

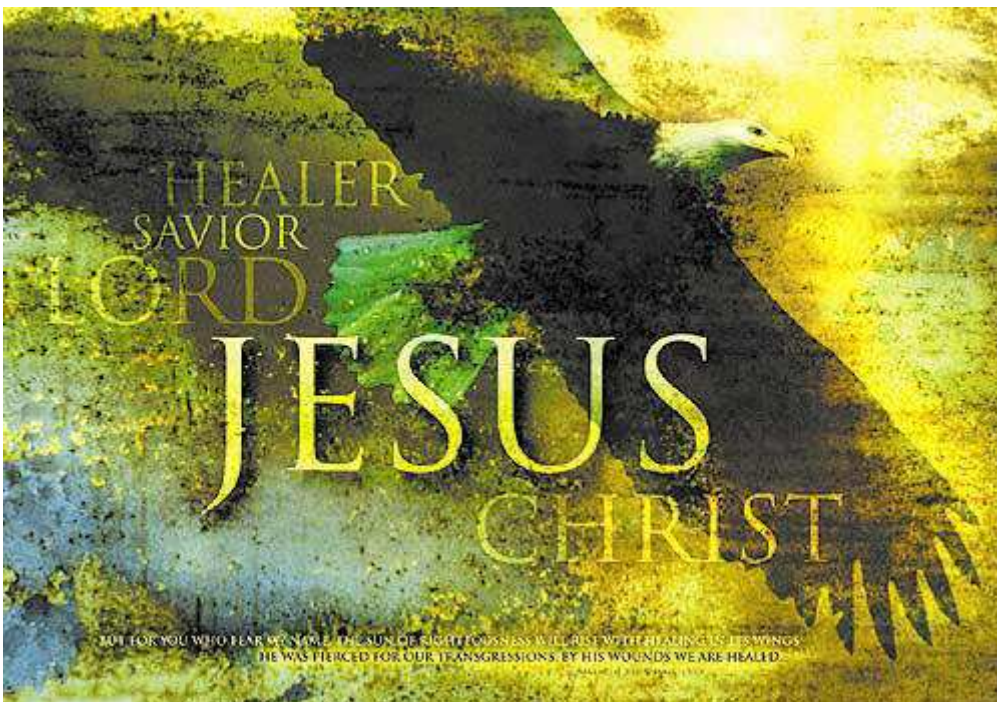
# Study Course:

- To be used in conjunction with the paper produced by Bishop Michael Doe on  
**'An Anglican Understanding of Mission and Evangelism'** -

**Note:**

It is intended that the following material be used at midweek meetings during Lent (or some other convenient time). Alternatively, or in addition, the study material could be used for Sunday preaching and the questions used for discussion in groups.

*Compiled by: Rev Nigel Andrews*



## **STUDY ONE:**

### *All Mission is Rooted in God*

Read and discuss the following statements:

1. God always takes the initiative.
2. Mission is God's work: "It is the participation of Christians in the liberating mission of Jesus, the good news of God's love, incarnated in the witness of a community, for the sake of the world." (David Bosch)
3. Mission expresses who God is, the richness of the life and communion within the Holy Trinity.
4. All mission is centred on Jesus Christ: his life, his person, his death, his resurrection; we are called to participate in God's saving work, uniquely demonstrated and accomplished in Jesus.
5. God, through his Spirit, directs our mission, revealing what we are to do, and giving us the power to do it.
6. Every baptised member of the Anglican Church has a responsibility for mission. If we are not involved in mission, we cannot be the church.
7. A significant part of our mission is the ministry of reconciliation.
8. Mission is to share in and show the love of God in Jesus Christ:
  - a. by worship
  - b. by proclamation
  - c. by enabling others to experience God's justice, God's healing and God's provision
9. The entire Anglican Communion is called to be involved in mission. This makes it necessary for us to find ways of supporting each other, initiating exchanges which involve people, ideas and money.
10. Our mission, as Anglicans, will have a distinctive flavour, and our contribution to the mission of the entire church will be unique.

## **Questions**

1. In your own life, have you experienced God's taking the initiative? When? How?
2. What work in your own parish has been obviously initiated by God? Why do you believe this?
3. Do you see your own work, in the church or community, as:
  - a. participating in the liberating mission of Jesus?
  - b. Expressing the good news of God's love?
4. Ask the same questions of your church.
5. How does mission express God's nature (3)?
6. Is Jesus Christ central to the mission of your church?
7. What do the following Scriptures reveal about God's initiative:  
Genesis 12:1 - 5  
Exodus 3:1 - 10  
John 3:16  
Galatians 4:4
8. How did Jesus operate in ministry, according to John 8:28 - 30? Does this passage have any bearing on the Church's mission?
9. What does Luke 4:14 reveal about God's nature, and how does this affect our mission?
10. 2 Corinthians 5:11 - 21 speaks of the 'message' or 'ministry' of reconciliation, which has been committed to us. How do we exercise this in the local church?
11. Is too much energy consumed by 'maintaining the plant'? How do we correct this?

## **STUDY TWO:**

### *Our Mission involves presenting the Whole Gospel*

1. The five marks of mission agreed by the Anglican Consultative Council in 1984 and 1990:
  - a. to proclaim the good news of the kingdom
  - b. to teach, baptise and nurture new believers
  - c. to respond to human need by loving service
  - d. to seek to transform unjust structures of society
  - e. to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth
  - f. Mission cannot be reduced to one or two aspects of the above, to merely loving one's neighbour, for instance, or nurturing those already in the church.
2. The Scriptures inspire and direct mission, but Reason and Tradition influence our understanding, interpretation and application of the Scriptures.

## **Questions**

1. Are you satisfied that the 'Five Marks of Mission' adequately express the whole mission of the church?
2. What aspects of mission has the Anglican Church traditionally exercised well, and what have we neglected?
3. How have Reason, Tradition and Experience influenced our understanding, interpretation and application of the Scriptures?
4. Have we failed, by confining most of our proclamation to captive congregations, rather than taking the Gospel 'into the streets'?
5. Would you agree that we have not been very effective in securing 'new believers' and that making disciples of those who join the church is a real problem? How do we address these issues?
6. In a post-apartheid society, what is our role now in transforming unjust structures? (Hosea 12:6)
7. Some people believe that we should have rules of membership that are more strict and demanding. Do you agree?
8. How involved is your church in encouraging responsible use of resources, and teaching proper respect for creation?
9. Do the 'Five Marks of Mission' fit with the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16 - 20?
10. Do Luke 9:1 - 9 and Luke 10:1 - 11 suggest that we should be a little more selective in our ministry?
11. Is the Church's role to be 'the conscience of the nation'?
12. Acts 6:1 - 5. How does the Church cope with all the demands made upon it by needy people?
13. What does Acts 20:17 - 27 say about the mission of the Church?



## **STUDY THREE:**

### *Mission is influenced and enriched by Differences and Diversity*

1. Theological diversity can enrich our understanding of mission: we need to “look for, recognise, learn from and rejoice in the presence of Christ at work in the lives and situations of the other” (2005 IASCOME Covenant for Communion in Mission). There needs to be a willingness to accept differences and disagreements, and an openness to change. Our communion holds us together, in Christ, as we embrace and celebrate our diversity.
2. Mission must take the cultural context seriously, respecting local culture.
3. At the same time, we are to seek to be released from those aspects of our own culture that might distort the truth of the Gospel, such as:
  - a. colonial heritage
  - b. abuse of power and privilege
  - c. neglect of the gifts and ministry of the laity
  - d. undervaluing women and children
  - e. unfair distribution of resources
  - f. marginalising the poor, the oppressed, and other groups of people, whose suffering gives them a different perspective.
4. Meaningful participation in mission calls for deep personal humility.
5. Mission must be appropriate in a culture of pluralism, where we live, work and worship alongside people of other faiths. We must pursue peace, mutual respect and understanding.
6. We need to accept our own incompleteness, and to grow in our understanding of who God is, and what he is doing.
7. Anglican Mission is part of the mission of the Church universal; our work in mission must express a desire for greater union; we need to see and respect what God is doing in and through the whole Church.

## **Questions**

1. Do we easily see Christ in people of other persuasions (theological, cultural, sexual, etc) in our own churches? How well do we handle differences? How open are our people to change? How can we encourage greater openness, acceptance, understanding?
2. Is the Anglican Church too broad, too flexible, too concerned to accommodate everyone? What aspects of African culture do we need to take seriously, and from what in our Anglican colonial and/or African heritage do we need to be released?
3. Does the Church successfully express different values from those of the world, or do we compromise?
4. Do we see 'upward mobility' in the life of the church? Does the significance we attach to titles and ceremony give the impression that we are very conscious of status?
5. Do clergy still 'monopolise' ministry, or are we making progress with respect to encouraging the ministry of all believers?
6. Is deep personal humility a common occurrence in our churches?
7. To what extent is inter-faith activity acceptable? Is the present situation satisfactory?
8. Can you think of specific ways in which you have grown in understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
9. What does Ephesians 4:1 - 16 say about unity-in-diversity and maturity?
10. Philippians 2:1 - 11 presents us with a picture of the self-emptying of Christ. What do we learn from Paul's exhortations (verses 1 to 4) and the picture of Christ (verses 6 to 11)?
11. Acts 17:22 – 31: How was Paul's ministry contextual?
12. Philippians 2:12 – 13: "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." Does this imply that we should be concerned about the implications of our calling for us and, perhaps, leave others to work out their own salvation?

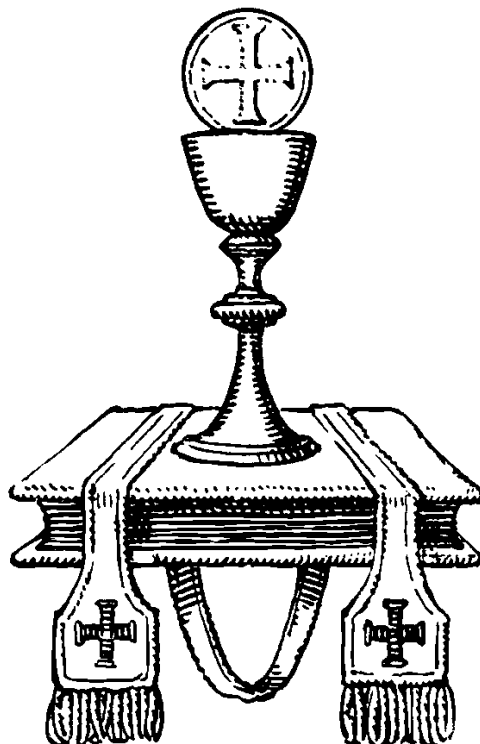
## STUDY FOUR:

### *The Church, the Liturgy and the Sacraments and their Relation to Mission*

1. Our mission is celebrated and proclaimed in the liturgy, which shapes our faith and empowers us for a life of ministry and mission. Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist, especially, are expressions of God's trust in us to continue Christ's ministry.
2. The ongoing life and worship of the church is vital to its mission.

### Questions

1. Do you see a direct connection between the Church's liturgy and its mission?
2. How important are the liturgy and the sacraments to you? Do they obscure, or express clearly, the Church's mission?
3. What aspects of the liturgy and the sacraments are really good, helpful, positive?
4. Look at the services of Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. What relates, specifically, to mission?
5. How does the liturgy shape our faith?
6. How does the liturgy 'empower' us for a life of ministry and mission?
7. What would your response be to people who think that liturgy stifles spontaneity and the creative, renewing work of the Spirit?
8. Are young people able to find a freedom in the liturgy to express who they are, and encounter God as He is?
9. In your parish church, is liturgy used creatively and flexibly (as allowed!), with space for informal worship? What could/should change?
10. Should we be revising liturgy continually, in line with a changing society, new perceptions, deepening understanding of who God is, and different norms? Does having liturgy formalised in a Prayer Book make it too permanent and confining? Do people from outside the Anglican tradition struggle to relate to our liturgy? If so, does this hinder mission, rather than facilitate it?
11. Do all churches have a "liturgy", in the sense of having an established order in worship, a usual way of doing things, repeated expressions or phrases, etc? Is it possible to have no liturgy, and what would be the danger of this (if anything)?



## STUDY FIVE:

### *The Incarnation of Christ and the Mission of the Church*

Mission must witness to the Incarnation through service offered to the local community, such as social care, medical care, education, peace and justice groups, and so on.

### Questions

1. How is your church "witnessing to the incarnation" in your community? What should it be doing? How can it be more effective?
2. Are churches in danger of duplicating successful ministry in other churches, or competing with organisations in the community already doing effective work?
3. What do you understand by 'renewal', and do you have experience of this happening in your own life? Do you need it? Does your parish need it? How could/should it happen?
4. Is your parish
  - a) flourishing, growing and healthy?
  - b) chugging along?
  - c) dying?What signs indicate this?
5. What, in your parish is,
  - a) extremely effective, in terms of mission?
  - b) reasonably effective?
  - c) ineffective?
6. Decide on five steps your parish should take to be more effective in mission and evangelism, with the aim of encouraging church growth.
7. Prioritize them.
8. What would you like to see accomplished/established by Pentecost Sunday, 2011 (12th June)?
9. What are the first practical steps you need to take, to make this happen?
10. Does the thought of embarking on this programme excite you, or make you afraid and uncomfortable? Why?

*[Note: Ideally, all the groups in the parish should come together to decide on the plan of action, with respect to questions 6 to 10]*

