



scba
inspire connect resource
southern counties baptist association



Regent's
Park College
OXFORD

Develop your understanding and skills

FOOTSTEPS

A course for everyone living out their faith
in local churches and communities

Information Pack

2017-18

FOOTSTEPS 1

Introducing 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 is designed to make connections between different areas of faith and practice with lively, effective mission at its heart.

There are several strands to Footsteps. This Information Pack tells you about **Footsteps 1** which is a one year course. It has now been running for 10 years in the Southern Counties Baptist Association.

Footsteps 2 offers a second year 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 Pathway Days are held alongside Footsteps 1 and 2, once every term. Each day focusses on one aspect of Christian life and ministry and is led by people with special interest and experience in that area. They are open to **everyone** whether they have done other Footsteps courses or not.

Footsteps Pathway Courses can be held **anywhere** in SCBA, when a church or group of churches want to focus on training in one specific area [such as Pastoral Care or Developing Leadership Skills]. These are normally run as evening courses, but can also happen over 2 Saturdays.

Footsteps 1 has been created for people involved in local churches, whatever your previous experience, educational qualifications or age. So it is open to everyone who has the support of their local church. This means that we recognise that your own learning and experience will make a unique contribution as everyone explores key issues and new ideas together.

The Trainers also come from a variety of backgrounds, each with different knowledge and understanding, to offer fresh perspectives and examples of good practice.

Footsteps seeks to support you in deepening your spirituality and relationship with God, in reflecting on and extending your understanding of your faith and in developing your gifts so that they may be used more effectively in the church and the community. Therefore, it is set in a context of worship and prayer with opportunities to support one another in small pastoral prayer groups.

Venue: **Footsteps 1** and **Footsteps 2** both meet at Thatcham Baptist Church, Wheeler's Green Way, Thatcham, RG19 4YF.

Dates for 2017-18: The **Footsteps** courses will take place over 10 Saturdays, from 10am to 4.15pm.

23rd September	24th February
14th October	17th March
11th November	28th April
9th December	19th May
13th January	16th June

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: Please bring a packed lunch with you. Drinks are provided throughout the day.

Cost: 2017-18 the course fees are **£330**. We would encourage your local church to contribute two-thirds of these. There may also be some assistance available from the SCBA through training grants.

Deepening Spirituality

Our desire to grow in our relationship with God lies at the heart of **Footsteps** so these aspects of the course offer particular time and space to do so.

Worship and Prayer: Each Saturday we gather together to begin our day with worship. There are opportunities to volunteer to lead these sessions, especially if you have opted for the 'Leading Worship' stream. Each day ends with quiet reflection and prayer.

Prayer Groups: Each student becomes part of a small group which meets each Saturday to pray together. These are led by Personal Pastoral Assistants (PPAs), who are also there for you to talk to about any issues that arise during the course. We want you to know there are people to support and help you as you go through the year.

Journal: We give you a notebook which we invite you to use as a journal during the year. You might keep this as a prayer diary but also jot down any significant moments in your own walk with God or particular things that you have learnt. This is a private journal between you and God but there will be opportunities to talk about the things you are discovering, if you want to.

Teaching: Footsteps has a teaching stream on Spirituality where various trainers will give you a wider understanding of ways of walking with God.

Deepening Understanding and Developing Skills

In **Footsteps 1** there are 10 teaching streams, or subject areas. These are presented by trainers who have experience of teaching as well as much experience of church life.

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

Core Subjects

Understanding the Bible: We consider the background to the Bible, the different types of writing it contains and the various authors of Old and New Testament books, before we go on to think about how we apply the Bible to our lives today.

Understanding our Faith: After an introductory session, this stream looks at four key themes of our faith: Who God is, Creation, Salvation and The Church.

Mission and Culture: This stream explores a biblical understanding of mission alongside an overview of cultures in contemporary society. Time gaining insight into the ways in which churches can engage more effectively in mission includes practical examples, such as building missionary congregations and developing new ways of being church.

Baptist History and Principles: Starting with an overview of some significant events in Baptist History, this stream explores what is important to and distinctive for Baptist Christians and includes some practical areas concerned with the way Baptist churches may function today.

Spirituality: Following an introductory session in which we consider different ways in which we relate to God, we will explore a number of different traditions of spirituality which have developed throughout the history of the Church.

Option Streams

As well as the core subjects there are FIVE further subjects which are taken as options, including a Children, Youth and Family stream which is NEW for 2017-18 and will function as a distinct 'double stream'.

Children, Youth and Family: This stream will deepen understanding and develop skills necessary for ministry amongst children, young people and families. The key areas of focus will include: Biblical perspectives on children, communicating and relating to children and young people, children's spirituality, pastoral care for the whole family, nurture and growth of faith in the home and being family, being church together – children and adults.

If you are taking 'CYF' **you will need to indicate this on your application form.** You will not take any other option but concentrate on this one stream. Please note, the rest of this section on Option Subjects will **NOT** apply to you.

All other students will need to choose TWO option streams **on the first day of Footsteps:**

Option 1: *Either* 'Leading Worship' *or* 'Pastoral Care'

Option 2: *Either* 'Preaching' *or* 'Leadership Skills'

It would be good to think about which 2 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.

Each of the 4 options includes at least one core session for everyone, followed by 5 sessions in groups.

Leading Worship: An initial core session on the meaning of worship is developed reflectively within the option group. These sessions will focus on the different dimensions and aspects of worship, such as using the Bible, music and prayer, the importance of silence and the senses, the participation of children and seekers and the Lord's Supper.

Pastoral Care: After 3 core sessions on the nature of Pastoral Care, the art of listening and the ministry of healing, there are option sessions looking more specifically at issues faced throughout the course of a person's life and in caring for those who are especially vulnerable.

Preaching: One core session on the nature of preaching provides a basis for the option group to reflect on developing a preaching ministry. The group sessions include engaging with the Biblical text, discerning the message, developing a sermon, using illustrations and delivering a sermon, as well as effective communication and meaningful evaluation.

Leadership Skills: 2 core sessions look at a Biblical understanding of leadership and an introduction to conflict transformation. The option sessions develop Biblical teaching on leadership and examine various styles of leadership, accountability and mentoring, leading teams, transformational leadership and leading small groups.

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 handouts which you will often 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 different strands which are being taught during the year. As the style of teaching involves participation by everyone there may be a small number of things that you will be asked to take away to do, after a Footsteps Saturday. 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 -3 hours over the 2-5 weeks between Saturdays.

To help you with this you may wish to use your journal each Saturday to reflect on what you have been doing and jot down key ideas and reminders. This should help you to 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 be recognised as Regionally Recognised Leaders. If that is you, you will see there are some details about this on page 6. Although assignments are optional, and there is no sense of failure if you do not complete any, 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. We 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 else 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 else 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 are provided for you to use and add your own notes, so that you can refer to them later.

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

Communication and Learning Support: This works both ways: Anne will often send e-mails to give you information before the next **Footsteps** and will also 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 a file on WebLearn in preparation for the next Saturday.

Please Note: If you do not have internet access we will find other ways to communicate and share information

Certificates: 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 Reunion evening after the course has finished. This is an opportunity to meet each other again and celebrate your achievements. At this evening we will award certificates to all those who have completed **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 new things: opportunities for service and further training, such as studying to be recognised by the Association in local leadership or as an ordained minister, or for a specialist role.

Footsteps 2 is also an opportunity to build directly on **Footsteps 1** through further training.

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 in SCBA. The requirement of the Baptist Union is that those seeking such recognition compile a portfolio of work with one of the Baptist Colleges which is in membership with the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The portfolio includes 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 becoming a Regionally Recognised Leader [RRL], 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 an RRL please contact one of the Tutors in Community Learning, Regent's Park College, Pusey Street, Oxford, OX1 2LB.

anne.lane@regents.ox.ac.uk [07986 323909]

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 assignments, 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

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 stream of training, while others will share different aspects of a strand, reflecting their own knowledge and experience. Trainers in the year 2016-17 included:

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

Joth Hunt, Senior Minister, Eastleigh Baptist Church, Hampshire

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

Richard Lane, Minister, Three Counties [Camberley, Alton and Sherfield-on-Loddon] Baptist Church

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

Sarah Thomas, Worship Ministry Leader at Cosham Baptist Church

Jack Walker, Minister of Newport Pagnell Baptist Church, Buckinghamshire

Emma Walsh, College Librarian, Regent's Park College, Oxford, and a Baptist Minister

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 and 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 east [M4 junction 12], take the A4 towards Newbury, after 8-9 miles turning left at roundabout [signposted Thatcham Station] on to Pipers Way, then right on to Agricola Way. **BEWARE** - some SAT NAVs may now want to take you to a dead end! To avoid this, turn left into Betteridge Road and then right on to Wheelers Green Way. The church will be on your right further along the road.

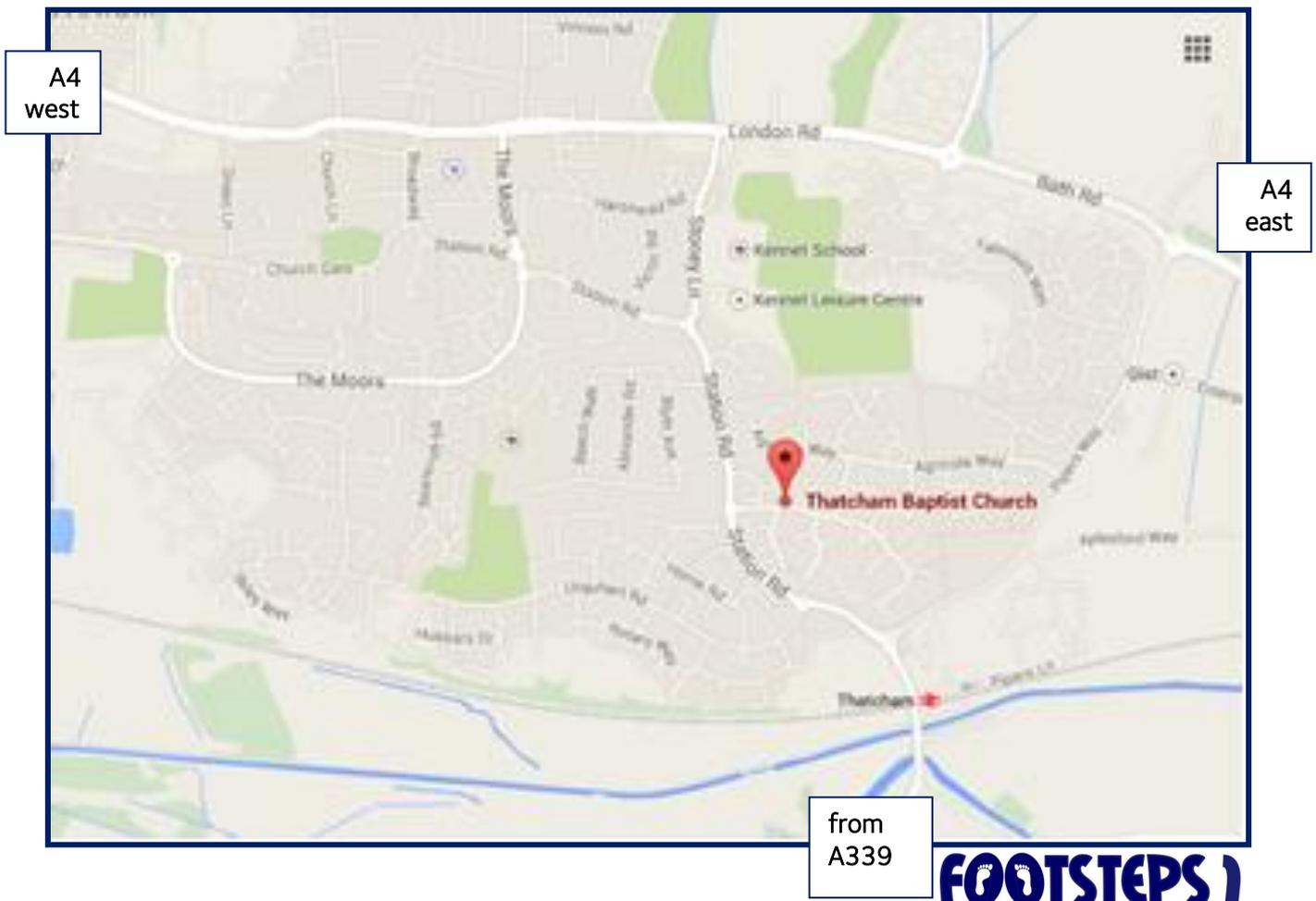
If approaching from the north, take the A4 between Newbury and Reading, turning off in the centre of Thatcham at The Moors, then straight into Station Road, Wheeler's Green Way is the fourth turning left.

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 2017-18

I would like to apply to participate in the SCBA Footsteps 1 course 2017-18 and I have the support of my home church for this training.

I enclose cheque/s totalling £330 made out to 'Regent's Park College' OR
 Paid by direct transfer to Regent's – Sort code: 20-65-18, Acct no: 60776513 [Footsteps 1]

Title: Forenames: Surname:

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):

.....

NEW FOR 2017-18: Children, Youth and Families option.

We need to know whether you are taking this option, or not.

Please tick the appropriate box, *after* you have read the information in this pack.

I want to include the Children, Youth and Family option with the Footsteps Course.
 I will choose 2 options from the other 4 offered, when I begin the Footsteps Course.

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 she/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

