

## **Equipping God's People: Pastoral Care**

**Equipping God's People** is a range of courses intended to encourage and enable lay people to develop their gifts and skills and to take a fuller role in the ministry of the local parish, benefice or deanery.

Courses can be arranged in your locality by arrangement with a member of the Diocesan Training Team.

More information about the Acorn Christian Foundation can be found at [www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org).

### **Just Listen (dvd)**

This course is available to buy from Acorn ([www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)) and can be used without the need for a tutor. It is suitable for individual or ideally small group use as an introduction to listening over 2 hour sessions. Just Listen is not an alternative to attending a training course. All those who book for a "Learning to Listen" course are encouraged to use this dvd as preparation.

The 90 minute film is divided into 6 short modules covering:

- Tuning in
- What kind of listener am I?
- Developing a Listening Attitude
- Identifying Obstacles
- Doorways to Good Listening, and
- Ideas to Inspire You

### **Listening & Prayer Ministry**

This is either a one day course for those who have not attended a "Learning to Listen" course, or a 5<sup>th</sup> session for participants on a "Learning to Listen" course.

Subjects covered during a day course include:

- The purpose of prayer ministry
- Active reflective listening
- The value of active listening in prayer ministry
- The example of Jesus
- Listening & Prayer activity
- Addressing problems in prayer ministry
- Listening to God

### **Learning to Listen (Effective listening for everyday life)**

This course teaches 'active reflective listening' which includes the elements of listening to God, listening to God, listening to ourselves and listening to others. It is suitable for anyone, whether they have with previous experience or not. It is useful for people who need to listen in the course of pastoral work, in their workplace or community. Learning to Listen has been used by parishes to help establish pastoral care teams including bereavement visiting, community listening outreaches and as general encouragement to becoming more of a 'listening' church.

### **Listening in Pastoral Care (Time to Listen)**

This course applies 'active reflective listening' to people in particular pastoral situations. Participants must have completed 'Learning to Listen'. This course is especially useful for individual or teams engaged in pastoral work on behalf of the church, but also for those who listen in other contexts.

## **Called To Listen**

This is a residential course to explore a 'Call to Listen' and enable participants to listen more effectively to themselves, to others and to God. It is a means of encouragement on the journey towards wholeness. Successful participants will be trained as 'Christian Listeners'. The course also forms the basis for those who wish to train as Listening Tutors.

The course provides a Christian understanding of the person and underlines the value of listening to the whole person. Teaching and practice in disciplined listening skills is provided in a context where participants draw on their own life experience as part of their learning.

Pastoral support and supervision are provided during the course, together with a proper honouring of confidences. Participants are enabled to discover their own level of competence and to judge when other help, through those in church leadership, medicine, social work or voluntary organisations should be sought.

Subjects covered include:

- My journey of life
- The work of listening and our resources
- Listening to the whole person
- Reflective listening
- Listening to God
- Listening practice
- Observation of listening
- Good practice for engaging in the ministry of Christian Listening will be discussed throughout the course.

## **Equipping God's People: Faith Sharing**

### **Learning to Share our Faith**

Few things are more important today than the need to share Christian faith in simple but effective ways that are appropriate to different settings. This course is designed to give people greater confidence in sharing faith especially through corporate means rather than simply 'personal evangelism'.

The course includes the following 5 session:

Session 1:       The God of Mission  
Reflecting on the nature of God as creative, nurturing and redemptive  
Reflecting on the church as God's agent of his mission in the world  
Considering how to enable us to be God's mission agents through our local congregations

Session 2:       Where are People Today?  
Reflecting what a 'worldview' is and how it can be practically recognised  
Considering how this worldview affects the life and witness of the local congregation

Session 3:       Something to Share  
Reflecting on what we as Christians in God's Church have to share  
Understanding 5 key marks of mission in relation to the local congregation  
Understanding what evangelism is, considering how to plan a mission project

Session 4:       Sharing Faith Where I Am

Reflecting on the fact the God calls us to share faith where we are, so where are we?  
Considering the marks of mission that inspires us  
Planning starting points  
Considering the place of prayer

Session 5: Continuing to Share our Faith  
Telling our stories using the 'story telling cycle'  
Reflecting on the course and how participants can make it effective practically

For more information please contact:  
The Revd Phil White, email: phil\_07@btinternet.com

## **Equipping God's People: Spirituality**

### **Learning to be a Spiritual Companion**

This course aims to help people understand how to walk alongside someone in the spiritual search or journey. The person 'walked alongside' might be a Christian, someone outside of the church institution or even someone who is 'not yet' a Christian. The sub-title indicates 'first steps' as it stops short of including training on becoming a spiritual director. Training in listening skills are highly recommended for anyone thinking of joining this course.

There are 6 sessions to this course as follows:

- Session 1: Life fixer or life Servant?  
Considers some of the factors affecting our view of baptismal call and ministry  
Explores some of the tools that will help on the course
- Session 2: Will you say one for me?  
Explores the nature of intercessory prayer and how it impinges on everyday life  
Reflects on why people sense the need to pray
- Session 3: What's gone wrong with the world?  
Explores the ways in which personal and large scale disasters relate our understanding of God to human beings
- Session 4: Who on earth am I?  
Exploring the question of our human identity in relationship to God
- Session 5: Where will it end?  
Exploring the relationship between belief in the 'here and now' and 'life after death'
- Session 6: What is this church thing all about?  
Exploring the nature of Christian community and its mission and ministry

Further details of this course written by members of the Diocesan Training Team can be obtained from: The Revd Elaine Bielby, email: ebielby@ebielby.karoo.co.uk

# **Equipping God's People: Worship**

## **Learning to Lead in Public Worship**

Worship is central to our lives as Christians and to the life of the church, and is often described as our 'shop windows'. How important then that those who assist in leading collective worship should do so with a good understanding and help assistants both new and experienced to gain in confidence, clarity and skill. This course is appropriate for lay assistants and has been appreciated by many Readers. Course units may be combined to form a course that suits different local needs. Some units will be 'core' whilst others 'optional'

### Session 1: Thinking about Worship

- Reflecting on the meaning and purpose of Christian worship
- Reflecting on the difference between participating in worship and the leading of worship
- Considering the nature and structure of Anglican worship and its purpose

### Session 2: Reading Scripture

- Reflecting on the elements of a good reading
- Understanding the voice as a key tool and the role of preparation
- Practical, with constructive feedback
- Considering the use of dramatic readings, reading aids and understanding scripture

### Session 4: Understanding Public Prayer

- Reflecting on the difference between public and private prayer
- Practical, with constructive feedback
- Considering the structure of intercessory public prayer and preparation

### Session 5: Leading in Practice

- Developing good practice in leading and not 'getting in the way' of people's experience of worship

### Session 6: Going with the Flow

- How to lead different parts of liturgy
- How to appreciate and use liturgical space, movement and the overall flow of liturgy with all its ingredients

### Session 7: Songs of Praise

- Appreciating different types of songs, hymns and psalms
- How they fit into the flow of the service
- How to introduce hymns and songs.

### Session 8: Planning a service

- This session will involve the practicalities of planning 2 different services using a limited range of resources
- Small group work in the main

### Session 9: 'All Age' Worship

- An introduction to the principles of All Age Worship
- An opportunity to plan a service using a range of resources to their best effect

### Session 10: Eucharistic Assistance

- Considering the practical and theological issues in this ministry

## **Equipping God's People: Church Life**

### **Learning to Lead Small Groups**

Small groups are a vital part of many churches today and provide a significant opportunity for learning, sharing and relating better as growing Christians in a busy and indifferent world. The benefit a group can provide for its members is indirect proportion to the skill, faith and awareness of its leaders. This course sets out to help leaders learn new or refresh previously learned skills, understandings and attitudes that can contribute to a healthy life for small groups. Such a learning experience should not be assumed however short or long a group leader has been leading!

Session 1: Introduction to leading small groups  
Awareness of people and the small group task  
Leadership styles and their relevant merits  
Influence of practical issues on how a group works

Session 2: How do small groups work?  
Sharing reflections on leadership  
Considering how the best learning takes place  
Understanding the distinction between content and process  
Reflecting on needs within groups i.e. tasks, individual and maintenance  
A Biblical dream team!

Session 3: Difficulties and conflict in groups  
Considering the roles people play in groups and how to handle these well  
Considering examples of conflict and how to deal with them  
Reflecting on and managing the 'difficult' group member

Session 4: Exploring faith in groups  
Considering why bother with faith in groups?  
Different types of faith groups and the change they can bring  
Reflecting on personal stories and how experience affects us  
Exploring some ideas for variety in groups  
Considering how to evaluate our groups

## **Foundations of Faith**

There are currently 6 units in this programme. Each unit consists of 2 sessions. A Unit could be used in isolation or combination, although more often they have been used to form a whole course of 12 sessions.

### **Using the Bible**

Session 1: Different types of writing  
Look at different types of writing in the Bible

Session 2: Whose word?  
Overview the making of the Bible  
To begin to look at the Bible from a different point of view

## **History of the Church**

- Session 1: From Sect to Establishment  
Origins and growth of Christianity  
Ideas and beliefs  
The making of the modern church from the reformation
- Session 2: From Jerusalem to the Ends of the Earth  
What have the Romans done for us?  
The growth of the early church  
Missionary expansion and the ecumenical movement

## **Christian Belief**

- Session 1: What is God like?  
Considering the place of scripture, tradition, reason and experience  
Reflecting on Genesis and the first disciples  
Reflecting on the Trinity including in relation to Holy Communion and church buildings
- Session 2: What are human's like  
Considering a doctrine of humanity as created and fallen  
Considering a doctrine of salvation/atonement

## **The Church**

- Session 1: What is the Church?  
Considering the nature of the church  
Reflecting on some models of the church
- Session 2: The Mission of the Church  
Considering 5 marks of mission  
Understanding different views of 'evangelism'

## **Worship**

- Session 1: Thinking about Worship  
Considering what worship is  
Looking at the main features of Anglican worship today
- Session 2: Worship in the Everyday  
Moving from public worship in everyday life  
Reflecting on being 'living sacrifices'  
Making connections with everyday life

## **Spirituality & Vocation**

- Session 1: Exploring Spirituality  
Exploring some understandings of spirituality  
Working definitions and the nurturing of spirituality  
An experiential encounter
- Session 2: God's Call  
Thinking about vocation with help from the New Testament  
Shaping a 'rule of life' for yourself

## **Exploring Shared Ministry**

This set of materials is presently being piloted in the York Archdeaconry and so may be changed in the light of this experience.

The aim of this course is to provide a tool through which you can think through the mission and ministry issues you face where you are. It will help you and your parish (or benefice, deanery, LEP) review what you do, look at ways you can develop what you are doing, and renew your vision and priorities for the ministry and mission you undertake. It is also designed to help towards developing a genuinely shared ministry.

### **Session 1: Starting where we are**

- Telling the story of your church and using a biblical image
- Giving thanks to God for what is happening in your church
- Making an assessment of what your Church's story tells you about existing priorities
- Starting to think about the future

### **Session 2: What is God calling your Church to do?**

- Seeing the bigger picture for the Church's work
- Considering what the wider community thinks about the church
- Thinking about how your church can live out Jesus' life within the wider community
- Considering new and changed priorities for your church

### **Session 3: Who moves things forward?**

- Exploring the leadership qualities appropriate for today's church
- Exploring areas where ministry could be shared

### **Session 4: Is God Calling you?**

- Considering the types of people God has called to serve him
- Discerning God's call today
- Exploring gifts and abilities he has given
- Considering possible blocks to responding to God's call

### **Session 5: Looking ahead**

- Making decisions about how to move forward
- Affirming agreed priorities
- Giving consideration to any new patterns of ministry/leadership appropriate for your church

## **Growing Healthy Churches**

'Expressing the life of Christ through the local church'

This material enables churches to identify their strength and weaknesses and discover what action to take in order to develop the health of their church. The focus is on the quality of the church's life rather than just the numbers attending.

Churches are helped to assess themselves against 7 marks of a healthy church. A rural version of the marks is also available where appropriate. The goal is not easy solutions, but rather encouraging the reality of God's Presence in and through the life of each church.

A healthy churches exercise has been used by 15-20 churches over the past few years in the East Riding with much benefit accruing.

A healthy churches exercise would consist of as many church members and attendees as possible from a parish or benefice, gathering together with an external 'consultant' for a day. The marks of a healthy church would be introduced and used to try and quantify the health of the church.

Guided discussion help to affirm the strengths, examine what is holding the church back and explore differences of perception. By the end of the day an action plan would be drawn up to help the church move forward and increase its health.

This is now available in book form from Church House Publishing 'The Healthy Churches' Handbook by Robert Warren.

## **Fresh Expressions**

### **Mission Shaped Intro**

6 weeks to rediscover mission and re-imagine the church

- Session 1: exploring the mission of God as the foundation for any expression of church
- Session 2: exploring how the rise of both consumerism and networking have affected our culture and how the church might respond
- Session 3: exploring the need for fresh expressions of church to be community focused
- Session 4: exploring how fresh expressions of church are re-imagining worship
- Session 5: exploring the type of leadership needed in fresh expressions of church and how to facilitate discipleship
- Session 6: provide space for people to consider their response to this course and what they might do next.

This material is downloadable from [www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk)

## **How to set up a course**

If you would like to consider a course in your parish, benefice or deanery first speak to your incumbent/rural dean/PCC as appropriate and then get in touch with one of the training team (see Training Team Contacts).

### **There are two ways a course might be programmed:**

1. Generic - a tutor or group of tutors decide to arrange a course in a strategic location, perhaps approaching a parish or deanery
2. Tailor-made – i.e. a course is arranged on the initiative of a local request

### **Practical Arrangements**

Should be decided by tutor/s in co-operation with local contacts

1. Tutors work in 2 or 3's
2. A suitable time, date, and venue are agreed with local contacts. Usually a mid-week evening 7pm-9.30pm, but Saturdays are also possible. A venue could be a church facility or neutral venue, with all 'mod cons', heating, seating, refreshments facilities, availability for all sessions, space for buzz groups, and use of visual aids
3. booking forms and flyers will be provided through Jacque Du Preez (see Training Team Contacts)

### **Advertising**

Courses would normally be advertised in order to open up the course to nearby parishes and deaneries. Simply notify Jacque as soon as the details are known. We would then use any of the following means that are appropriate:

1. Clergy Mailings

2. Mailings to a variety of target groups e.g. incumbents and PCC secretaries in particularly deaneries, participants from previous course etc.
3. Generic leaflets advertising a range of EGP courses
4. Diocesan website

## **Costs and Expenses**

1. A small fee should be charged for each participant per course (“10-£15) in order to give value to the course and help offset costs. It also means there is equity across the Diocese. Often churches give their facilities free. On other occasions it is important to pay to ensure good facilities.
2. completed booking forms should be sent to Jacque Du Preez along with cheques
3. Venue costs will be paid centrally, this can include: refreshments
4. Tutors’ expenses will be paid centrally, this can include: refreshments, tutors travel costs, photocopying, folders

## **Recommendations**

An important part of booking for ministry focused courses is for participants to obtain a written recommendation from their incumbent and PCC. This is to ensure appropriate people are recognised but also so that parishes will be prepared and willing to use people once they have been given new skills and confidence.

## **Further Contacts**

Equipping God’s People/Foundations of Faith: Phil White

Shared Ministry: Rachel Hirst

Growing Healthy Churches: Elaine Bielby or Phil White

Administration: Jacque Du Preez

**Archdeaconry Contacts:** If you want to know more about any of the courses below you can contact either the Diocesan Training Team representative for your Archdeaconry or the person named after an individual course.

**Cleveland Archdeaconry:** John Grove, 37 Eastgate, Pickering, YO18 7DU.

Telephone: 01751 477574. Email: johnimgrove@hotmail.com

**York Archdeaconry:** The Revd Rachel Hirst, The Rectory, Sandy Lane, Stockton on Forest, York, YO32 9UR.

Telephone 01904 400811, Email: rachel.hirst40@googlemail.com

**East Riding Archdeaconry:** The Revd Phil White, St James' Vicarage, 24 Seamer Road, Scarborough, YO12 4DT. Telephone: 01723 361469. Email: phil\_07@btinternet.com