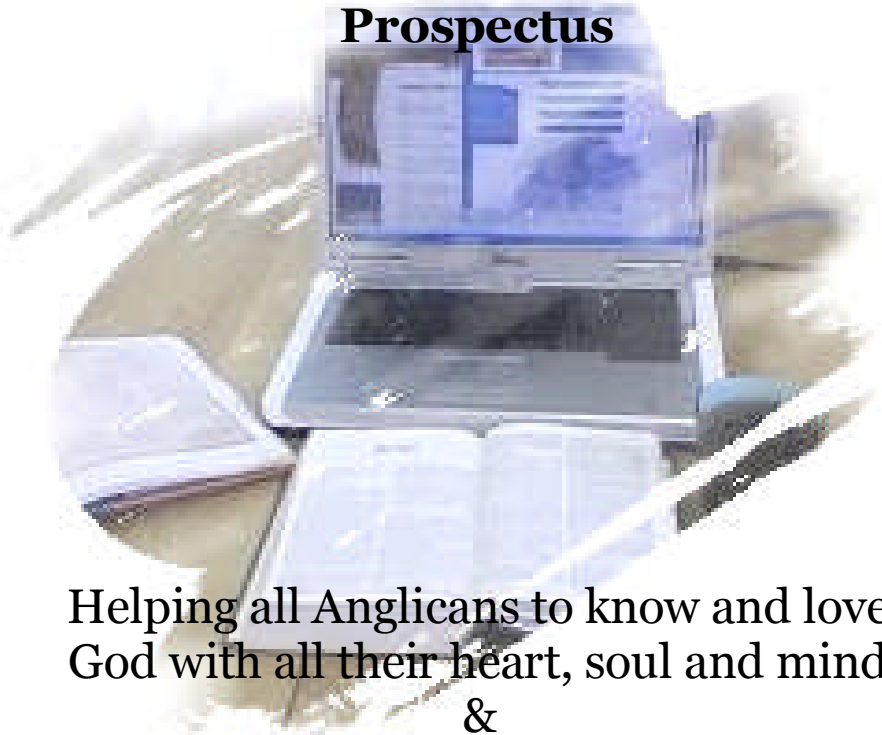


Learning for Life

Certificate in Theology & Ministry Prospectus



Helping all Anglicans to know and love
God with all their heart, soul and mind
&
to minister the gospel with clarity and
confidence

Recommended for Ministry Support Teams, Licensed Lay Leaders &
Preachers, Small Group leaders

Anglican Diocese of Tasmania

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

Rationale

The launch of the Certificate in Theology and Ministry coincides with the launch of the Bishop's *The Imagine Project*. It is the conviction of the Bishop that a sound biblical foundation must underpin and sustain the future ministry and mission of our diocese and its leadership. This Ministry Certificate will establish a consistent standard of biblical and theological formation across the Diocese for non-stipended church leadership and authorised lay ministry in particular. We live in a global and local environment that is constantly changing and whose challenges grow increasingly complex. It is more important than ever that those who minister the gospel of Christ are well grounded in the unchanging and life-changing words of Christ. In any and every age, the Bible's own assertion about its nature and purpose stands true:

'All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for training in righteousness, in order that the person of God may be competent, fully equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Certificate in Theology and Ministry Program

The program has three components:

1. The six units of the Moore College *Preliminary Theological Certificate (PTC)*;
2. Two diocesan-based units;
3. Participation in the Tasmanian Bible Forums

What if I have already completed some study elsewhere?

Those who have done prior preliminary theological course subjects with other colleges may apply to the Diocesan Director of Ministry Services for exemption from units 1-5. In order to receive the Certificate in Theology and Ministry, units 6 (*PTC* elective), 7 (Diocesan elective) and 8 (Diocesan unit) must be completed. You must indicate this option on the enrolment form and attach any supporting documentation such as transcripts, outlines of subjects completed, etc.

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

Ordained persons and ordination candidates

If you are an ordained person or ordination candidate in this diocese, you are required to sit the exam for each of the six Preliminary Theological Certificate units. In other words, the Alternative Assessment path is only available to those who are not ordained or seeking ordination in this diocese. In order to receive the PTC award from Moore College and the Certificate in Theology & Ministry from this diocese, a pass will be required in those exams.

Moore College Department of External Studies
Preliminary Theological Certificate (PTC)¹

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Term 1 ² | March 1 | Enroll by 10 th February |
| Term 2 | June 1 | Enroll by 10 th May |
| Term 3 | September 1 | Enroll by 10 th August |
| Term 4 | December 1 | Enroll by 10 th November |

*** **Enrolments must be received by the 10th of the month preceding the start of each term.**

On studying the PTC course

There are no prior educational requirements for the PTC course. Generally, students should plan to spend at least five hours each week studying the subject in order to successfully complete it. Upon enrolment in the first subject, Moore College provides a very helpful 'How to Study' booklet, free of charge. In addition to private study, many people find it beneficial to complete the course as part of a study group. This is especially true if the group is led by someone who has done the course or an equivalent. It is hoped that the majority of participants in the Certificate in Theology and Ministry program will be part of a local Certificate study group for mutual learning, encouragement and accountability.

¹ Exams are optional though a pass is required for all six subjects to gain the PTC award. One two-hour exam is the only assessment for each subject. The prospect of an exam can provide extra incentive to do the study. Moreover, the discipline of revision for exams helps you retain what you have learned, and the exam itself helps you assess your progress in the subject. However, an **alternative assessment path** is available from the Diocese, in which case you do not gain the Moore College award but can still achieve the Certificate in Theology and Ministry (providing the alternative assessment is passed). The alternative assessment for each of the six PTC units can be found on the Certificate in Theology & Ministry page on the Riverlinks website under 'Alternative Assessment for Units 1-6'. Go to www.riverlinks.net.au **Not available for ordination candidates or ordained persons in this diocese.**

² Moore College PTC 10 week terms are followed by a two week assessment period. You can choose one or two subjects per term, and enroll in as many or as few terms per year as is practicable.

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

1. Introduction to the Bible³

An overview of the entire Bible, helpful hints on how to understand its main themes, and crucial principles for interpreting the Bible.

Syllabus

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. The Book of Books | 6. The Kingdom of David & God's purposes | 7. God's purpose renewed |
| 2. Interpreting the Bible | | 8. Jesus the fulfiller of God's purpose |
| 3. From creation to new creation | | 9. The Gospel for the nations |
| 4. Israel and God's purposes | | 10. Awaiting the fulfillment – the Apostles' writings |
| 5. The promised land and God's good purposes | | |

2. New Testament 1

Exploring God's purposes in sending Christ. Getting to know Jesus through the Gospel of Mark.

Syllabus

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The Gospels: the gospel written down | 6. The reception of the king |
| 2. The coming of the king | 7. What it means for Jesus to be king |
| 3. The kingdom of God | 8. What it means to follow the king |
| 4. The victory of the kingdom | 9. The last week of the king |
| 5. The king of the kingdom | 10. The king is dead: long live the king |

3. Old Testament 1

What do the first five books of the Old Testament teach about God and his purposes? What holds them together theologically?

Syllabus

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Creation and God's purposes | 6. Israel at Sinai |
| 2. Rebellion and judgment | 7. The sacrificial system |
| 3. The patriarchs | 8. The book of Numbers |
| 4. The book of Exodus | 9. The book of Deuteronomy |
| 5. The redemption of Israel | 10. Major ideas in Deuteronomy |

New Testament 1 and Old Testament 1 may be taken in reverse order.

³ **This subject may be studied over two terms with a 2.5 hour exam held at the end of the second term allowing more time to study this important Bible overview** (as with the other units, alternative assessment is available).

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

4. Doctrine 1

We explore the Bible's teaching about God – how we get to know him, what he is like, what he has done for us.

Syllabus

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The Gospel of God | 6. The God we know (2) |
| 2. Knowing God | the Trinity |
| 3. Sources for the knowledge of God | 7. The God who creates |
| 4. The Bible as the Word of God | 8. The God who saves |
| 5. The God we know (1) | 9. The God who rules history |
| | 10. The God who renews |

5. Ephesians

This letter teaches us that we can only understand the present by relating it to what God has done in the past, and therefore to his intentions for the future. Ephesians presents a big picture, with cosmic dimensions, of God and his world for us to take in.

Syllabus

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Why write to the Ephesians | 6. The new humanity: the old self and the new self |
| 2. The big picture of God's salvation | 7. The new humanity: out of darkness into light |
| 3. The Christian and the Church | 8. The new humanity: living by God's wisdom |
| 4. The mystery in focus | 9. The new humanity: living in the overlap of the ages |
| 5. The new humanity: in church | 10. To sum up all things in Christ |

6. Elective

CHOOSE ONE (1) of the following three electives for your sixth unit:

OPTION ONE

6.1 Promise to Fulfilment

This subject explores the interpretive method grounded in biblical theology from 'Introduction to the Bible' and applies it to key passages such as Genesis 15, 2 Samuel 7, Jeremiah 31 and 1 Peter 1. This subject is particularly useful for those involved in any teaching ministry.

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

Syllabus

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Biblical Theology | 6. The Exodus and God's Redemption 2 |
| 2. Jesus and the Old Testament | 7. The King of God's Kingdom |
| 3. Abraham and the Children of Promise (1) | 8. The Covenant of Grace |
| 4. Abraham and the Children of Promise (2) | 9. The Gospel for the Nations |
| 5. The Exodus and God's Redemption 1 | 10. The Eternal Inheritance |

OPTION TWO

6.2 Prayer Book

An historical and theological exploration of how and why Anglicans have met together for church.

Syllabus

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. What really is worship? | 6. The Prayer Book from 1552 to 1662 |
| 2. Why gather together? | 7. Modern Anglican Prayer Books |
| 3. The Lord's Supper | 8. Morning and Evening Prayer |
| 4. The first English Prayer Book | 9. Baptism and Confirmation |
| 5. The second English Prayer Book | 10. Occasional services |

OPTION THREE

6.3 Christian Worship

What is the biblical meaning of worship? How will that meaning be expressed, especially in church?

Syllabus

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Worship in the Old Testament | 6. Continental Reformation liturgies |
| 2. Worship under the New Covenant liturgies | 7. British Reformation liturgies |
| 3. Why the early Christians met together | 8. Modern liturgies |
| 4. The Lord's Supper | 9. Hearing God's Word |
| 5. The development of liturgies | 10. Singing together |

Diocesan-based subjects

The Certificate's seventh unit is an elective chosen by you from a choice of four. The eighth unit –Introduction to Christian Ethics– is compulsory for all.

7. Elective

CHOOSE ONE (1) of the following four electives for your seventh unit:

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

OPTION 1 7.1 Biblical Preaching

Syllabus (two parts: A & B)

Part A: A theology of preaching

The text for this part of the subject is *Speaking God's Words: A Practical Theology of Preaching*, by Peter Adam (IVP, Leicester, England, 1996). This book builds confidence in biblical preaching by laying a firm theological foundation for it. Building on this foundation, the book then examines the preacher at work.

Three biblical foundations of preaching

1. God has spoken
2. It is written
3. Preach the Word

The preacher at work

4. Preaching as a ministry of the Word
5. The preacher's Bible
6. The preacher's purpose
7. The demands of preaching

NOTE: The assessment for Part A consists of a brief written discussion on a set question for each of the seven chapters that seeks to apply the topic to our task today as preachers. Full details of the assessment are found on the Certificate in Theology & Ministry page on the Riverlinks website under 'Assessment for Unit 7 options 1-3'.

Part B: Preparation for preaching

This section introduces a simple and effective tool for sermon preparation that involves identifying the Scripture passage's movements, big idea, big question, and context, as well as exploring the application of the passage to your hearers.

8. The Preaching Pyramid
9. Introductions and Conclusions
10. Illustrations and Application

NOTE: Part B of this unit is delivered and assessed by participation in a preaching training day or Saturday workshop.⁴

OPTION 2 7.2 An Introduction to Pastoral Care

This unit is normally (though not only) done in a group. The text is 'Equipped to be a Caregiver: Basic Training for Pastoral Care' (An ACEF Australia Firm Foundations Lay Ministry Course), developed by Graeme MacRobb.

⁴ Cost of the training day or workshop will vary, depending upon if and when we engage specialists for the day. Costs will be kept to a minimum.

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

Syllabus

1. Living out the Second Greatest Commandment
2. Becoming a Caregiver like Christ
3. How not to Care
4. Caring ministry in times of Crisis
5. Understanding the Grief Journey
6. Travelling with those on the Grief Journey
7. Loving and Caring for those who are Depressed
8. The Caregiver Caring for Oneself
9. The Church - A Community for Caring

NOTE: The assessment for this unit consists of completing the weekly Home Assignments contained in the course manual. A signed statement that the reading and assignments have been done will be required. The statement can be downloaded from the Certificate in Theology & Ministry page on the Riverlinks website under 'Assessment for Unit 7 options 1-3'.

OPTION 3 7.3 Christian Mission for Tasmanians

This unit explores important lessons on mission in the example of Jesus and the practice of the early church, and important lessons on Christian missions around the world and in Tasmania. It examines Jesus' enduring call for his church to be making disciples of the nations, including Tasmania.

Syllabus

1. Introduction
2. Loving Tasmania
3. Loving God
4. A Great Sadness
5. Back to First Principles
6. Matthew 28: Jesus' Great Commission
7. Jesus the Disciple-Maker
8. Tuned in to Mission Control
9. Acts: chapter 21-28: a good start
10. Acts chapter 29: from Paul to the Present
11. The Development of Christianity in Tasmania
12. Lessons Learned from 2000 years of Christian Mission
13. Acts chapter 30: The Great Commission Here and Now

The course notes for this subject are downloadable free of charge from www.riverlinks.net.au, or a printed copy is available for \$20 from the Riverlinks Parish office.

NOTE: The assessment for this unit consists of questions and exercises contained throughout the notes. A signed statement that the reading and assessment have been done will be required. The statement can be downloaded from the Certificate in Theology & Ministry page on the Riverlinks website under 'Assessment for Unit 7 options 1-3'.

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

OPTION 4 7.4 Christian Teaching and Learning

This unit will be available in 2010.

This course will give students a deeper understanding of the nature and purposes of teaching and learning in the church and how this important ministry might be made more effective for all ages. It will explore ways in which we can help people grow in their understanding of Christian faith and the living out of that faith in daily life.

Syllabus

1. Biblical Foundations – The nature of Christian teaching and learning
2. Biblical Foundations – The purposes of Christian teaching and learning
3. Growing in understanding – Strategies for Christian teaching and learning
4. Building community – An essential context for Christian teaching and learning
5. Learning by doing – Strategies for Christian teaching and learning
6. Faith development processes – the contribution of James Fowler
7. Christian learning at different stages in the life span
8. What to teach and learn – building a curriculum for children and youth
9. What to teach and learn – building a curriculum for adults
10. Christian teachers and leaders – qualities and responsibilities

FINAL COMPULSORY UNIT

8. Introduction to Christian Ethics

This unit offers a foundational Biblical basis for a Christian Ethic, briefly examines various ethical models in use today, and briefly explores contemporary ethical issues using different ethical models. The course material includes the handbook, 'The good, the bad & the ethical', by Josh Apieczonek.

Subjects

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Introduction to Christian Ethics (biblical basis) | 6. Environmental ethics |
| 2. Ethical systems | 7. Marriage and Sex |
| 3. Values, Foundations | 8. Human Rights |
| 4. The Mutual Love Ethic | 9. Compassion |
| 5. War | 10. Sanctity of Life |

NOTE: The assessment for this unit consists of reading the set material, completing questions and exercises contained in the handbook, and writing a paper on an ethical issue and a Christian response. Full details of the Syllabus and assessment are found on the Certificate in Theology & Ministry page on the Riverlinks website under 'Ethics – Unit 8'.

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

On leading a Certificate in Theology and Ministry group

It is envisaged that, where possible, church leaders with formal theological training and ministry experience will lead or oversee groups through the eight subjects. This method has several advantages, including the mutual encouragement the participants can experience in learning and growing together and in pushing one another forward in their study; and the background knowledge and depth and breadth of knowledge the group leader can bring, filtered through their own life and ministry experience.

This person would probably also function as your program Mentor – see under 'How to enroll...' The Diocese is able to offer Mentors their own copy of the study books free of charge.

Their participation in an annual Tasmanian Bible Forum in their region will bring strong encouragement and nourishment in the Scriptures and the day will be free of charge for Mentors.

Tasmanian Bible Forums

Concurrent with the units of study the participant in the Certificate in Theology and Ministry program will attend ONE (1) Tasmanian Bible Forum day for EACH YEAR they are involved in the program. TBFs are held annually on a Saturday in three regions of the diocese for all Anglicans and Christians from other churches (see the Diocesan website for details). The day involves three bible talks by a gifted and experienced bible teacher, lunch/afternoon tea and fellowship around the Word of God. Its purpose is to complement local parishes' existing training programs, assist with theological and biblical formation in the diocese, and model biblical preaching that faithfully unfolds the Word of God and applies it to our personal and corporate Christian lives.

Upon successful completion of the six (6) PTC subjects, Moore College awards the Preliminary Theological Certificate. Upon successful completion of a further two (2) diocesan-based subjects and annual participation in the Tasmanian Bible Forums, the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania awards a Certificate in Theology and Ministry. Where alternative assessment is successfully taken for the six PTC units and the rest of the Certificate program successfully completed, the Bishop will award a Certificate in Theology and Ministry.

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

Fees ⁵

| | |
|---|------|
| Unit 1 (Taste & See introductory unit) | \$40 |
| Units 2-8 (<i>per unit</i>) ^{*Except Unit 7.3} | \$50 |
| Unit 7.3 ⁶ | \$10 |
| Re-enrolment ⁷ | \$45 |
| Tasmanian Bible Forums ⁸ | \$15 |

How to enroll in the Certificate in Theology and Ministry program

1. Speak with your Rector or Enabler about your intentions.
2. Arrange for a suitable person to be your Mentor for the program. This will normally be your Rector or Enabler. **Please ensure you and they first read and agree to the responsibilities of a Mentor as set out in the document, 'Directions for Mentors', which may be found on the Riverlinks Anglican Church website: www.riverlinks.net.au**
3. Download the enrolment form for the Certificate in Theology and Ministry from the Riverlinks website: www.riverlinks.net.au Return the completed form **with payment⁹ by the 10th of the month preceding the start of each term** to Riverlinks Anglican Church, 399 West Tamar Highway, Riverside TAS 7250.
4. The Riverlinks office will register you in the program and enroll you with Moore College for the nominated *PTC* unit(s). They will send you your study book(s), your free copy of their booklet 'How to Study,' and general information about your *PTC* studies. ¹⁰

How long will it take to complete the Certificate?

It depends on the number of units you study per term, the number of terms you enroll in per year, and whether or not you repeat units because you've failed the assessment or elected to take two terms to complete any unit (in both cases a re-enrolment fee applies – see under 'Fees'). At the rate of one unit per term for four terms per year, without any re-enrolments, the Certificate can be completed in two years at a cost of just \$435.

⁵ The fees represent considerable savings on the standard cost of the units due to generous subsidies provided by Diocesan Ministry Council, in order to make this program as accessible as possible.

It is generally expected that your parish will pay one third of your fees.

⁶ This unit is \$10 when the course notes are downloaded from the website. As explained in this Prospectus under unit 7.3, an additional \$20 is required for a printed copy of the course notes, totaling \$30 for the unit.

⁷ Where more time is desired, or a subject failed, students can repeat a subject at a later date. The re-enrolment fee applies.

⁸ The \$15 is for each TBF day.

⁹ Payments can be made by cheque, cash at the Riverlinks office, or direct deposit by arrangement.

¹⁰ Moore College is gradually making the course notes for the *PTC* units available online and accessible with a student password mailed out to students with the study book.

Certificate in Theology and Ministry

Time limit - In order to encourage progress in the program and completion, a MAXIMUM of FIVE YEARS has been set for finishing the certificate. Extensions may be granted on a case by case basis and only in extreme circumstances.

Recommended basic theological library

Upon enrolment in the *PTC* course Moore College will supply you with a Booklist of recommended books. Please bear in mind that they are not required reading in order to pass the *PTC*. Rather they are given as recommendations in subject areas in which you choose to do further reading and research. It is reasonable to assume that perhaps the majority of those who enroll in this program hope to exercise some form of ministry of the Word long term. In that event, you will want to gradually build a basic theological library for both your studies and ministry. This is an important (and expensive!) long term investment in your ministry, and we want to offer some guidance in your book choices. There will be some overlap with the list supplied by Moore College.¹¹

Basic theological library

Given here is a guide for people wishing to gradually build their theological library for study and ministry purposes.

Bibles

NIV Study Bible (New International Version)

Still a widely-used Bible in churches and for personal use. The Study Bible edition contains a lot of helpful background information, tables, diagrams, maps and comment.

NRSV (New Revised Standard Version)

An essentially literal translation that uses inclusive language.

ESV (English Standard Version)

An essentially literal translation growing out of the RSV that uses inclusive language selectively.

General Titles

New Bible Dictionary

New Bible Commentary (fourth edition, 1994)

A commentary on every book of the Bible in one volume. An excellent first chapter by D A Carson dealing with the dual nature of the Bible: the Words of God through the words of human beings, the canon of Scripture, the inspiration and authority of Scripture, and how to rightly interpret the Bible. Another excellent chapter on by R T France on 'Reading the Gospels' that covers topics such as 'what is a Gospel?', the similarities and differences between the four Gospels.

New Dictionary of Biblical Theology (IVP, 2000)

¹¹ Further recommended reading will also be provided with each of the diocesan-based units of the program.

Recommended Basic Theological Library

An excellent aid to understanding the parts and themes of the Bible in relation to the whole. Among some very helpful articles are The Canon of Scripture, Scripture, Biblical history, Exegesis and hermeneutics, unity and diversity of Scripture, Relationship of the Old Testament and New Testament.

Lion Handbook of the Bible

Very helpful background to Old and New Testament. Contains lots of photographs, diagrams, charts and timelines to aid understanding of the biblical context. E.g. charts integrating Old Testament narrative, and prophetic writings with the wider historical context of the ancient Near East.

Four-volume series

Dictionary of New Testament Background

Sets out the wealth of Jewish and Greco-Roman background that should inform our reading and understanding of the New Testament and early Christianity.

Dictionary of Jesus & the Gospels

In-depth treatment of select topics ranging from cross-sectional themes (such as faith, law, Sabbath) to methods of interpretation, key events in the life of Jesus to each of the four Gospels as a whole, to preaching from the Gospels today.

Dictionary of Paul & his Letters

In-depth articles on Pauline theological themes (such as law, resurrection and Son of God), broad theological topics (such as Christology, eschatology and the death of Christ), methods of interpretation, background topics (such as apocalypticism, Hellenism and Qumran), other subjects (such as Paul and his interpreters, the centre of Paul's theology), and articles devoted to each of the Pauline letters, to hermeneutics and to preaching Paul today.

Dictionary of the Later New Testament & its Developments

Articles on the book of Acts, the general epistles of Peter, James, Jude and John, and the books of Hebrews and Revelation, and preaching from these books. Extended coverage of developments in early Christianity through AD 150, including the writings of the apostolic fathers and the continuation and development of orthodox Christianity. Also articles on the Christian pseudepigraphal writings, Gnosticism, and Judaism post AD 70.

New Testament – General

Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey (second edition, 2005).

Very helpful for doing any work in any NT book. Presented in a very readable and user-friendly format. Excellent chapters on 'Why Study the NT?', 'The World and Identity of the Earliest Church', 'The Modern Study of the NT', in addition to a survey of every NT book.

The Message of the New Testament, by Mark Dever

Surveys the historical context, organization, and theology of each NT book in light of God's OT promises, showing the message of the NT as one of hope fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Recommended Basic Theological Library

Is the New Testament History? (Revised Edition, 2003), by Paul Barnett.

This book is something of a classic, covering questions such as: were the NT writers eyewitnesses, what do non-Christian writers tell us about Jesus, have the original writings, travelled unaltered, across twenty-one centuries?

Old Testament – General

Encountering the Old Testament: a Christian Survey (1999)

A very helpful survey of the Old Testament, presented in a very readable and user-friendly format. Lots of pictures, graphs, and tables. An excellent first chapter on 'What is the OT and why study it', covering the formation of the OT canon, its inspiration, transmission and interpretation.

An Introduction to the Old Testament, by Raymond Dillard & Tremper Longman III
An introduction to each book of the Old Testament in its biblical and cultural context.

The Message of the Old Testament, by Mark Dever (2006)

A collection of over 100 of Mark's sermons on the OT that functions as a magnificent overview of the OT, demonstrating the 'big picture' of the majesty of God and the wonder of his promises, and showing how they perfectly anticipate and are fulfilled in the NT testimony of Jesus Christ (960 pages!)

On reading & interpreting the Bible

How to Read the Bible for all its Worth (Third Edition, 2003), by Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart

Covering everything from translation concerns to different genres (literature types) of biblical writing. In clear, simple language, it helps you accurately understand and interpret the different parts of the Bible – their meaning for ancient audiences and their implications for you today.

New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors (Revised Edition, 1993), by Gordon Fee

A comprehensive guide to the exegesis process, investigating the meaning of the biblical text.

Old Testament Exegesis: A Primer for Students and Pastors (Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged, 1984), by Douglas Stuart

A detailed step-by-step guide for exegeting an Old Testament text.

Gospel and Kingdom: A Christian Interpretation of the Old Testament, by Graeme Goldsworthy

A classic landmark text that aims to help the Christian read the Bible as a living whole, recognizing its unity in diversity and its progressively unfolding message of God's Kingdom and King – Jesus.

Theology - General

Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief, by B Milne (Second Edition, 1998)

An excellent introduction to the great themes of the Bible.

Recommended Basic Theological Library

Pocket guide to Christian beliefs by I. Howard Marshall

A very helpful brief outline of the fundamentals of Christian belief, grounded in scripture.

Christian Theology: an introduction by Alister E. McGrath

A comprehensive introduction to Christian doctrine. Includes an excellent glossary of theological terms.

Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs, by J I Packer (1993)

As the title suggests, concise bite-sized chapters on the nature of the Bible, God as Creator, God as Redeemer, End things.

Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine, by Wayne Grudem (1994)

Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion (Two volumes, edited by John T. McNeill, translated by Ford Lewis Battles)

Theology – Christology

The Cross of Christ: with study guide, by John Stott (20th anniversary edition, 2006)

A classic exposition of the significance of Christ's cross that answers common objections against biblical teaching on the atonement in four parts: Approaching the cross, The heart of the cross, The achievement of the cross, and Living under the cross.

Understanding Jesus by Alister McGrath

The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross, by Leon Morris (Third Revised Edition)

Another classic of biblical scholarship, explaining the apostolic teaching on concepts that will always remain central to the Christian faith – words such as 'redeem', 'covenant', 'propitiate', 'reconcile', and 'justify', against the background of the Old Testament, the everyday language of the first century setting and rabbinical Judaism.

Pierced for our Transgressions: Rediscovering the glory of penal substitution (Steve Jeffery, Mike Ovey, Andrew Sach, IVP, 2007)

A fresh articulation and affirmation of penal substitution and engagement with over twenty specific objections to this doctrine.

The promise of His coming by David Williams

Comprehensive study of the work of Christ, including the second coming. Integrates the Old Testament prophecies about the Son of Man with the incarnation, the resurrection, and the anticipated return of Christ. Includes helpful study questions.

Theology – Trinity

Understanding the Trinity by Alister McGrath

Recommended Basic Theological Library

A clear and concise explanation of the doctrine of the Trinity. McGrath starts from Biblical models of God and shows how the church came to understand Trinity as the only way of adequately describing the God of scripture.

Theology – Pauline

Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free, by FF Bruce.

Another classic text by a renowned biblical scholar. Examines the life and theology of Paul – main themes in Pauline thought, set in their historical background and illustrated from his letters. Among important subjects discussed are the Mosaic Law, the flesh and the spirit, baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the life to come.

Paul, the Law and Justification, by Colin Kruse

Using inductive exegesis, Kruse examines the subject of the law and justification in each of Paul's letters then attempts a synthesis of his teaching on the subject.

Theology and culture

Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends (eds., Kevin J Vanhoozer, C A Anderson, M J Sleasman, Baker Academic Press, 2007)

An innovative book that helps Christians think theologically about our cultural environment and respond faithfully as Christian disciples. Firstly a Method is given for reading culture theologically, then essays assessing and analyzing cultural trends and suggesting Christians' response as 'cultural agents' – trends dealt with include the good life according to the supermarket checkout, busyness, blogging and designer funerals.

What Christians really believe and why by Stanley Grenz

Examines the desire for meaning in the modern world, and shows how Christianity provides answers for today's questions.

Jesus

The Two Faces of Jesus, by Paul Barnett

Paul was Anglican Bishop of North Sydney. He is visiting fellow in ancient history at Macquarie University, Sydney, research professor at Regent College, Vancouver, and author of numerous books and commentaries. In this book, Paul answers the fashionable presentation of Jesus as no more than a first century rabbi and prophet, by arguing from historical evidence and the apostolic writings, that behind the public face of Jesus, the first century Jew, is the private filial face – the face of the Son of God.

The early church in its Greco-Roman setting

Jesus & the Rise of Early Christianity: A History of New Testament Times, by Paul Barnett

A comprehensive survey of New Testament history that engages with contemporary scholarship and argues that the historical and risen Jesus was the driving force of the early Christian history.

The progress of Christianity

The Spreading Flame: The Rise and Progress of Christianity from its First Beginnings to the Conversion of the English, by FF Bruce

Recommended Basic Theological Library

An introduction to Christianity by Alister E. McGrath
A comprehensive overview of the development of Christianity from Biblical times to the present.

The Story of the Church (Second and enlarged edition), A M Renwick & A M Harman
A handy and concise summary of church history.

Commentaries

Complete set of Tyndale Bible Commentaries
Complete set of Bible Speaks Today Bible Commentaries

The Servant King: Reading Mark Today (Anglican Information Office, 2000), by Paul Barnett
Useful for the PTC unit – 'New Testament 1' – and for teaching and preaching on Mark's Gospel.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts, Then and Now (Revised & reprinted in 1999), by Max Turner
A clear scholarly consideration of the Holy Spirit that is rooted in Scripture and relates to aspects of contemporary theology, comparing Luke, John and Paul's teaching on the Holy Spirit to the experiences of today's churches of healings, tongue speaking, prophecy, and spiritual gifts generally.

The Giving Gift by Tom Smail

The Church

The Living Church: Convictions of a lifelong pastor, by John Stott (IVP, 2007)
Stott explores the biblical marks of authentic, living church, and urges our churches to be 'radically conservative'; that is, conserving what Scripture plainly requires, but radical in its engagement with culture.

The Provocative Church, by Graeme Tomlin
Argues for the local church to be a community of people who demonstrate what it means to live under God's gracious rule, cultivating a healthy community of grace that provokes the interest and involvement of those outside the community.
Total Church: A radical reshaping around gospel and community, by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis (IVP 2007)
A challenging and provocative book that argues for two key principles to shape church – gospel and community. The authors are part of The Crowded House church in the UK and plead for Spirit-inspired imagination to reconfigure church and mission around the gospel word and the gospel community.

Recommended Basic Theological Library

Ministry

How to Speak at Special Events (Christian Focus, 2007)
An excellent resource. A collection of articles on every aspect of the process of understanding a passage of Scripture, and of preparing a Bible talk, sermon, bible study, occasional talks for funerals and weddings and more.

Please! No more boring sermons: Preaching for Australians – Contemporary Insights and Practical Aspects (ed. Keith Waller, Acorn Press, 2007)
A collection of articles by highly credentialed Australian preachers covering topics such as the importance of preaching, the preparation for preaching, preaching a series, occasional preaching, preaching OT narrative, preaching evangelistically, sample sermons including one on suffering.

Setting hearts on fire: A guide to giving evangelistic talks, by John Chapman (Matthias Media, 1999).
This book is the fruit of John's 40 years experience as an Australian evangelist. Here he passes on the skills and passion of understanding the Word accurately and explaining it clearly. A step by step guide on preparing and delivering a talk that clearly explains the gospel.

Leading better Bible studies: Essential skills for effective small groups, by Karen & Rod Morris (Aquila Press, 1997)
An excellent comprehensive guide for Bible study leadership, combining adult education insights, biblical principles, over twenty different methods for Bible study, and helping groups through the stages of their life.

Know and Tell the Gospel, by John Chapman (4th ed. Matthias Media, 2005)
Something of a classic by Australian Anglican evangelist and bible teacher, John Chapman. The book articulates the gospel, explores from the Bible why we must do evangelism, who should be doing it, and offers practical help on training ourselves and others.

A Pastoral Handbook for Anglicans: Guidelines for pastoral ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne (ed. Charles Sherlock, Acorn Press, 2001)
Includes guidelines for Christian initiation – baptism, confirmation, thanksgiving for a child, guidelines for the conduct and pastoral care of marriages, and guidelines for the preparation and conduct of funerals.

Living with you, living with me: building relational health into God's family, by Kel Willis (CGM Publishing, 2004)
Kel ministers to Australian church leaders and to churches in conflict resolution. This book seeks to apply the gospel to relationships in church life and includes conflict and its causes, restoring peace, forgiveness and the challenge of change.

Christian Coaching: Helping others turn potential into reality, by Gary Collins (Navpress, 2001)
Helps you learn the characteristics of an effective coach, how to build them into your life, and how to coach and lead others with servant leadership.

Recommended Basic Theological Library

How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil, by Don Carson
A biblical and pastoral treatment of suffering and evil under God's sovereignty that helps Christians prepare for life's difficulties. Includes solid study questions for groups.

Spirit of a Nation: The Story of Australia's Christian Heritage, by Stuart Piggin (Strand Publishing, 2004)
Reveals the untold story of how Christianity has decisively shaped our national identity and values.

Leadership on the Front Foot, by Zachary Veron (APA 2009)
This book by an Australian Anglican leader outlines 23 principles to inspire and encourage church leaders, to lead on the front foot – proactively and strategically, with confidence and initiative, in order to create missional churches. Cover endorsement from our Missioner Bishop, Ross Nicholson: 'Leadership on the Front Foot bristles with a powerful blend of wisdom, experience and clarity of vision.'

Going the Distance: How to Stay Fit for a Lifetime of Ministry, by Peter Brain (Matthias Media 2004)
Drawing on decades of biblical reflection and experience, Peter Brain (Bishop of Armidale, NSW) explains how to keep fit mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually for the long-haul. This book is for anyone engaged in Christian ministry, whether lay or ordained.

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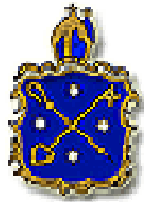
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(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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