

Understanding Islam: a ten-session course

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Dr Chris Hewer was appointed in January 2006 with a brief to deliver adult popular education courses around Greater London. Chris comes from a background in Christian theology, Islamic studies and inter-faith studies and has worked in the field since 1986, first at the Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at Selly Oak in Birmingham and from 1999 to 2005 as the Adviser on Inter-Faith Relations to the Bishop of Birmingham.

The Understanding Islam course has been developed for adults of all ages and educational backgrounds who want to explore Islam within its own terms. It has been delivered around 80 times in Birmingham and London to over 2000 people. The ideal number for a course is 12-25 and the ten two-hour sessions usually include an accompanied visit to a mosque. Courses take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, daytimes and evenings. The hosts gather together the people, provide the meeting place and tea/coffee for the break. Chris will deliver everything else and requires only something on which to write (e.g. a flip chart). He is fully funded, including travel expenses, therefore courses are delivered free of charge. There is a book that accompanies the course: *Understanding Islam: the first ten steps*.

The outline of the course is as follows:

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| 1. A Muslim-eye view of creation | 2. The Prophet Muhammad |
| 3. The Qur'an | 4. An overview of Muslim history |
| 5. Principal beliefs of Islam | 6. The ritual practice of Islam |
| 7. Visit to a mosque | 8. Living constantly remembering God |
| 9. Islam and other faiths | 10. Muslims in Britain. |

Rachel Treweek, Archdeacon of Northolt, who did the course in Jan-Mar 2008, comments:

These sessions offer a superb window on the Islamic faith and provide a forum for discussion and reflection. Dr Chris Hewer is a deeply committed Christian with a wealth of knowledge and experience and it is an immense privilege to learn from him. I highly recommend this course.

The Bishop of London writes:

"I have read the book which accompanies this course. It is highly recommended and an example of how profoundly a committed Christian can appreciate Islam"

Bookings are now being taken for 2009
Contact Dr Chris Hewer direct as above