



Alpha Course

Who - Anyone is welcome to attend.

What - It is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed and welcoming environment. During the course of the evening we will start with 'The Pudding Club' and share puddings together (food provided), hear a talk and then breaking into smaller groups for discussion. On the first evening (22 April) we will commence with a Chinese Buffet.

Where - Canford Heath Baptist Church, meeting in St Paul's Church Culliford Crescent (opposite Asda), Canford Heath, BH17 9DW.

When - On Wednesday evenings from 22nd April 2009, running over the course of 12 weeks.

What time - 7.30pm - 9.15pm

For more information please contact our minister,
Ben Lucas, on 01202 682267 or email chbcpastor@hotmail.co.uk

Alpha - Ever wondered what it's all about? If God did exist what would you ask?



Who is it for?

The Alpha course is designed for people who aren't churchgoers and each course is open to everyone who would like to attend.

The courses attract a diverse range of guests of different ages and backgrounds, holding many different viewpoints.

People find out about the Alpha course in a number of ways - a recommendation from a friend, a poster, flyer, newspaper article or advert, or through the website or an internet search.

Guests attend for a wide variety of reasons - some want to investigate whether God exists; others are concerned about what happens after death. Some people have particular questions that they would like to discuss; others want to understand other peoples' beliefs or would like to explore what the purpose of life is. Many guests have never been to church, others may have attended church occasionally but feel they have never really understood the basics of the Christian faith.

How the course works

The course is based around groups, hosted by one or two leaders whose role is to encourage discussion. Whatever the course size, people tend to remain in the same groups for the course so they can get to know each other, continue discussions and deepen friendships.

Each session begins with food and refreshments - a chance to get to know others in the group. There is then a short talk, which looks at a different aspect of the Christian faith each week. This is followed by a time of discussion in the groups, where everyone is welcome to contribute their opinion, ask questions and discuss with the rest of the group.

The emphasis is upon exploration and discovery in a relaxed and informal environment.

There is no charge for attending the Alpha course.

Course Content

The talks each week cover the following topics, which people are then free to discuss in the groups afterwards:

Week 1 Who is Jesus?

Week 2 Why did Jesus die?

Week 3 How can we have faith?

Week 4 Why and how do I pray?

Week 5 Why and how should I read the Bible?

Week 6 How does God guide us?

Week 7 How can I resist evil?

Week 8 Why and how should I tell others?

Week 9 Does God heal today?

Week 10 What about the Holy Spirit

Week 11 What about the Church?

Week 12 Anymore questions?

*The***Guardian**

What Alpha offers, and what is attracting thousands of people, is permission, rare in secular culture, to discuss the big questions - life and death and their meaning.

THE **TIMES**

What distinguishes Alpha from other initiatives is the easy-going, relaxed feel of the proceedings - that, and its astonishing success.

DAILY **EXPRESS**

Alpha makes Christianity relevant to modern life.