

What did people think of Alpha?

Graham Richens, police inspector

"The first evening surprised me completely. During the first evening, there were no prayers or heavy preaching. We were just given the opportunity to listen to the talk and then discuss anything we wanted. I chose to ask some challenging and confrontational questions, but they were welcomed, and I was made to feel valued and appreciated. I couldn't wait to go back the following week..."

What will YOU think?

Susan Clarke, office manager

"I brought my husband to Alpha. I was already a believer, but he wasn't. He got a lot out of it and has been coming to church ever since."

Michaela Flanagan, single parent

"I went along to Alpha and was so shocked. I thought Christians were really sad, boring people but I couldn't believe it - everyone was so happy. They all welcomed me and were interested in me."

Bernie Keane, taxi driver

"After a couple of weeks, I relaxed and started enjoying the talks and relating to them greatly. I was very pleased with the group I was in, too. Now I keep an Alpha pamphlet in the cab. Sometimes I say to passengers, 'Go along and try it. It doesn't cost you anything. It's like ten evenings out at the theatre!'"

Mark Gray, analyst

"When I first heard about Alpha I was already searching for something. I needed to ask questions and not feel like I was getting a hard sell pitched at me. Now I see things differently, and just feel so at peace. I have also met a wonderful bunch of new friends on the course."

**Julia Llewellyn Smith,
Daily Express feature-writer**

"I was astonished how much I'd enjoyed myself. As the weeks went by, I found myself looking forward to it - not so much because of the religious aspect but because of the stimulating debates about subjects which, in our busy lives, few of us take time to address."

Robert Tincknell, surveyor

"I suppose it was about week four that I started to think to myself, 'This is quite interesting'. On the Saturday as we sat and listened to the talks, I felt the presence of God firmly. I felt really peaceful, but also confused, because up until that point I had thought Christianity was a myth and Christians were wrong."

Wondering what it's all about?



You're invited to explore Christianity on the

Alpha Course at **Holy Trinity Church Ripon**

over 8 Wednesday evenings, a dinner and an away-day (close to Ripon)
3 October - 5 December 2007.

If you're interested, talk to Dot Moore on 01765 692334 or email her at office@holytrinityripon.org.uk. Please provide your name, address and a contact telephone number. Alternatively, just turn up!

Things you'll enjoy!

Puddings

Have your evening meal at home and then join us for dessert (or there's cheese and biscuits if you prefer). Sharing a pudd is a tasty way for us all to get to know one another!

Talks

Each week there's a talk (see the programme, opposite). There may also be video clips and other things to help you learn more about Christianity.

Small groups

After each talk we divide into small groups to discuss the topic of the evening, ask questions and express opinions. No question is too simple or too hostile!

Coffee

After a busy day, you'll probably enjoy sitting down for while and letting someone else run the show. And there's plenty of fresh, fairly traded coffee to keep you going!

Alpha in the press

"The world's most popular course in Christianity."

The Independent on Sunday

"What is attracting thousands of people is permission to discuss the big questions - life and death and their meaning."

The Guardian

"What distinguishes Alpha from other initiatives is the easy-going, relaxed feel of the proceedings."

The Times

"It is clear that Alpha is already changing British church life."

The Economist

"Alpha makes Christianity relevant to modern life."

The Express

"Many claim Alpha has changed their lives, and appear genuinely happier for the experience."

Time magazine

"Alpha is an unqualified triumph."

The Daily Telegraph

What is the Alpha Course?

Alpha is an opportunity for people to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting. There's a series of thought-provoking evening sessions, with an away-day to explore the Holy Spirit.

It's friendly and fun, and it's supported by all the main Christian denominations.

For more information about our church, visit www.holytrinityripon.org.uk

and for more about Christianity, visit www.church-on-the-net.com



Course programme

Weds 3 October

Sharing a meal & getting to know one another

Weds 10 October

Who is Jesus?

Weds 17 October

Why did Jesus die?

Weds 24 October

No meeting (half term)

Weds 31 October

How can I be sure?

Weds 7 November

Why read the Bible?

Weds 14 November

How should we pray?

Saturday 17 November

Away-day: The Holy Spirit (10am-4pm, close to Ripon)

Weds 21 November

What about the Church, & the rest of my life?

Weds 28 November

Does God heal today?

Weds 5 December

How does God guide us?

How much is it?

The course is free - and you don't even have to contribute to the puddings!