

# Opportunity of extra learning to gain a Certificate

Alongside the *Mission Shaped Ministry* course, if you would like to learn at greater depth and be stretched more, it is possible to do extra reading and some essay-writing to gain a Certificate. This is an extra option available to anyone who is doing the *Mission Shaped Ministry* course. It is well worth doing as it can help you gain even more from your learning.

## What qualifications do I need to do the Certificate?

None! The Certificate is “open access”. This means that anyone can have a go at the Certificate and, as long as you manage the first module (the written work for the autumn term), you can continue with the rest of the Certificate. We will help you as much as we can.

## What will I gain?

People who have done the Certificate agree that they have gained infinitely more by choosing to do the Certificate work alongside the *Mission Shaped Ministry* course. The reading and writing is stimulating, and helps to deepen and clarify one’s Christian understanding. Those who have undertaken the Certificate have found this has focused their minds and helped them to grow in faith and confidence.

## The written work for the Certificate

The work for the Certificate is at the academic level of the first year of a BA degree course. It will involve some reading and completing assignments each term, totalling 4,500 words. The topics of these will obviously be related to that term’s themes on the *Mission Shaped Ministry* course. This may include compulsory assignments. However, there will be some choice of titles and you can focus the work so that it is relevant to you and enables you to reflect on your own faith and experience.

The deadlines for the assignments will be spread over the year. Please be realistic about the amount of time that you will need to set aside in order to do the Certificate: **a minimum of 6 hours per week** in term time (a bit less if you spread it over school holidays too, but more time if you are not used to academic work).

This is in addition to the time taken in attending the course sessions and preparation for each session (which is done by all course members, whether they are doing the Certificate or not). You will be allocated a Personal Tutor, who will mark your work and will also be available on request if you wish to phone or e-mail for help and advice with your written work.

## Who is responsible for the Certificate?

The Certificate is a collaborative venture, involving:

- The *University of Cumbria*
- the *Lancashire and Cumbria Theological Partnership (LCTP)*, which trains clergy and lay preachers;
- the local *Regional Training Partnership (RTP)* which includes Anglican, Methodist, United Reformed and other Churches in Cumbria and Lancashire.

## Since 2012, the Certificate is being offered in two different ways:

Government changes to University funding means that the cost to students of a University course and award are more expensive. In order to minimise the cost to you, you now have a choice.

Ask yourself:

- a) Would I really like to gain a proper Higher Education qualification validated by the University of Cumbria? (If so, read paragraph 1 below about the *University Certificate in Mission Shaped Ministry*). Or,
- b) Is my main reason for wanting to do the written work for the Certificate, that I would like to learn more and be stretched in my faith and thinking.....but I'm not really interested in gaining a University qualification? (In which case, read paragraph 2 below about *The Mission Shaped Ministry RTP Certificate*).

**Please note that both ways of doing the Certificate involve exactly the same amount of work, the same essay titles, and are marked at the same academic level. Neither is 'easier' than the other! The differences are only in the cost to you, and in whether you receive a University qualification at the end of it.**

### **1. The University of Cumbria-validated Certificate in Mission Shaped Ministry (MSM)**

This way of doing the Certificate is more expensive, but gains a nationally-recognised University qualification.

Several people have enjoyed the University Certificate so much, that after finishing *Mission Shaped Ministry*, they have gone on to do further validated modules as independent students. If you wish, you can build up to a Foundation Degree, or even a BA Hons. Degree through the Univ. of Cumbria, or transfer the credits to another University.

**Costs:** The University has not yet finally confirmed their fees for 2013-14, but based on last year the cost to you of the University Certificate should be about £475 (we split this between £375 paid to the University, £100 to LCTP). When added to the basic *Mission Shaped Ministry* course fee of £275, the full cost to you will be **£750 for the year**, payable as **£250 per term**. (To be confirmed).

### **2. The Mission Shaped Ministry RTP Certificate**

This is offered under the auspices of the North North West Regional Training Partnership (RTP).

This way of doing the Certificate is cheaper because you do not have to pay the fees to the University, but of course you do not gain a University qualification. This RTP Certificate is recognised by the participating church denominations in Cumbria and Lancashire, but is not a proper Higher Education award. Therefore you will not be able to accumulate academic 'credits' towards a degree afterwards.

**Costs:** This *Mission Shaped Ministry RTP Certificate* will cost you £100 for the year, (£100 payable to the LCTP). When added to the basic *Mission Shaped Ministry* course fee of £275, the full cost to you will be **£375 for the year**, payable as **£125 per term**.

**Costs:** If you are very keen to do either of the Certificates, but cannot afford the cost, let us know and we may be able to suggest sources of help.

**Help with Study Skills:** There will be help and study skills training available, so do not be afraid of doing the Certificate, even if you have not done any academic work for decades! There will be a Study Skills evening at the beginning of the course. Everyone doing the Certificate needs to come to this session, as it will be the main opportunity for explaining and discussing the essays and answering your questions about the Certificate. (We avoid doing this in the main course sessions, since not all course members will be doing the Certificate.)

### **Any questions?**

If you have a practical query or concern about anything to do with either of the Certificates, please contact Tricia Turner at the LCTP Office at **Church House, West Walls, Carlisle CA3 8UE** or direct phone line 01228 815405, or e-mail: [admin@lctp.co.uk](mailto:admin@lctp.co.uk)

If you have any other questions about the *Mission Shaped Ministry* course, then please contact: **Rev. Nick Moxon** [nickmoxon@btinternet.com](mailto:nickmoxon@btinternet.com) (01772 322920)