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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

2019-20

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 12 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 and **Footsteps Pathway Courses** will be taking a break in 2019-20, but look out for other courses hosted by SCBA which will be happening elsewhere.

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 2019-20: The **Footsteps** courses will take place over 10 Saturdays, from 10am to 4.15pm.

28th September	29th February
19th October	21st March
16th November	25th April
14th December	16th May
18th January	20th 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: In 2019-20 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 Footsteps Saturday to pray together. These are led by Pastoral Assistants (PAs), 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 functions 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 be part of any other option group but concentrate on this one stream. Please note, generally, 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: There are 3 core sessions on the nature of Pastoral Care, the art of listening and the ministry of healing, while the option sessions go on to look 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 **your Pastoral Assistant** or other trainers and leaders.

Communication and Learning Support: This works both ways: you may sometimes receive e-mails to give you information before the next Footsteps and you will be given details of people to contact if you have something to ask.

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

Celebration Evening: We also want to recognise the considerable time and effort that you will have put in to attend **Footsteps** and so we have Open Evening at the end of the course. This is an opportunity to celebrate the Footsteps year with fellow students, your family, friends and church leaders, as well as to encourage prospective students who have come to find out more about Footsteps. At this evening we will award **certificates** to all those who have completed the course.

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 or more different streams, and so **Footsteps 1** can contribute to this. Those seeking recognition will need to write a set of 7 set assignments from Footsteps 1. By going on to take **Footsteps 2**, writing another 7 assignments and working alongside the Community Learning tutor you can continue with the further study and training needed in order to complete the portfolio. This will be done over more than the 2 years of Footsteps 1 and 2

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 Community Learning, Regent's Park College, Pusey Street, Oxford, OX1 2LB - community.learning@regents.ox.ac.uk 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 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)

Children, Youth and Families

A book list will be issued.

Who's who at Footsteps?

Course Leader

Till the end of August 2019 Anne Lane will be Tutor in Community Learning at Regent's Park College and have overall responsibility for **Footsteps** courses, so continue to contact her – but please use the new e-mail address community.learning@regents.ox.ac.uk. In this way we will be able to communicate with you during this time of transition.

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 2018-19 have included:

Tracey Ansell, Minister of North End Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Hertfordshire

Sian Hancock, Associate Tutor for Bristol Baptist College, Children and Youth Ministry Consultant

Clare Hooper, Children Youth and Families Missional Developer, Southern Counties Baptist Association

Joth Hunt, Regional Minister, Southern Counties Baptist Association

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

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

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

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

Colin Norris, Regional Minister Team Leader, Southern Counties Baptist Association

Sarah Thomas, Music teacher and Worship Ministry trainer

Jack Walker, recently called to be Minister of Whitchurch Baptist Church, Hampshire

Pastoral Assistants

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

In 2018-19 the Pastoral Assistants have been

Andy Binnington

Rachel Binnington

Kathryn Stephen

Chris van Es

Craig Williams

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.

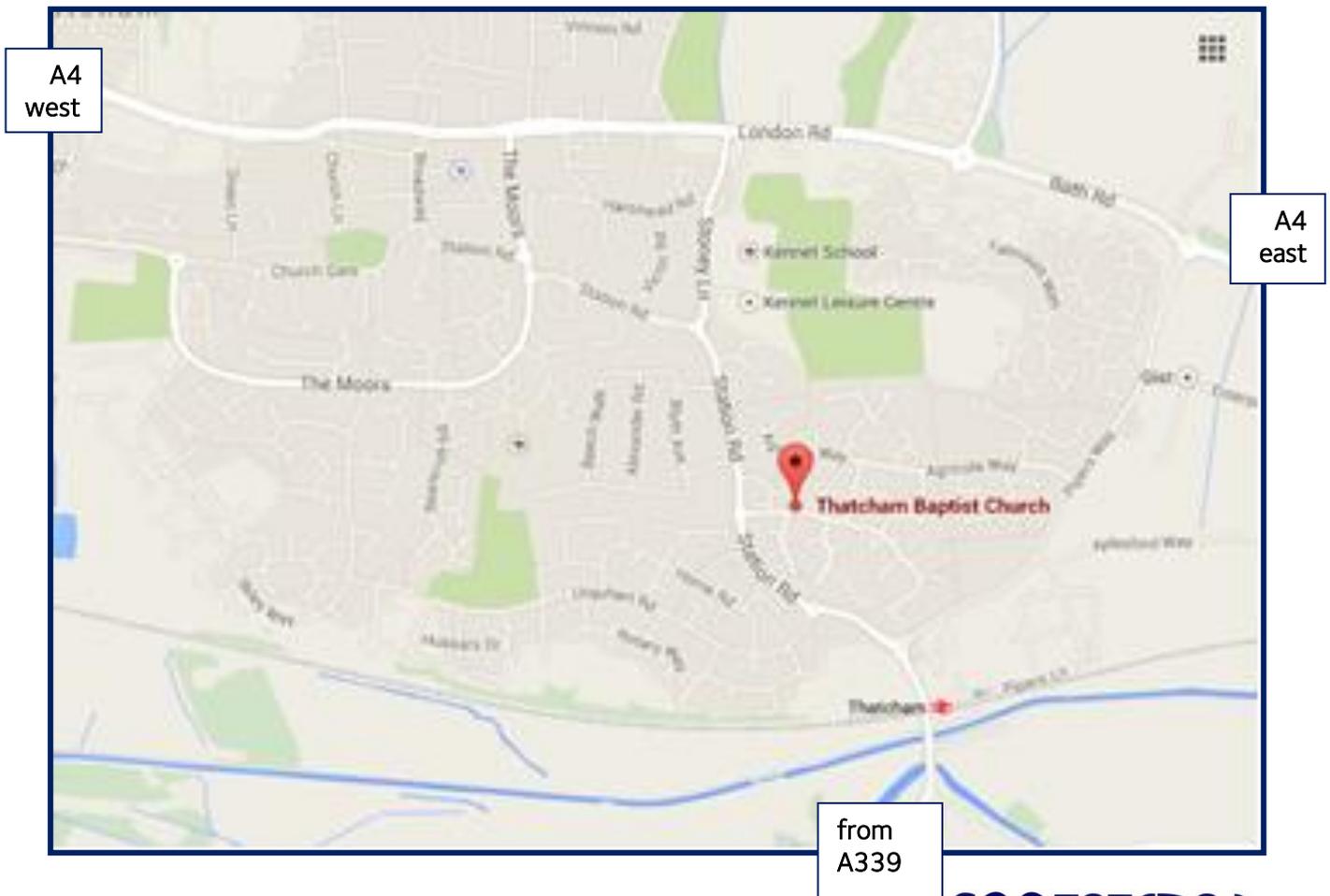
If approaching from the north, take the A4 between Newbury and Reading, turning off in the centre of Thatcham at The Moors, then straight into Station Road, Wheeler's Green Way is the fourth turning left.

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 2019-20

I would like to apply to participate in the **SCBA Footsteps 1** course 2019-20 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: 20-65-26, Acct no: 60776513 [Footsteps 1]
 If you are **NOT** enclosing payment or transferring money immediately **PLEASE** e-mail Community Learning, community.learning@regents.ox.ac.uk, so that the College knows when the fees will be paid.

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):

.....

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

