

Learning from London: Mission and Evangelism in the 21st Century

A course open to anyone: available for seminary or DMin credit, Continuing Education Units (CEUs), or lifelong learning.



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COURSE OVERVIEW



We have all heard the news and analysis: attendance in the Episcopal Church in the US has shrunk by around 24% over the last decade (2007-2017), and prospects for much of the church look dim. Many reasons for this decline are offered: growing secularity, the rise of the “nones”, changing attitudes towards religion and religious observance, we are a more pluralistic and diverse nation.

But inevitable decline is not the only story to be told for Anglicanism in the developed world.

Since 1990, the Diocese of London in the Church of England has grown by 70%*. From 2007 to 2017, in the same decade the Episcopal Church as a whole shed 24%, membership in the Diocese of London has grown by 20%. Since 2000, giving has increased by 50%. This has come about through a combination of dynamic local parish programs, strategic planning for planting and renewing churches, and an inspiring vision set forth by the diocese. All of this has taken place in the midst of one of the most diverse, vibrant, cosmopolitan, multi-faith and secularized urban centers in the world.

How has this come about? And what may be learned from London’s methods for our own context? Join Dr. Jason Fout for an in-depth introduction to the many facets of the mission and evangelism taking place in the Diocese of London. We will spend our time learning best practices from seasoned practitioners.

Forthcoming dates:

- › January 14-20, 2023
- › June 10-16, 2023

Topics covered will include:

- › Church planting in the 21st Century metropolis
- › The relationship of community organizing, congregational development, and church growth
- › Leading for change and growing discipleship
- › Inviting people into faith through various means, including the Alpha Course
- › Listening to context and engaging it with the church’s mission
- › Fresh Expressions of Church, Pioneer Ministries, and Missional Communities

Plan to come away energized to tell a different story about the possibilities present to the church in America!

*In terms of electoral rolls; there has likewise been growth in average weekly attendance, but those numbers have begun being collected more recently.



This course would be suitable for MDiv or DMin students, for those seeking Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as well as anyone (lay or ordained) charged with leadership in the church and interested in the subject matter.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE* FOR THE WEEK IN LONDON

- › Saturday, or before: Arrive in London (travel to London on your own). Accommodation at the Highbury Centre (*subject to change*), London. Afternoon meeting at the Highbury Centre for introduction and overview of the week.
- › Sunday: Experience the breadth of worship in London!
- › Monday: Church planting and renewal in London; Community Organizing.
- › Tuesday: Fresh Expressions of Church and Pioneer Ministries.
- › Wednesday: Evangelical Connections—Holy Trinity Brompton and the Alpha Course.
- › Thursday: Catholic mission in London.
- › Friday: London’s commitment to social transformation and response to crises; final wrap-up conversations and festive farewell dinner.
- › Saturday, or after: Depart for home.

**This is a representative outline of the week: exact content of each day subject to change.*

FEES

Subject to change: of the \$1000 deposit, \$750 is nonrefundable



FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION/ENRICHMENT—\$2900

including ground transportation for the week, lodging, most meals; and a festive dinner on the final night: exclusive of airfare and incidentals. (+ \$25 for CEUs certificate)

FOR MASTER’S OR DOCTORAL CREDIT—Students taking the course for credit will only pay \$2200 for the course, but will pay an additional \$2205 tuition for three hours of credit. (If you receive a tuition scholarship, this course would be eligible, too!)

Above rate is based on either shared, en-suite rooms, or single rooms with shared bathrooms. A very limited supply of single, en-suite rooms is available for a supplement of \$150 for the week.

Extra nights at the Highbury Centre may be available too, if you would like. Please let Dr. Fout know *as soon as possible* so he can check availability, and he will add any extra nights to the course booking.



DEADLINES

Course deposit (\$1000) due no later than November 1, 2022 (to be sent in upon admittance to the course); *\$750 of this deposit is nonrefundable.* (Deadline of March 1, 2023 for June 2023)

Remainder due in full by December 1, 2022. (Deadline of May 1, 2023 for June 2023.)

All participants will be responsible for their own air transportation.

All participants will be responsible for their own supplemental insurance coverage (including emergency evacuation and repatriation of remains): *please have this in place and notify the instructor no later than January 1, 2023.* (Deadline of May 1, 2023, for June course.)

REGISTRATION PROCESS

- 1) Read through this entire document carefully; fill out and return the application to Jason Fout (jfout@bexleyseabury.edu).
- 2) Admissions are on a rolling basis, through the year until the course is filled. Once you hear from the professor that you have been admitted to the course, please send a check for your deposit (\$1000) made out to Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation. Send the check to: Bexley Seabury, 1407 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637, Attn: Lynn Bowers. *Your registration for the course is finalized once we receive your deposit check.*
- 3) By January 1, or as soon as possible before, fill out and return the student information sheet, with details of your travel and emergency contacts, to Jason Fout (jfout@bexleyseabury.edu).



Deadline to register: November 1, 2022 (For all taking the course, whether for credit (MDiv, DMin) or lifelong learning) **Apply early—space on the course is limited!** (Deadline of March 1, 2023 for June 2023.)

Note well: this has turned out to be a popular course and we anticipate having more applicants than we have places. Space is very limited, and we are sorry that we may have to say no to otherwise qualified applicants. But we will continue to offer the course each year and if you cannot go one year we strongly encourage you to re-apply for another year. You are encouraged to apply early!

For further information, contact Jason Fout: jfout@bexleyseabury.edu



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

What are the dates of the class before and after the week in London?

Class will begin online informally in December, with introductions (in May, for the June class). You may begin the reading for the course early; online discussions and exercises begin at the beginning of January. Exact details will follow registration. Final assignments will be due February 17, 2023 for the January class (July 15, 2023 for the June class.)

What coursework will be expected of me?

- › All members of the course are expected to complete all course reading and online discussions before departure.
- › Those taking it for enrichment *may choose* to keep a journal during the course.
- › Those taking it for CEUs *may choose* to keep a journal.
- › Those taking it for credit *must* complete a journal and final project.

What other expenses will I encounter?

- › Supplemental medical insurance/travel insurance (required)
- › Lunch (£4-6 for a simple lunch most places); this will not be required most days
- › Alcohol (optional, at your discretion)
- › Incidentals such as toiletries or souvenirs
- › Ticket price for optional events (some may choose to go out to the theatre one night)
- › Cell phone/mobile phone costs (check with your carrier for coverage and rates)
- › Any extra lodging you may choose (before or after the course)
- › Airfare or other travel expense to London

Why is airfare not included in the price of the course?

We decided that we would simply meet in London to begin the course since 1) we anticipate having students attending from multiple locations, and rather than flying to Chicago, and then flying to London Heathrow, we would simply meet in London, and 2) airfares vary throughout the year, and sometimes people have strategies for getting an optimal airfare (Hotwire, Priceline, etc.), or have a preferred carrier or class, or have frequent flyer miles they would like to use. Given all of this, it made sense to allow people to make their own flight arrangements. In most cases, this will mean booking a flight that departs the US on Thursday before the course starts, or earlier, arriving no later than the Friday before the course starts. The course will begin Saturday afternoon.

I strongly recommend if at all possible that you arrive at least one day early to get over jet lag and exhaustion.

Can I arrive early or extend my stay?

Certainly! Most people in past courses have arrived at least a day or two early, not only to acclimate to the time difference, but also to become a bit familiar with London, especially the Tube (subway) system, before heading out with the course. Since you are making your own flight arrangements, you can easily buy a ticket to arrive earlier or depart later. You may find your own pre- or post-trip accommodations, or, if you let us know well in advance you may remain where the course is staying, depending on availability. (Single rooms at the Highbury Centre are typically £45-£55/night, which compares favorably to most hotels in London.) *There will be almost no time for tourism or sightseeing during the course, and so especially if this is your first time in London or this is otherwise important to you, it would be a good idea to extend your stay.*



Can I plan to arrive late or depart early?

No. All students are expected to be in residence with the class from Saturday afternoon through the following Saturday morning, without exception.

May I make my own arrangements for lodging (or meals, etc.)?

No. The experience of all members of the course being together for the entire week, sharing conversation, impressions, and processing experiences is intrinsic to our learning. If you are not with us during these times, we are deprived of your part in this process, and you miss out as well. (There is down time built in as well, so you need not worry about being “on” all the time. Many of us are introverts!)



May my spouse or partner accompany me?

It is important for our learning that the class gels as a community; this takes place not only during our visits or the lectures, but also during meals and as we travel. Numerous evenings will be spent over a pint in the local pub continuing to process our learning. All of this means that it is important that each member of the group be a participant, and that no member feel torn between spending time with the group and spending time with their beloved. Given that, we have found that it is better that couples, if they would both like to be present,

apply to both be *full participating members* of the course together. Otherwise, many have planned time together in London before or after the course.

What are the accommodations like?

We will be staying at the Highbury Centre, situated in the Highbury neighborhood of London. It is a lovely old Victorian building spread over four floors (with no elevator—so if you’d prefer a lower floor, please let Dr. Fout know in advance).

The price of the trip includes either a standard single room or (if you are sharing with another student) an en-suite twin. The types of room available are:

1. *Standard Single*—this is a good-sized room suitable for one person, with bed, desk, wardrobe, and coffee/tea making facilities. Standard single rooms have a separate bathroom, shared with other guests, found in the hallway outside your room.
2. *En-suite twin*—this is a larger room suitable for sharing, with either two beds or a single bed for two. Along with the features listed above, these rooms also have an attached bathroom.
3. *En-suite single*—This is a slightly smaller room suitable for one person, with bed, desk, wardrobe, and coffee/tea making facilities; as well as a rather small, attached private bathroom. This room type is very limited, and is available for a supplement of \$150 for the week.

I have particular dietary needs (such as being vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, etc.), can you accommodate this?

Yes, *absolutely!* We have found that the Highbury Centre and the restaurants we frequent are really very good at catering to various dietary needs. Please let Dr. Fout know *as soon as possible* what you require and he will let them know. Please note that this is about dietary *requirements* and not dietary *preferences*.





What can I expect of London in June?

London is quite far north, and in June daylight is very plentiful: we should expect more than 16 hours of daylight during our trip. June is a fairly warm month in Britain, and London averages 50F - low 70sF, although you should not be surprised if we get days in the low 50s, (Some participants have reported that temperatures in the 50s felt colder than they were used to, because it was sometimes rather damp, and we spent more time walking outside than they were accustomed to, getting from place to place.) As well, London has been experiencing more than its usual share of hot days these past few years, so you shouldn't be surprised to have a few days in the 80s or even the

90s. You should plan for cool and likely rainy conditions, although with intermittent warmth and dryness! Come prepared with a light, waterproof jacket of some kind, and consider wearing layers that can be put on or removed with changes in temperature. Most days we will be outside for a good while, walking or otherwise getting from place to place.

What can I expect of London in January?

London is quite far north, and in January daylight is still in short supply: we should expect 8-9 hours of daylight during our trip. January is also the coldest month in Britain, and London averages 35- 45F, although you should not be surprised if we get days in the low 30s, or the 50s. (Some participants have reported that temperatures in the 40s felt colder than they were used to, because it was sometimes a rather damp cold, and we spent more time walking outside than they were accustomed to, getting from place to place.) Although freezing temperatures and snow are not impossible, they are not nearly as common as in the US; temperatures rarely stay freezing for long, and snow doesn't tend to hang around long. You should plan for cold and likely rainy conditions, although with intermittent warmth and dryness! Come prepared with a warm, waterproof coat of some kind, and consider wearing layers that can be put on or removed with changes in temperature. Most days we will be outside for a good while, walking or otherwise getting from place to place. The sun often puts in an appearance - more than I'm used to in the Midwest, anyway - so you'll want to pack your sunglasses. (We planned the course for January, which is out-of-season for tourists, partly for the sake of cost: airfares tend to be lower and lodging tends to be more available and cheaper.)

What can I expect of our days in London?

Our days will start with Morning Prayer and breakfast. We will then assemble to depart for our destinations for that day. We will travel, wherever possible, via Tube, Docklands Light Railway (DLR) or London Overground trains (your course cost includes a travelcard, so this is paid for). Appointments with leaders will typically last an hour to an hour and a half. Lunch will be simple. Dinner will be together. Class will continue into the evening several nights. Some evenings will be free (on your own; one day we can arrange an optional theatre outing for those who would like); on free evenings it is not uncommon for students to close out the day in the local pub.

Sunday through Friday will be full; we will likely be away from our lodging and our rooms 8-10 hours, sometimes longer. Come prepared to stand, walk and move as we explore the church in London!





Will there be time for sightseeing or other “touristy” sorts of things during our time in London?

No. This is very much a working trip, and our class time will be packed. (There is some down time built into the course, but it is intended as time to rest and process—best not to be running down to the Tower of London or the V&A during these times!) The week will not give any real opportunities for sightseeing. However, if you would like to see more of London and soak up the sights and culture, it is a simple matter to extend your stay at the Highbury Centre, either before or after the course (on a space available basis). This will give you ample opportunity to explore on your own.

Is it all “Fresh Expressions” in London?

No, not at all—we will see a wide variety of lively and flourishing ministry settings, some very traditional, some less traditional; some inherited church, some Fresh Expressions of Church and Pioneer Ministries; some catholic, some evangelical, some broad,

some charismatic, some liberal, some conservative. Come prepared to learn about and from a wide variety of people and places!

How much walking is involved?

A lot! You will definitely hit your target of 10,000 steps per day—most days we manage 14 – 15,000 steps! Although we are not walking constantly, every day we manage to walk at least 5 miles, and most days we manage 6 – 8 miles, and sometimes 10 miles or more, along with travelling by subway and walking up and down stairs. Bring comfortable shoes! *If you have significant mobility issues, or are unaccustomed to walking such distances you will want to consider carefully before you commit to coming on the trip.*

For further information, contact Jason Fout: jfout@bexleyseabury.edu

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