

“Why are you doing EFM?”

Here are some of the responses when some of the members of these groups were asked, “Why are you doing EFM?”

It's enjoyable but really challenging

There's real friendship and support in the group

It's good fun but a real commitment

EFM is helping me to live out my faith

I find the Theological Reflections really helpful

It's certainly turned around my idea of ministry

My understanding has grown



I've found patience to listen to people with different views to my own

I'm getting to understand by faith in God and learning about the church

The Bible has become exciting for me

I'm constantly discovering new things

EFM is an exciting adventure of learning

EFM grounds and anchors me – a place of stability in my life

It's raised my personal confidence

My faith is growing

EFM makes me think and explore in a safe place



As an expression of their ministry the members of the Guildford EFM Group share:

We were privileged to prepare and conduct the evening services for the first three days of Holy Week this year during the interregnum at St John's, Merrow.

The contemplative and reflective worship was based on the three Gospel readings. Monday our theme was 'LOVING', Tuesday 'FOLLOWING' and on Wednesday 'BETRAYING'.

Each service followed the same format starting with music, prayer, hymn, gospel reading, reflection by a member of the group, a symbolic action and music, a closing prayer and more music.

Preparing these services was demanding but most rewarding and those attending said they found them 'helpful'.



www.efmuk.org.uk

An old name with a new design!

Do visit our new web site – it is full of resources and information.

The EFM UK Management Group employed Richard Pearson to redesign our web site.

They are now confident that this models a new image for the EFM programme.

Please encourage your colleagues, friends and church members to visit it and find out more about EFM.



Thoughts on Chester.....

Having completed years 3 and 4 of EFM and received the Churches College Certificate of Theology and Ministry at the end of it, a few comments are in order!

As someone with a medical (pseudo-scientific?) training and background, writing theological essays came as something of a shock. In science there is usually only one correct answer, whereas in theology there are many different and often opposing points of view.

Getting organised to write a theological essay required some preliminary reading to decide how one was going to tackle the subject. More than once I decided I did not have enough information on a particular subject and had to start another topic. Then the real work began to try to gain an in-depth knowledge of the subject so that these differing points-of-view could be proffered. 1500 words was either too little or too much at times.....

Many different and interesting topics were tackled – Celtic Christianity, the Arian heresy, Martin Luther, the Second Vatican council, women in the New Testament etc. I am glad that I “did Chester” in years 3 & 4 of EFM because the coursework was largely covered in the EFM folders – I would not have had the time for the extra reading for that as well. I am sure that EFM years 1 and 2 would be more demanding.

Supervision and help were probably easier for me than others, with my Tutor in my group, but a lot of the logistics and timing were uncontrolled and haphazard. Getting my own head around theology was difficultwhat should I put in this essay? What is the topic getting at? Where do I find the information?.... Chester website even for a computer buff like me is certainly not user-friendly. What if you haven't got a computer or internet access?

However, I did enjoy the challenge and experience of Chester! Trying to find a way of using my new-found knowledge and thought processes is proving more difficult though. What can one do with the CCC in Th & M??

Kevin Evans MB., FRCA, now CCC Th & M!



Outline Details for the Chester EFM modules



Option One

Church Colleges' Certificate in Biblical Studies

Module 1	Old Testament 1	Chapters 1-19 of Year 1 EFM
Module 2	Old Testament 2	Chapters 20 – 34 of Year 1 EFM
Module 3	New Testament 1	Chapters 1-18 of Year 2 EFM
Module 4	New Testament 2	Chapters 19 – 34 of Year 2 EFM

Two pieces of written work are required for each module. The pieces for module one, for example are:

1. A 1,500 word selection from assignments undertaken in the parallel guides, referenced to appropriate reading.
2. A 1,500 word assignment on key theological issues in a selected Old Testament text.

and the pieces for the other modules are of similar length and content. One based on the parallel guides and one based on specific chapters or issues.

Time: Two years of EFM

Fees: £270 per year including all EFM and Chester costs

Option Two

Church Colleges' Certificate in Theology and Ministry

Module 5	Church History 1	Chapters 1-22 of Year 3 EFM
Module 6	Church History 2	Chapters 23 – 34 of Year 3 EFM
Module 7	Church History and Theology 1	Chapters 1-14 of Year 4 EFM
Module 8	Church History and Theology 2	Chapters 15 – 34 of Year 4 EFM

Again, two pieces of written work are required for each module. The pieces for module five, for example are:

1. A 1,500 word selection from assignments undertaken in the parallel guides, chosen by the tutor, referenced to appropriate reading.
2. A 1,500 word assignment on key historical and theological issues in the period covered by one of the chapters 1-22.

and the pieces for the other modules are of similar length and content. One based on the parallel guides and one based on specific chapters or issues.

Time: Two years of EFM

Fees: £270 per year including all EFM and Chester costs

It is not necessary to have completed Option 1 in order to start Option 2. EFM students who are about to complete EFM Year 3, therefore, have several options open to them: continue to do EFM in the usual way; redo EFM years 1 and 2 seeking Chester accreditation; undertake EFM years 3 and 4 with Chester.

Option Three

Certificate in Higher Education in Theology and Ministry

Modules 1-8	The EFM Course	Chapters 1-34 of all 4 Years
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The total time taken to complete this would be four years with fees payable of £270 per year to cover all EFM and Chester costs.

This level of qualification is the same as that referred to in the Hind Report, and is equivalent to the first year of study of a university degree.

The qualification may then, of course, give an individual access to work for a further qualification or degree

The additional work required with students registered with Chester will not be undertaken by EFM mentors but by academic tutors appointed jointly by EFM and Chester College.