

For 2015-2016 only  
Reduced Fee  
of just  
£25 per person!

# worship **4** today

*A course for worship leaders and musicians*

## 2015 -16

The term 'worship leader' has come into use in recent years, but who are they and what is their role?

Can they be clergy or laity, musicians or non-musicians?

Do they receive any formal training for the task, or are they left to muddle through alone?

What skills should they have?

What do we expect from them?

***Worship4Today*** seeks to address these issues and many more. This highly successful course has been used in the Sheffield Diocese since 2007, where it runs for one academic year alongside other lay training. ***Worship4Today*** has proved a catalyst in many churches for renewed vision and direction in worship.

The aims of the course are:

**To nurture** a foundation of personal worship

**To provide** a biblical and historical background

**To understand** worship styles across the Church

**To develop** new expertise and practical skills

**To explore** authentic worship for a mission-shaped church

It is particularly suitable for those who:

- Wish to deepen their understanding of worship
- Are already involved in leading worship in their local church
- Sense a call to a ministry of leading others in worship
- Wish to improve their practical worship leading skills
- Wish to develop their musical understanding and level of competency
- Wish to develop other creative gifts to enhance church worship

## **THE COURSE**

Each session will include teaching, discussion, group work and experiential learning.

The course consists of six 2.5 hour sessions locally and three full Saturdays (10am-4pm) held centrally. These will take place at The Beacon Centre in Stafford (ST18 0GB) on the following dates:

**28 November**

**13 February**

**18 June**

Please note, the final date will be an *All Age Worship* conference open to all.

Dates for the local group sessions will be confirmed in due course, but these are expected to run at the following three locations across the Diocese:

Wellington

Shenstone

Stone

There are four key areas to the programme:

### **Theology and history**

Theology of worship, liturgy and music  
Worship in the Bible and through church history

### **Exploration of different church traditions and worship styles**

Anglican worship – patterns and structures  
Liturgical formation and good practice  
Worship in a mission context  
Emerging worship and fresh expressions

### **Leadership skills**

Developing a servant heart  
Developing skills for putting services together and leading worship  
Pastoral skills for building a worship team  
Enabling a congregation to worship

### **Practical skills**

Facilitating liturgy and prayer  
General musical skills for the musician and non-musician  
Developing creative skills, such as use of audio-visuals and other expressive arts  
Introducing and teaching new material to a congregation  
Running effective rehearsals

### **Course requirements**

There are no academic, educational or musical requirements. The most important requirement for participants is to come as worshippers themselves, to seek to engage with God in different forms of worship, and to learn to lead others in inspiring worship which is both converting and transforming.

### **But I'm not a musician**

This course is not just for musicians, but for all those involved in being part of a parish worship team. It is suitable for anyone who wants to understand more about worship and how to do it well. This course might be seen as a useful development for clergy and readers or those who are already involved in church choirs or music groups as well as other potential lay worship leaders. It is proving helpful for church wardens, who find themselves leading services in multi-benefices or during vacancies.

## Attending the course will also involve:

- Preparatory reading or short written tasks for each session
- Practical involvement and ministry during the course
- Keeping a personal journal and portfolio
- Making visits to other churches where the worship (and music) is of a different style to your own church
- Completing a personal project, designed to affirm each participant's development

Projects and portfolios will not be graded but thorough feedback will be given. There is no formal qualification at the end of the course. However, there will be an opportunity to review with course tutors what you have learnt, and an opportunity to discern, with the help of your incumbent and PCC, how this ministry might be developed further within the local church setting. On completion of the course, participants may be commissioned in their Parish as Worship Leaders or be Authorised as Lay Minsters by the Bishop if they complete the course as part of the Authorised training route, along with the compulsory modules.

## Further information

The Diocese of Lichfield is running the *Worship4Today* course from 2015-16, both as a stand-alone course and as part of the Authorised Lay Ministry training programme. The course will be free for 2015-16.

Before joining the course you will need to obtain the support of your Incumbent and the PCC and fill in an application form. All applications should be submitted by **31st July 2015**.

If you have any queries regarding the course, or if you would like to request an application form, please contact Becky Harrison in the Local Ministry Office:

[becky.harrison@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:becky.harrison@lichfield.anglican.org) or 01543 306223.