

Why Alpha?

- Recent surveys show that more than 90% of the population do not go to church
- UK Church membership decreased by 21% during the years 1980 to 2000
- One in two marriages in the UK is heading for divorce
- More than 1000 churches in Southern Africa have found that Alpha works for them bringing back loss members and bringing new members. Churches also find that existing members enjoy the course and benefit from it.
- There are still millions of people who have found the joy of knowing Jesus Christ.
- Recent surveys have shown that 90% of South Africa's population do not go to church and that depression and despondency are rife among them.

At the same time shoots of new life seem to be appearing all over the place. The Alpha course is one of these shoots.

What is Alpha?

The Alpha course is a 15 session, ten week practical introduction to the Christian faith. It is designed primarily for non-churchgoers and those who have recently become Christians. It was established at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) over twenty years ago and there are now more than 16,000 Alpha courses throughout the UK and overseas. It is running in 119 countries and has been translated into 32 languages.

Alpha is a flexible and practical model which can work for any group of any size. Churches and Christian organisations of every background and denomination are discovering it to be a simple and effective way of presenting the gospel of Christ in a clear and non-threatening manner to people from all walks of life.



What is the conference about?

The conference is designed to equip you to set up a successful Alpha course in your local church. For leaders already running Alpha, it provides tools that help an Alpha course run more effectively. Churches that attend an Alpha conference prior to running the course experience a far higher degree of success with their Alpha courses, and often considerable church growth.

The Alpha conference covers:

- How to start an Alpha course
- How to maximise the potential of your course
- How to select and train the right team
- How to avoid burnout
- How to attract new people
- How to avoid seven common mistakes
- How to lead worship on an Alpha course
- How to care for people during and after the course
- How to run Alpha in a Catholic context

The conference will look in detail at all aspects of setting up and running an Alpha course including the weekend away, which covers the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

There will be opportunities to hear reports from those whose lives have been changed on the course and to hear from those who have started Alpha courses in their own churches.

There will also be opportunities to receive prayer during the conference.

Over 68,000 church leaders have attended Alpha conferences nationally and internationally in America, Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Holland, Hong Kong, Ireland, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Zimbabwe.

Who is it for?

The conference is designed for:

- Leaders who would like to know more about the Alpha course
- Anyone already running an Alpha course who wants to maximise the potential of their course
- Anyone who would like to bring their Alpha team to be trained

"I am very, very glad I came, what an amazing experience. It has changed my life"

"Brilliant, practical inspirational."

"The love I found emanating from all concerned was amazing."

Delegates from a recent South African Alpha Conference



What people are saying about Alpha

"As I visit the Church of the Province of Southern Africa I have heard of so many whose lives have been changed and revitalised by **Alpha** – I commend it warmly."

Archbishop Njongonkulu, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

"I am sold on **Alpha** and so is African Enterprise. We'll be using it and we hope you will too."

Michael Cassidy, African Enterprise, Pietermaritzburg

"**Alpha** is an exciting and dynamic programme that enables the church to evangelise its neighbourhood. The genius lies in the tri-format of a meal, a speaker and group work."



Bishop M. Dandala, Presiding Bishop, Methodist Church

"As I was researching new approaches to evangelism, I came upon **Alpha** – and what a surprise it was! God is good! I guess nothing attracted more attention than the Alpha course – academics were jubilant!"

Dr Jurgens Hendricks, Faculty of Theology, University of Stellenbosch

The Alpha Conference Programme



Monday 9th April 2001	Tuesday 10th April 2001	The Speakers
8.00am Registration	8.00 am Worship & Intercession	 Nicky Gumbel runs the Holy Trinity Brompton Alpha course. He is the author of several books including <i>Questions of Life</i> , which is based on his talks on the Alpha course.
8.45 am "The Principles of Alpha"	9.00 am "Small Groups"	
11.15 am Tea/Coffee	11.00 am Tea/Coffee	 Jez Barnes , Curate at Holy Trinity Brompton, London, trained at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and has spoken at many international Alpha conferences.
11.45 pm "The Practicalities of Alpha"	11.30 am "Ministry on Alpha"	
1.45 pm Lunch	1.00 pm Lunch	
2.45pm Seminars*	2.00 pm Questions and Answers	
3.45 am Tea/Coffee	3.00 pm Tea/Coffee	
4.15pm "Model Alpha Evening"	3.30 pm "Pastoral Care"	
6.00pm Finish	5.00 pm Finish	

Conference Fee per person

Early Bird Individual Rate	R180.00
Group Discount (2-4 people)	R170.00
Group Discount (5+ people)	R160.00

(Postmarked on or before 9th March 2001)

Standard Individual Rate	R200.00
Group Booking (2-4 people)	R190.00
Group Booking (5+ people)	R180.00

This cost includes refreshments on both days.

Lunch will however be on sale at the church.

I would like to apply for places for the Alpha Conference, 9th – 10th April 2001. I enclose a total of R and accept that the **conference fee is non-refundable.**

Payment must accompany booking form. Please make your cheque payable to **'SA National Alpha Conference'** and return to:
Gauteng Alpha Conference, National Alpha Office,
PO Box 194, Goodwood, 7459.

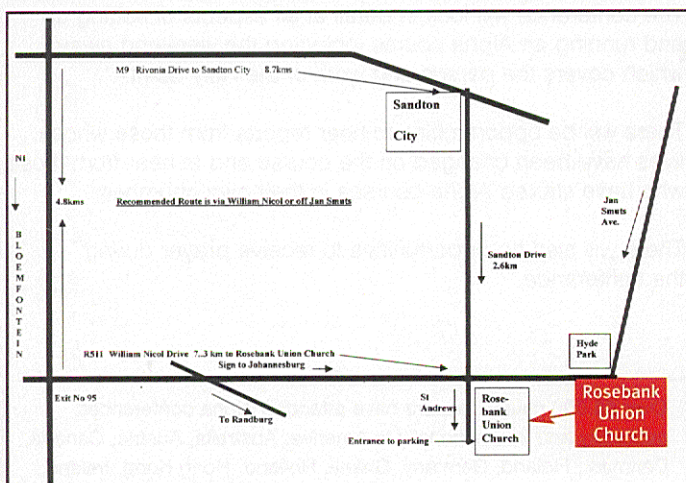
Early bird registrations will receive a 10% discount on all resources at the conference

Booking is limited, so register early to avoid disappointment.

In order to help us allocate seminars to suitable venues, please tick **one** seminar you would like to attend:

- * ☐ Administration on Alpha ☐ Afrikaans Alpha ☐ Alpha for Catholics
☐ Alpha for the Deaf ☐ Maximising the Potential of your Alpha Course
☐ Prayer and Alpha ☐ Prison Alpha ☐ Worship on Alpha ☐ Youth Alpha

How to get to Rosebank Union Church



Rosebank Union Church is situated just off William Nicol Drive. Please see map for directions.

Parking

Ample parking is available in church grounds.

Children

Unfortunately we do not have facilities to accommodate children or babies.

Pre-conference Preparation

Participants are encouraged to read 'Questions of Life' before the conference. It is available through local Christian bookshops, or from the National Alpha Office on (021) 592 1093.

Enquiries

If you have any further enquiries please contact the National Alpha Office on Tel/Fax: (021) 592 1093, E-mail: inform@alphasa.co.za

The *Alpha* Conference

A pattern for dynamic growth in the local church

Main speakers: Nicky Gumbel, Jez Barnes
The Gauteng Alpha Conference
Rosebank Union Church, 9th – 10th April 2001



“Running Alpha without going to a conference is like driving a car without taking lessons”

Nicky Gumbel

The *Alpha* Conference

Application Form

(Please print clearly in capitals)

Each delegate must complete a separate application form, with the exception of married couples **(forms can be photocopied)**.

Title

First Name (as you would like it to appear on your badge)

Surname

Spouse's First Name (if attending)

Address

Province

Postcode

Country

Daytime Phone Number

Fax Number

E-mail

Church Name

Denomination

Are you currently running an Alpha course?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you the course administrator?

Yes ☐ No ☐