive training that will help you serve God in your local church. This will come through learning alongside others with the help and input of experienced trainers. Handouts and notes are provided, which you will use – and add to – in the sessions and to which you can refer later.

## Help and Encouragement

All those involved with **Footsteps** are keen to see you grow and develop in your Christian faith and will seek to give whatever help and encouragement they are able. If you have particular questions or difficulties then please don't hesitate to talk with either your PPA or Anne Lane, the Course Leader.

## Communication and Learning Support

Anne will regularly send e-mails to tell you anything you might need to know before the next Saturday. This works both ways: Anne will respond to anything you want to find out.

On the first Saturday of **Footsteps** we will introduce you to WebLearn, a virtual learning environment where you will be able to access some notes and PowerPoints from the course, and find additional material. Sometimes you will need to look at something on WebLearn in preparation for the next Saturday.

## Certificate

We also want to recognise the considerable time and effort that you will have put in to attend **Footsteps** and so we organise a special evening after the course has finished which will be an opportunity to meet each other again and celebrate your achievements. At this evening we will award certificates to all those who have complete **Footsteps 1**.

## A step along the way

Hopefully this year will enable you to hear God's call for the future. For many people, doing **Footsteps** has led on to other things, both opportunities for service and also some further training, such as studying to be recognised by the Association in local leadership or as an ordained minister, or for a specialist role. Now it is possible to build directly on **Footsteps 1**, with the opportunity for training offered by **Footsteps 2**.

## Regionally Recognised Leaders

As well as being a course designed for everyone in the church, **Footsteps 1** can also be used by those who are seeking to become Regionally Recognised Leaders. The requirement of the Baptist Union is that those seeking such recognition compile a portfolio of work with one of the Baptist Colleges which are in membership with the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The portfolio covers the nine different streams, and so **Footsteps 1** can contribute to this. Those seeking recognition will need to write the set assignments. By going on to take **Footsteps 2** and working alongside the Tutors in Community Learning you can continue with the further study and training needed in order to complete the portfolio.

For more information about Regionally Recognised Leaders in SCBA go to the Southern Counties Baptist Association website where you will find a link on the Downloads page. For more about the training needed to become a Regionally Recognised Leader please contact one of the Tutors in Community Learning, Regent's Park College, Pusey Street, Oxford, OX1 2LB.

[anne.lane@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:anne.lane@regents.ox.ac.uk) [07986 323909]

[anthony.clarke@regents.ox.ac.uk](mailto:anthony.clarke@regents.ox.ac.uk) [01865 288120]

## Books

**Footsteps 1** is not a book based course, but we do make some suggestions for further reading for those who so wish. Obviously, such reading will help those who choose to write assignments. For each of the nine strands we have suggested one key book, which we think is quite readable and easily available.

For those who wish to write an assignment, there are other suggested books, some of which are stocked in the small library that we keep, and from which you can borrow during the course.

### Spirituality

Key book: Richard Foster, *Prayer*, (Hodder & Stoughton)

### Understanding the Bible

Key book: Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth* (Scripture Union)

### Understanding our Faith

Key book: Alister McGrath, *Theology: The Basics* (Blackwell)

### Baptist History and Principles

Key book: Roger Hayden, *English Baptist History & Heritage*, (Baptist Union)

### Mission and Culture

Key book: Stuart Murray, *Church After Christendom* (Paternoster)

### Leading Worship

Key books: Chris Ellis, *Approaching God: A Guide for Worship Leaders and Worshippers* (Canterbury Press, 2009)

### Pastoral Care

Key book: Frank Wright, *Pastoral Care Revisited* (SCM Press)

### Preaching

Key book: David Day, *A Preaching Workbook*, (SPCK)

### Leadership Skills

Key book: Eddie Gibbs, *Leadership Next: Changing Leaders in a Changing Culture* (IVP)



# Who's who at Footsteps?

## Course Leaders

**Anne Lane.** Anne is Tutor in Community Learning at Regent's Park College in Oxford and has overall responsibility for the **Footsteps** courses, working in close relationship with the Southern Counties Baptist Association and the Central Baptist Association. Before this role, Anne has been an RE teacher; she is married to a Baptist minister and they have three daughters.

**Anthony Clarke.** Anthony is Tutorial Fellow in Pastoral Studies and Community Learning at Regent's Park College, Oxford and a Baptist Minister.

## Other Trainers [Teaching on Footsteps 1 in 2013-14]

Throughout the year **Footsteps** is served by those with an interest in teaching and a desire to equip others to serve. These may be Baptist Ministers and others with expertise in particular areas, drawn from the Association and beyond.

Some may be responsible for a complete strand of training, while others will share different aspects of a strand, reflecting their own knowledge and experience.

Clive Burnard, Senior Minister, Andover Baptist Church, Hampshire

David Gregory, Senior Minister, Croxley Green Baptist Church, Hertfordshire

David John, Senior Minister, Ashley Baptist Church, New Milton, Hampshire

Alison Larkham, Worship Leader, Musical Director, who also works at Salisbury Cathedral

Bill Longley, Minister of Waterlooville Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Hampshire

Philip Mader-Grayson, a Baptist Minister, Spiritual Director and Chaplain

Colin Norris, Regional Minister, Southern Counties Baptist Association

Grenville Overton, Regional Minister and Team Leader, Southern Counties Baptist Association

Mark Richardson, Minister of Windsor Baptist Church, Berkshire

Jackie Storey, Regional Minister, Southern Counties Baptist Association

Jack Walker, Minister of Newport Pagnall Baptist Church, Buckinghamshire

Mark Wickenden, Minister of Frimley Baptist Church, Surrey

## Personal Pastoral Assistants

In addition to the trainers, several people who have completed Footsteps in the past provide vital support throughout the course. Every Saturday PPAs are responsible for the practical organisation of the day and each one leads and looks after a prayer group of Footsteps 1 participants.

# Finding Footsteps

We are grateful for the hospitality of the Leadership and members of Thatcham Baptist Church for the use of their facilities for the main sessions of **Footsteps**.

Thatcham Baptist Church is situated in Wheeler's Green Way, on the southern edge of Thatcham. The Postcode is RG19 4YF.

## By Car

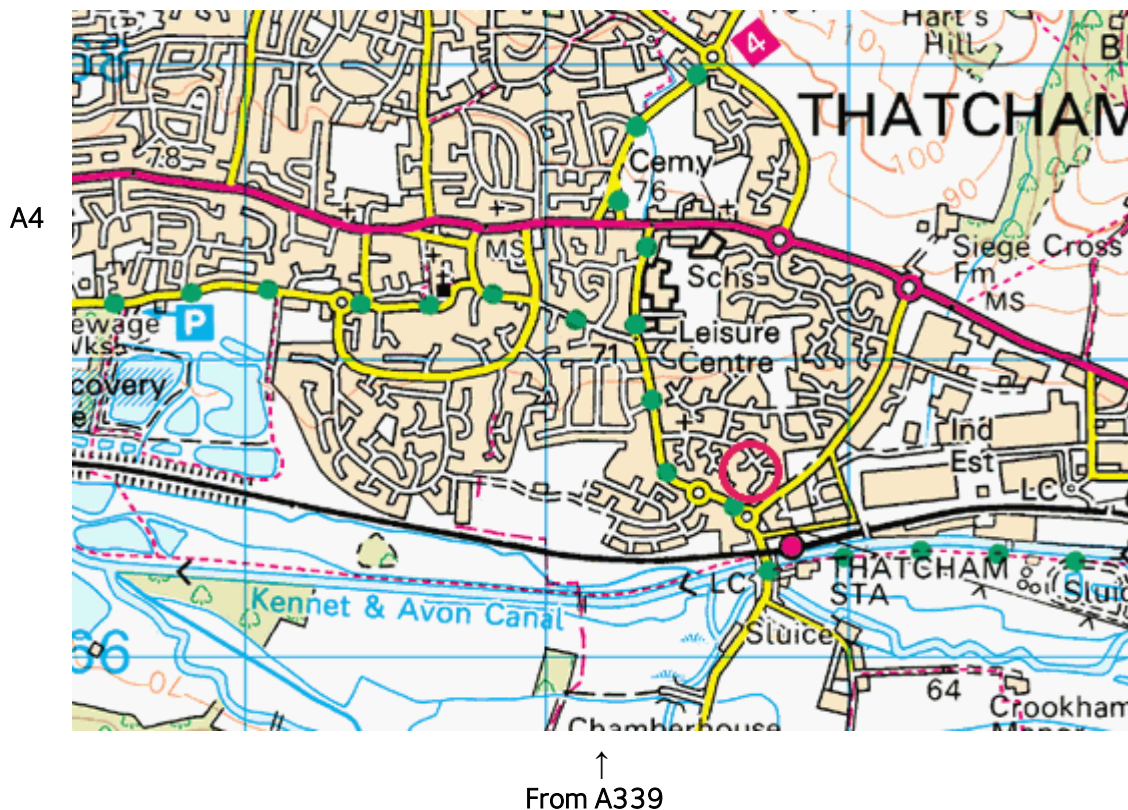
If approaching from the north, take the A4 between Newbury and Reading, turning off in the centre of Thatcham at The Moors, then straight into Station Road, Wheeler's Green Way is the fourth turning left.

If approaching from the south via the A34, turn off at Tot Hill Junction, taking the B4640 towards Newbury. Turn left on to the A339. Turn off right at the next roundabout and follow the signs to Thatcham via Greenham Common. Cross the railway at the crossing, bear left at the next roundabout. After a short distance the church will be signposted turning right. Alternatively continue on the A34, turning on to the A4 east, and follow the first instructions above.

There is some *pay and display* parking to the rear of the church.

## By Train

The Church is only a short walk from Thatcham station. Reading is the main station where you can change for a Thatcham train.





# FOOTSTEPS



## SCBA Application Form 2014-15

I would like to apply to participate in the **SCBA Footsteps 1** course 2014-15 and I have the support of my home church for this further training.

I enclose cheque/s totalling £330 made out to 'Regent's Park College'.  Please tick to confirm  
*[Early applications – fully paid before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 - £315]*

Title: ..... Surname: .....

Forenames: .....

Name known by (if different from above): .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Telephone [home]: .....

Telephone [mobile]: .....

Email: .....

Home Church: .....

Signed: .....

Any special needs or learning requirements (e.g. use hearing aid): .....

.....

.....

### Church Leader's Commendation

I am happy on behalf of the church to commend the above applicant to train on **Footsteps 1** this coming year. We believe that s/he has gifts which the church can use and agree to support this person while on the course and afterwards as they explore areas of service for God.

Church: .....

Name: .....

Position: .....

Signed.....

Please return to: SCBA Footsteps 1, Regent's Park College, Pusey Street, Oxford, OX1 2LB

