

Registration Form

Name:
Address:

Telephone:
Email:

Please either drop the completed form into St Stephen's or email us and we'll let you have the form to fill in & return to us. Either way, we'd be most grateful to hear as soon as possible if you would like to attend Open Word, and in any event by Monday 11 September, for our planning purposes. You should feel free to come just on 18 September as a 'taster' without further commitment (though do please book in anyway).

Any questions? Please refer to Matthew in person, by telephone on 01508 520775 or by email on mhutton@paston.co.uk

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Partners

Open Word is being presented by St Stephen's Church as part of Fountain School of Theology's teaching programme for 2017/18 (for which a prospectus can be seen at St Stephen's: www.fountainnetwork.org).

St Stephen's
Norwich



OPEN WORD

Know your Bible, Know your Lord

Paul writes that '... the Holy Scriptures ... are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that all God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.' (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

That, in essence, is the manifesto for our 18 session Monday evening engagement with the Bible over three terms, starting on 18 September 2017 and ending on 25 June 2018. It will be not so much a course as an adventure, enjoyed in community over a couple of hours (7.00-9.00pm) as we journey together through God's word.

In covering (somewhat ambitiously!) the whole Bible over 18 evenings, we want to see how God's Grand Story hangs together and how He speaks to us though the unfamiliar as well as the more well-known bits. A particular aim is to see how Jesus inhabits the Old Testament. We shall ask the Holy Spirit to draw each one of us closer to our wonderful God of love.

Whatever our stage in the Christian life, we will recognize that we need to know and to love the Word of God more deeply and to be trained in how to read and to use it, so that Jesus Christ may dwell by His Spirit more fully in us and we in Him. Together we humbly trust that the Holy Spirit will enable us to do just that.

- **Teaching**
Seeing and understanding what the Bible says.
- **Training**
Learning how to apply what we learn to our daily life.
- **Transformation**
Allowing the Holy Spirit to conform us more into the image of Christ.

(There is no charge for the course.)

Do come and join in!

Matthew Hutton
Course presenter

The Plan

There will be 18 taught sessions, delivered over three terms (on a fortnightly basis). The venue is The Chapel, Fellowes Plain, Wessex St, Norwich NR2 2TJ. The Course will take place on Monday evenings, running from 7.00 to 9.00pm.

The teaching will be presented in the context of Church relationships, within a familiar formula for small groups, so that on each evening we shall enjoy:

- 7.00 Welcome (coffee/tea);
- 7.20 Worship;
- 7.30 Word; and
- 8.30 Witness, in two's and three's (for reflection, discussion & prayer).

The Presenter

The material for this course will be compiled and taught by Matthew Hutton, who is a Curate at St Stephen's and who has a passion for engaging with and teaching the Bible.



The Prospect

By the end of the course we aim:

- To have a clear idea of what the Bible contains and what it means (to some extent, at least!);
- To be able to relate different parts of Scripture to each other: 'The New is in the Old contained: the Old is in the New explained'; and
- To have reinforced (or to discover anew) the delight of spending time each day in God's inspired word and of allowing His Holy Spirit to speak to us through it, explaining and enjoying various ways of approaching Bible reading both personally and in groups.

The Programme

Winter Term 2017

18 September	Overview of the Bible
2 October	The Incarnate Christ: The Synoptic Gospels
16 October	The Incarnate Christ: John's Gospel
30 October	The Early Church: The Acts of the Apostles (from a Lukan perspective and with reference to the NT Letters)
13 November	The NT Letters: Paul's Letter to the Romans
27 November	The NT Letters: The other Pauline Letters

Spring Term 2018

8 January	The NT Letters: The "Catholic" Letters
22 January	Jesus and the Jewish Scriptures
5 February	Genesis 1-11: The Primeval History
19 February	The Pentateuch
5 March	The Historical Books I
19 March	The Historical Books II

Summer Term 2018

16 April	Wisdom Literature: Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & The Song of Songs
30 April	The Psalms
14 May	What is OT prophecy? The 'Major' Prophets
28 May	The 'Minor' Prophets. Prophecy today
11 June	How the Bible got to us: Authorship, Authority & Apologetics. Various ways of reading the Bible
25 June	Revelation and New Creation

