

## Any questions?

### Do I have to attend every session?

No, of course not. We hope everyone will attend as many as they can, but we are well aware of the realities of life!

### What if I don't want church to change?

Then come and share the reasons why church the way it is, means so much to you. This course will stress the importance of maintaining traditional aspects of church, alongside exploring new ideas.

### What kind of tea will be served?

Something substantial like sandwiches and cakes with hot and cold drinks. The idea is that you won't need to prepare another family meal at home.

### Do I have to pay for anything? No.

### Where has this course come from?

*mission shaped intro* has been developed by an ecumenical organisation called Fresh Expressions ([www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk)). Hundreds of churches have completed the course and gone on to develop ways of connecting with their wider community.

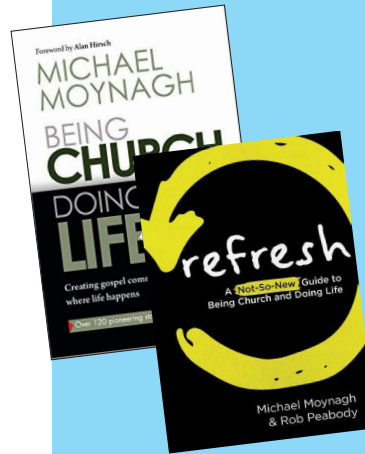
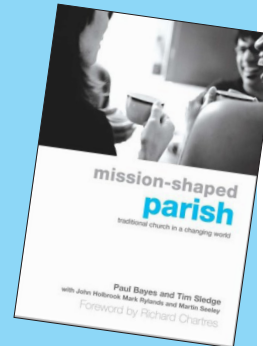
### What will happen after the course?

That will be up to us. We might be able to imagine small changes that will make a difference, or we may have been inspired enough to do something adventurous. As with everything else in church life, nothing will change without the agreement of the PCC.

## Summer reading ... ?

If you would like to read something before the course, 'Mission Shaped Parish' would be a good place to start.

ISBN 9780715142042



Fresh Expressions also recommends 'Being Church Doing Life'

ISBN 9780857214935

and a short introduction called 'Refresh'.

ISBN 9780857217653

## Recommendations

“ A fantastic and easy to use tool for missional thinking for every church community. The chance to re-imagine so many different facets of life is something that every church should make full use of.

*Jeff Reynolds, Methodist Mission Enabler*

“ Gets to the heart of understanding about mission. It is a great way to help people change their mindset and grasp the impact of culture on mission today.

*Rachel Jordan, Church of England Adviser for Mission and Evangelism*

## St. Mary's Mission Course

An  
**INVITATION**  
to you

How  
can we be  
the  
church  
our  
community  
needs?

Autumn 2016

## Introduction

St. Mary's would like to invite you to join in a creative and reflective journey, looking at the ways the world is changing, and to start to think about how we, as a church, may respond to the changes, for the benefit of our local community.

To do this we will be following a well-established course called *mission shaped intro*, in other words a course to help shape us up for joining in with what God is calling us to be doing here at St. Mary's – sharing his 'mission'.

The course will be run over six consecutive Sunday afternoons:

**September 18th – October 23rd**  
**in Church House**  
**3pm to 5pm**  
**followed by a family tea**

We really would like everyone possible (teens upward) to attend, and so qualified childcare will be offered and each session will be followed by a family tea.

Each session will include creative activities, film clips, presentations, discussion, worship and prayer. This course has been chosen because it's ideal for starting from scratch. So no previous knowledge is necessary; all you need is a love of St. Mary's and a desire to be the best church we can be for our community.

For up to date information: [www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk/current-news/mission-course](http://www.stmarys-bromley.org.uk/current-news/mission-course)

## Content

### Sunday 18th September

We will start by learning what the word 'mission' actually means. We hear it a lot. Why is it so important? Why should it be the foundation of our church?

### Sunday 25th September

We'll have a good look at how the world is changing around us, and the uncertainty that creates. We'll start to think about how we, as church, might respond.

### Sunday 2nd October

We'll explore what it means to be part of a community, and how we can be and offer authentic community in a world shaped by consumerism and individualism.

### Sunday 9th October

We'll think about what worship is and about how we may offer an experience that's less alien and more relevant for those living around us in our parish. We'll see some examples of what other churches have done.

### Sunday 16th October

A session to think about how we might enable healthy discipleship and leadership in different expressions of church?

### Sunday 23rd October

Having explored so much, what's our response and what might we do next?

### Need any more details?

Alan 020 8460 1827 Ruth 020 8289 1892

## BOOKING FORM

Please let us know you can come by filling in this form, detaching it, and returning it to Ruth (in church, by posting it to 1 Lake Avenue, Bromley, BR1 4EN or by emailing the information to [ruthmpeet@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmpeet@gmail.com)).

Everyone (from 13 yrs) will be welcome on the course. If you would like childcare for children up to 12 yrs, please fill in the section at the bottom. Booking for childcare is essential as we need to arrange the correct cover.

Name(s):

Email:

Phone:

Please fill in below to book childcare (up to 12 years old):

Name(s) and age(s) of child/ren:

Dates (please tick):  Sep 18  Sep 25  
 Oct 2  Oct 9  Oct 16  Oct 23



*Thank you, we will be in touch*