

# DIOCESE IN EUROPE

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

The Bishop in Europe:  
**The Right Reverend Dr. Robert Innes**



The Suffragan Bishop in Europe  
**The Right Reverend Dr. David Hamid**

25 May 2022

To the Clergy and Readers of the Diocese in Europe

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

## **Walking Together in Faith: Learning for Lay People in the Diocese in Europe**

We are very pleased to share with you advance notice of the launch in September this year of the diocesan educational course for the lay faithful of the diocese. The first and second modules will be available online for September, with the third and fourth modules being ready in the New Year. This, as you will know, is an extensive project which has been developed by a team of clergy and laity under the guidance of Dr Clare Amos, the Diocesan Director of Lay Discipleship. The course itself is linked to the four pillars of the diocesan Rule of Life: Knowing God, Growing in Christ, Building Community, and Living Beyond Ourselves. Each module will consist of 5 units. The entire course is designed to be able to be completed in the course of a year. The plan is to publish the course online using the learning platform, Moodle, with a mixture of text and some video content. This is one of the projects being funded from our Digital Diocese grant received from the Benefact Trust (formerly known as the Allchurches Trust).

The course is intended to serve the laity in our chaplaincies who wish to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it, to expand their own knowledge of the main points of theology, for their own enrichment or spiritual development. The course is ideally designed for groups (face-to-face, or virtual) supported by a locally based leader, but is flexible enough to be followed by individuals as well. There will be several ways that the course can be used by groups or individuals:

1. A “Bishop’s Certificate” route, which will have assignments which will be marked by diocesan tutors, and successful participants will qualify for a certificate at the end of the programme. A small fee may be involved for those who enrol in one of these routes, to cover the cost of administration, monitoring and assessment of students.

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2. As theological preparation for laity seeking some lay ministry, such as Congregational Worship Leader, or as part of the preparation for some diocesan authorised ministries which may be developed in the future, such as pastoral assistants.
3. As a foundation-level programme for those who are considering entering other sorts of training for ministry, such as for Reader Ministry, but who need a foundational theological programme before entering the formal training offered by the diocese through the ERMC.

We hope that this letter will help you with your autumn planning. We very much hope that there will be widespread enrolment in this course and that it will become a valuable part of the lay discipleship programme in every chaplaincy.

Further details will be communicated through the diocesan communications channels. With our warm wishes and blessings in this Eastertide.

*+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe*

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*+ David*

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