



Living in Love and Faith: Guidelines for a Book Club

For many, the primary means of engaging with Living in Love and Faith (LLF) will be the five session video-based course, supplemented with podcasts, films and other resources. However the book, that was published in November 2020 is a comprehensive resource; it covers a great deal of all that LLF has to offer - indeed, one of the features of the course is that it aims to compress the material in the book into five sessions.

For some, access to the course might not be straightforward, but a LLF Book Club might work instead. It's a long book of nearly 500 pages - so this is still a true commitment - but could be read in sections with small group of others, perhaps over a few months. Such a group might meet in a variety of ways and so doesn't need to be geographically close. Below are a few suggestions if this is a chosen route for you.

Suggested sections

The book is helpfully split into five main parts, along with some introductory and concluding material. In between each of the five parts are sets of Encounters: real life stories from people working through the matters that LLF aims to address.

A suggested plan then might be like this:

<i>Reading before meeting</i>	<i>Pages</i>
Introductory material, Part One ('Reflecting: what have we received?'), Encounters	i-xi; 1-57
Part Two ('Paying Attention: what is going on?'), Encounters	69-161
Part Three ('Making connections: where are we in God's story?'), Encounters	164-265
Part Four ('Seeking answers: how do we hear God?'), Encounters	268-375
Part Five and concluding material ('Conversing: what can we learn from each other?'), Encounters	378-424



Meeting together and pastoral principles

- A LLF Book Club is not going to be quicker than a course! If you do this over five sessions, there's a significant amount of reading before each meeting - it's quite a commitment.
- It does, however, allow you to spread the meeting over a few months - you could meet once a month from say July to November.
- The Pastoral Principles will still be important (<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/bishops/pastoral-advisory-group/pastoral-principles>). There are six, so it might be that you could cover one at a 'pre-meeting' as you start the LLF book club, and then perhaps a further one at each. It will be wise to discuss and cover the Pastoral Principles commitments at the outset.
- It might be that you already have a small group - or even one other person - in mind with whom to start a book club. If not, you could ask the Diocesan LLF advocate if there are others who might like to join you, whether that's within or even outside your diocese.
- Agree all the dates you plan to meet at the outset, allowing enough time to read each agreed section.
- Agree how you might meet - this could be in person, over zoom or using something like WhatsApp to keep in touch- a combination could work well.

Feeding Back

- There are two main ways for feeding back:
 - Use the course feedback form (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LLFcourse>). Although this will be orientated toward the course, you can still use it to set out your feedback within a book club.
 - Response creatively. There are multiple ways of doing this - for more information and ideas, see <https://llf.churchofengland.org/course/view.php?id=27>

...and do let your LLF advocate know this is your chosen route!