

Journeys in Faith – Bishop’s Lent Book

Rowan Williams’ *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer*

Bishop Michael selected Rowan Williams’ excellent book *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer* as his book for Lent this year. The diocese helped more than 200 copies find their way into hands of parishioners and friends in preparation for Lent studies, and we’ll be excited to hear stories about how the book prompted reflections, changes in life, and new hopes over the months ahead!

At the end of each chapter of the book, there are suggested discussion questions that the Journeys in Faith group of the diocese commends for your attention as you look at the book in groups. Leaders of discussions may well want to add some context-specific questions to facilitate conversations. We do recommend adding one question each week, in light of the bishop’s charge to synod this year. Bishop Michael asked us to think about what it means to be Anglican; as you consider the four topics of Williams’ book, we recommend asking the question **what role does ____ play in your experience of Anglicanism?** for each of the topics (baptism, bible, Eucharist, prayer).

We encourage you to think about interesting ways to engage the topics. Perhaps, as you consider the chapter on baptism, you may wish to gather around the font and renew your baptismal covenant. What’s the right way for prayer to be part of all of the sessions? What’s the right way to share in the Eucharist as you consider that chapter? Responses to these questions are going to differ widely in different contexts, and the book invites you to find interesting ways to engage with it in your context.

Many parishes using *Being Christian* as a Lent book may well have five sessions rather than four (because of the length of Lent). If so, the Journeys in Faith group recommends some questions that may help a discussion that helps conclude the conversation or determine new areas to explore together.

1. How have the four key areas of faith come together in your life?
2. What else (other than baptism/bible/Eucharist/prayer) forms your spirituality?
How has it been central to your life?
3. What other elements are vitally important to our experience as distinctively Anglican followers of Jesus?
4. How would you design an Anglican church to let these four elements—and any others identified in the conversation—be at the heart of all that takes place there?