



Training, Learning & Events Programme

Spring Term 2025

**A range of training, learning and events in the
Diocese of Lichfield**

**Developing Discipleship,
Encouraging Vocations and Inspiring Evangelism**

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to introduce the second programme of training, learning and events in our Diocese for the Spring term. It contains a range of events, workshops and sessions for both ordained, lay ministers, church officers, and interested disciples, offered by various parish support, West Midlands CMD, Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education, DAC, Finance and other training establishments.



We also have three new areas of training to offer this spring – Places of Welcome, Strengthening Communities and Enabling All, click on the links to find out more about who they are and how we can work together.

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/places-welcome-spreading-tamworth>

[Strengthening Communities - Diocese of Lichfield](#)

[Enabling All - Disability - Diocese of Lichfield](#)

At the beginning of the brochure, we have some training that will be coming in the Spring Term but has yet to be finalised at this time. This is so that you know it will be advertised over the coming weeks via the bulletin, social media and on our website.

There is a new 'Save the Date' section that I have added for training and events that are happening later in the year so don't forget to scroll to the end of the brochure for those.

I am seeking some feedback. If you have time, please do complete the online questions about what training you would like in the summer term. There are six questions in total. This is so helpful in knowing how best to enable and support you in your many roles and ministries across our Diocese. Thank you very much in advance.



<https://forms.office.com/e/7J3vSMvPFE?origin=lpLink>

Please do pass this on to anyone in your benefices who you think may be interested, not forgetting to sign up yourself!

In grace and peace,




JM Smith

Jules Smith, Strategic Ministerial Development Officer

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Themes		
Ministry & Leadership	Mental Health & Wellbeing	Governance & Compliance (inc. Safeguarding)
Education	Finance & Administration	Enrichment
Buildings & Churchyards	Strengthening Communities	Enabling All

Mode of Delivery		
<p>Online</p> 	<p>Both</p> 	<p>On Site</p> 

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SAVE THE DATES 2025				
	We will be adding any events and training that will be coming up later in 2025 – at the end of the brochure.			

Coming in Spring 2025

Finance &

Finance Team: 'Introduction to Treasury & Finance in the Parish Church'

Dates – TBC

Our finance team are putting together three training and learning events in each of the Episcopal areas to support the finance and treasury of parish churches over the Spring term. Further details will follow over the coming weeks so do look out for this.



Buildings & Churchyards

Church Warden Café: Volunteerism for Churchwardens

Tuesday 11 February (30 max)

Volunteer recruitment and retention of churchwardens can be challenging for churches.

Join us as we share the story of Barlaston St John's pro-active and engaging approach to volunteerism, particularly with regards to churchwardens and officers, as well as some ideas and helpful resources about volunteerism.

Dennis Croome and Clare Briscoe will share their story of recruitment, orientation/training, retention, and bringing joy and fulfilment to volunteerism.

Hosts: Dennis Croome, current Lay Reader (former Churchwarden, Barlaston St John's, and a former Church Administrator) and Clare Briscoe, Churchwarden, Barlaston St John's

Who is it for?

Churchwardens, church officers, clergy and church members involved with volunteerism in their churches.

Time: 12.30-2.00pm

Venue: St John the Baptist Church, Station Road, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, ST12 9DA
A complimentary light lunch will be provided. Please add any allergies or dietary requirements to the booking form below.



Click here to book:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/ChurchWardenCaféVolunteerismForChurchwardens>

VOLUNTEER



January 2025

Arthur Rank Centre - New Rural Bitesize Mission Course Equipping Lay Church Leaders



Arthur Rank
Centre
CONFIDENT RURAL CHRISTIANS

All sessions will be held on Monday evenings from January to March 2025, from 7-9 pm via Zoom

We're delighted to highlight a new gathering from the Methodist Church, in collaboration with The Arthur Rank Centre, to inspire and support rural church leaders across denominations. This course brings together leaders who are passionate about reaching out to their communities, nurturing faith, and working together in mission within the unique challenges and opportunities of rural contexts. Through six sessions, each two hours long, we'll explore practical and creative approaches to mission that are rooted in rural life. Our aim is to support and encourage leaders in living out their calling, cultivating growth, and building confidence in the rural church.

Topics include:

- Spotting God at work
- Engaging with the agricultural community
- Addressing the realities of rural life
- Creating intergenerational mission opportunities
- Developing rooted discipleship in rural contexts
- Participating in rural festivals

Who is it for?

This course is open to all leaders from any Christian denomination serving in rural settings—lay or ordained, paid or unpaid—including Local Lay Pastors, Pioneers, Children, Youth and Family Workers, Chaplains, Church or Circuit Stewards, Ministers, and those leading mission, social action, or outreach initiatives. All are warmly welcome!

Cost: A suggested donation of £30 per person, or £75 for groups of 4 plus will cover resources and postage for those not affiliated with the Methodist Church, payable through The Arthur Rank Centre website.

Dates and Times: All sessions will be held on Monday evenings from January to March 2025, from 7-9 pm via Zoom.

Booking Link: [To make your booking - click here](#)

Centre for Chaplaincy in Education - Chaplaincy Induction Course

Starting January 2025



Are you new in post as an education chaplain, or are you due to start in post? Would you like to develop your reflective practice and become an excellent practitioner?

Enrol now for the Centre for Chaplaincy in Education and Newman University Chaplaincy Induction course. [Centre for Chaplaincy in Education - Newman University, Birmingham](#)
Apply here for [January 2025](#)

The course will:

- Develop a new Chaplain's knowledge of their context and ability to analyse this.
- Develop a new Chaplain's core skills and ability to deepen these.
- Develop a new Chaplain's ability to fulfil the role and be able to access and create resources.
- Develop a new Chaplain's engagement with the wider School/College Chaplaincy network.

The course is **taught on-line, with facilitated sessions at 6.30pm on alternate Wednesday evenings** [with breaks for holidays and half-terms]. The **cost of the course is £425**. We encourage you to contact your School or College and Church community to seek support with funding. A limited number of bursaries are also available.

Chaplains who have already been on the course have said:

The CCE induction course has been informative and thought provoking. It has opened my eyes to the broad nature of chaplaincy and the multitude of skills and attributes required, as well as to the challenges and opportunities of the role.

The CCE induction course gave me everything I needed to:

- *develop my understanding about chaplaincy and chaplaincy models;*
- *help define my role within those frameworks;*
- *gain a better understanding of myself;*
- *develop ideas for my progression within this ministry.*

All of the details are available at <https://www.newman.ac.uk/centre-for-chaplaincy-in-education-cce/>. For more general enquiries, please email Mike Haslam, from Centre for Chaplaincy in Education on mikehaslam@cinw.org.uk

If you would like to register for the Chaplaincy Induction with Newman University please email cce@newman.ac.uk

Booking Link: [Link to Chaplaincy Induction course information](#)

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Asking the Big Questions in All Areas of the Curriculum

Wednesday 8 January



This course will be offered as a one-day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. Please choose the correct booking form below. This is an online course.

Leader: Lynsay Jennings & Helen Robertson

Who is it for?

For leaders and teachers of Primary and Secondary Schools

This session is intended to support teachers and school leaders in the development of opportunities to explore 'big questions' across the curriculum, rooted in evidence-based practice and as part of a spiral curriculum.

During this session, leaders will have the opportunity to explore the LDBE Big Question resource and how this supports the expectations of the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule, particularly in relation to strand 2 and 3. This resource will also help schools reflect on how they may provide opportunities for courageous advocacy for their pupils, through the use of 'big questions'.

Please note: Refreshments will be provided, please bring a packed lunch.

Online Dates: 8 Jan, 15 Jan & 22 Jan 2025

Online Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Cost: Free to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75 per delegate to all other schools.

Booking Link:

[Asking the Big Questions in all Areas of the Curriculum | LDBE](#)



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Introduction to Spirituality and Agents of Change

Thursday 9 January



This course will be offered as a one-day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. Please choose the correct booking form below. **This is the first online session.**

Lead by: Charmian Gamble & Lynsay Jennings

A full day, in-person, session to explore spiritual development and courageous advocacy.

During this session, there will be opportunities to explore the concept of spirituality, reflecting on the most recent research and educational practice. The session will focus on the importance of spiritual development and its centrality for a distinctly Christian flourishing school, with practical ideas to help promote, enable and evidence this across the curriculum.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about courageous advocacy, focusing on local, national, and global organisations with practical ideas to encourage and facilitate children to be 'Agents of change'.

Online Dates: 9 Jan, 16 Jan & 23 Jan 2025 (must attend all 3 sessions)

Online Time: 3.30pm-5.00pm

Please note: Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

BookingLink : [Spiritual Development and Courageous Advocacy: Children as 'agents of change' | LDBE](#)



Counting Sheep

Monday 13 January

This session is aimed at the 'how to' of Stats for Mission and understanding them as a priority for both Mission and Pastoral Care. Including all the various measures requested and how they may prove useful. Led by Richard Barrett, Executive Assistant to the Mission Team.



Who is it for?

For anyone wanting help with their Statistics for Mission. An optional module for Curates.

Time: 10.00-11.30am, via Zoom

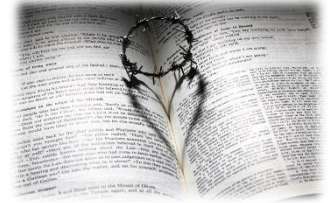
Booking Link:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/2025CountingSheepOnline>



Living Faith Course

Begins Monday 13 January



Living Faith is a one-year, thirty week study programme, spread across three terms; Michaelmas (Autumn) Lent (Spring) and Trinity (Summer). It is designed for groups who would like to deepen their understanding of Christian teaching, and to reflect on what it means to have a 'living faith'.

The course follows the pattern of the Christian year, exploring a range of themes by studying passages from the Bible, drawing from Christian teaching and from the contemporary world. Living Faith aims to encourage people to be more confident in the gospel and to be excited about God at work in the world around them. Group discussion is a key element and successful completion of the full year's programme leads to a Bishop's Certificate. There is no assessed written work. Some evenings include a Film Night and shared meal. The emphasis is on exploring and journeying through the year together as learning companions.

13 Jan	1) Truth and Insight
20 Jan	2) Temptations
27 Jan	3) Suffering and the God of Love
3 Feb	4) The Cross of Christ
10 Feb	5) Film Week
24 Feb	6) The Passion of Christ
3 Mar	7) Transformation
10 Mar	8) The Christian hope
17 Mar	9) Breakfast with Friends (John 21)
24 Mar	10) Group Meal and Faith-Life Conversations

Who is it for?

Anyone who wishes to explore their faith, living or worshipping in the Wolverhampton Deanery or close by.

Venue: Holy Trinity Church, Bushbury Road, Wolverhampton WV10 0LY

Time: 7.15pm

Cost: Free

To book a place contact: Gill Brackett 07792 341 389 brackett.tribe@blueyonder.co.uk



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: New to RE Leadership

Tuesday 14 January



This course will be offered as a one day in person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option.

Please note we reserve the right to cancel any training event if there is less than ten delegates booked.

Lead by: Louisa Harrop and Rebecca Nash

A full day, in person, session to support leaders new to RE leadership. This session will provide information about the legal status and importance of RE, RE, Ofsted and SIAMS, the role of SACRE and the locally agreed syllabus and how to plan and assess RE that is balanced, engaging and meaningful.

During this session, there will be opportunities to reflect on the most recent RE research and educational practice. The session will also provide signposting to useful website and resources, further training and RE networks and practical ideas to help to promote, enable and 'evidence' high quality RE across all key stages.

Who is it for?

Any school professional who is new to leading RE

In Person Date: Tuesday 14 Jan 2025

Time: 9.30am-3.00pm

Venue: TBC

Please note: Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Online Dates: 30 Apr, 7 May & 14 May 2025 (must attend all 3 sessions)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/new-to-re-leadership/>



College of Preachers: 'Preaching at Baptisms'

Tuesday 14 January



Christians understand the act of baptism to be a profound moment of change – the point at which one not only becomes part of the Church, but is also made one with Christ. Even for those who are Christian believers and regular church attenders, this can be a difficult concept to grasp. Those attending the ceremony of baptism, often not regular churchgoers, may have little or even no understanding of the spiritual significance of the rite they are witnessing. In this workshop, we will explore ways to communicate the meaning of baptism, drawing on relevant scriptural passages and the symbols used within the baptism service itself. We will also look at how baptism preaching can be evangelistic, an invitation to those present to start their own journey of faith.

The workshop will be led by the Revd Dr Jennifer Brown. Dr Brown is the Director of Training for the College of Preachers and a parish priest in the Church of England's Oxford Diocese, and has more than a decade's experience as a theological educator.

Who is it for?

Anyone who preaches

Time: 10.30am-1.00pm

Venue: Online

Book tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/preaching-at-baptisms-tickets-1006649113597>

When prompted enter the password Preach141

Ticket prices: general, £12; ministry student, £10

Booking closes 9 January 2025



Diocese of Lichfield Spirituality: 'Soul Food'

Begins Tuesday 14 January



Soul Food – a course for anyone who wants to grow in responsiveness to God. With an awareness of some of the Christian prayer traditions, tutor's journey with participants to develop reflection (noticing the movements of the Spirit), an awareness of personality and prayer, and the use of silence, solitude, the Bible and our imaginations as helps to develop intimacy with God.

This course is about *doing* prayer. So a typical session will include time for prayer (using different ways of praying), personal reflection and listening to one another, as well as some teaching from the front. There won't be long essays to write; the 'homework' is to spend some time each day praying. There is no entrance requirement for this course other than a desire to grow in prayer. This is likely to be expressed in:

- A willingness to talk about your prayer life;
- A sense of (or desire for) community with other praying people;
- A commitment to attend all the course sessions.

Who is it for?

The course is open to all who want to explore Christian prayer, whatever their level of experience.

More info on the link below. To discuss the courses, please email:

Charles Ruxton, Diocesan Spirituality Adviser: charles.ruxton@trinitychurches.org

Dates & Times:

Day meetings: 25 Jan, 8 Mar and 3 May: 10am – 3pm (Venue tbc)

Zoom: 14 Jan; 4 & 25 Feb; 11 Mar, 1 & 29 Apr 7 – 9.30pm

To apply:

Go to 'Soul Food' on the following link & click 'Apply here':

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/mission/spirituality-resources/spiritual-direction-courses/>

If you would like to join the course, please email Charles Ruxton - charles.ruxton@trinitychurches.org with the following: A paragraph or two on any experience of prayer that you have, and how you hope the course will help you. Any access requirements (e.g. internet access, large text, wheelchair access for the day sessions etc.)? (remember to include your address, phone and email please!)



Pioneering Parishes: Culture Change & Practice

Starts 14 January (14, 28 Jan & 11, 25 Feb)



Pioneering
Parishes

In this series of webinars, we will share together our collective experience and wisdom as we grapple with the challenge of developing a pioneering culture and a mixed ecology of church. Discussion is facilitated to enable experiences and wisdom to be shared while receiving encouragement through ideas and case studies. Participants receive tools to enable lasting culture change.

Who is it for?

It is suitable for anyone looking to join in with the Holy Spirit's re-imagining of a new way of being church together: PCC members, area and lay deans, parish priests, diocesan advisers, pioneers lay and ordained. If you have previously completed the First Steps course then this course is the perfect follow up. However, you don't have to complete the First Steps course to take part. If you're not sure if the course is suitable for you, email us on pioneering.parishes@churchmissionsociety.org

Cost: £10.00 for individuals or no more than £50.00 per church group

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Booking Link: [Pioneering Parishes by Church Mission Society | Eventbrite](#)



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Asking the Big Questions in All Areas of the Curriculum

Wednesday 15 January



This course will be offered as a one-day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. Please choose the correct booking form below. **This is the first online session.**

Leader: Lynsay Jennings & Helen Robertson

Who is it for?

For leaders and teachers of Primary and Secondary Schools

This session is intended to support teachers and school leaders in the development of opportunities to explore 'big questions' across the curriculum, rooted in evidence-based practice and as part of a spiral curriculum.

During this session, leaders will have the opportunity to explore the LDBE Big Question resource and how this supports the expectations of the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule, particularly in relation to strand 2 and 3. This resource will also help schools reflect on how they may provide opportunities for courageous advocacy for their pupils, through the use of 'big questions'.

Please note Refreshments will be provided, please bring a packed lunch.

Online Dates: 15 Jan & 22 Jan 2025

Online Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Cost: Free to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75 per delegate to all other schools.

Booking Link: Booking Form In-Person Event 15 October 2024 below:

[Asking the Big Questions in all Areas of the Curriculum | LDBE](#)



Pioneering Parishes: First Steps

Starts Wednesday 15 January (15, 29 Jan & 12, 26 Feb)



In this series of four webinars for both priests and lay people, you can discover more about pioneering, what it is and why it's integral to parish life.

We share case studies and ideas along with practical tools, enabling churches to begin to consider how they can shift their energy outwards into the community without increasing workload.

Who is it for?

PCC members, parish clergy, people exploring a pioneer call, diocesan or parish support staff and anyone searching for tools to help them shift the energy of the parish outwards beyond the church walls.

Cost: £10.00 for individuals or no more than £50.00 per church group

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Booking Link: <https://cms.org.uk/fs150125>



Centre for Chaplaincy in Education: Being a Trauma-Informed Chaplain Session 1

Wednesday 15 January



Join the Dots, a charity dedicated to raising trauma awareness in faith-based organizations, in collaboration with the Centre for Chaplaincy in Education (CCE), invites you to a three-part webinar series titled *Becoming a Trauma-Informed Chaplain*.

The Chaplain as a First Responder

In this session, you'll learn how to recognize signs of trauma in students, such as mood changes, withdrawal, or disruptive behaviour. You'll also be equipped with immediate strategies to offer supportive care when it matters most.

Who is it for?

This training is tailored to chaplains in educational settings, helping you become a more effective support for students who have experienced trauma.

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Online

Cost: £55.00 for all three sessions

Booking Link: [Becoming a Trauma-Informed Chaplain](#)



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Introduction to Spirituality and Agents of Change

Thursday 16 January

This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. Please choose the correct booking form below. **This is the second online session.**



Lead by: Charmian Gamble & Lynsay Jennings

A full day, in-person, session to explore spiritual development and courageous advocacy. During this session, there will be opportunities to explore the concept of spirituality, reflecting on the most recent research and educational practice. The session will focus on the importance of spiritual development and its centrality for a distinctly Christian flourishing school, with practical ideas to help promote, enable and evidence this across the curriculum.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about courageous advocacy, focusing on local, national, and global organisations with practical ideas to encourage and facilitate children to be 'Agents of change'.

Please note refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Online Dates: 16 Jan & 23 Jan 2025 (must attend all three sessions)

Online Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

Booking Link: Booking form for the in person training: [Spiritual Development and Courageous Advocacy: Children as 'agents of change' | LDBE](#)



Growing Faith Team: Seasonal Opportunities for Churches and Schools

Thursday 16 January



Explore how seasonal projects, events and activities can engage children and families within church and school.

Led by Laura Edwards and Alex Wolvers with guests from around the diocese sharing good practice.

Who is it for?

Anyone who works alongside schools and families. Anyone interested in Children's and Youth ministry – lay, ordained, employed workers, chaplains.

Cost: Free

Time: 10.00-11.30am

Cost: Free

Venue: Online (a zoom link will be sent after booking)

Booking Link:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/2025GrowingFaithSeasonalOpportunitiesForChurchesSchools>



Unconscious Bias

Tuesday 21 January & Wednesday 22
January



This workshop offers the opportunity to increase self-awareness, learn new information and get up to speed with the latest research on Equality Diversity Inclusion and how this may be impacted by unconscious bias.

This is an interactive workshop which is led with honest open discussion and sharing experiences.

Who is it for?

Year 2 Curates, Clergy, Readers, Lay Ministers, Wardens & Diocesan Staff

Venue: Online

Cost: Free - costs covered by Diocese

Time: 7.00-9.00pm (you must attend both evenings to complete the training)

Booking Link: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/202425UnconsciousBias>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Asking the Big Questions in All Areas of the Curriculum

Wednesday 22 January



This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. Please choose the correct booking form below. **This is the final and third online session.**

Leader: Lynsay Jennings & Helen Robertson

This session is intended to support teachers and school leaders in the development of opportunities to explore 'big questions' across the curriculum, rooted in evidence-based practice and as part of a spiral curriculum.

During this session, leaders will have the opportunity to explore the LDBE Big Question resource and how this supports the expectations of the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule, particularly in relation to strand two and three. This resource will also help schools reflect on how they may provide opportunities for courageous advocacy for their pupils, through the use of 'big questions'.

Who is it for?

For leaders and teachers of Primary and Secondary Schools



Please note refreshments will be provided, please bring a packed lunch.

Online Dates: 22 Jan 2025

Online Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Cost: Free to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75 per delegate to all other schools.

Booking Link: [Asking the Big Questions in all Areas of the Curriculum | LDBE](#)

Growing Faith Workshops 2024/ 2025: Meet and Greet the Growing Faith Team

Wednesday 22 January



Drop in on zoom to informally chat to us about work with children and families in your parish, school or community. We would love to meet you and hear about where you are and your ideas. Come and chat to Alex Wolvers, Matthew Welton and Laura Edwards.

Who is it for?

Anyone who works alongside schools and families. Anyone interested in Children's and Youth ministry – lay, ordained, employed workers, chaplains.

Cost: Free

Time: 10.30-11.30am

Cost: Free

Venue: Online (a zoom link will be sent after booking)

Booking Link:

https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/_2025GrowingFaithMeetGreetTheGrowingFaithTeam



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Introduction to Spirituality and Agents of Change

Thursday 23 January

This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. Please choose the correct booking form below. **This is the final/third online session.**



Lead by: Charmian Gamble & Lynsay Jennings

A one day, in-person, session to explore spiritual development and courageous advocacy.

During this session, there will be opportunities to explore the concept of spirituality, reflecting on the most recent research and educational practice. The session will focus on the importance of spiritual development and its centrality for a distinctly Christian flourishing school, with practical ideas to help promote, enable and evidence this across the curriculum.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about courageous advocacy, focusing on local, national, and global organisations with practical ideas to encourage and facilitate children to be 'Agents of change'.

Online Dates: 23 Jan 2025 (must attend all three sessions)

Online Time: 3.30 – 5.00pm

Please note: Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.



Booking Link: Booking form for the in person training: [Spiritual Development and Courageous Advocacy: Children as 'agents of change' | LDBE](#)

CPAS: Arrow Reloaded 2025

Monday 27 – Thursday 30 January



We are excited to invite you to Arrow Reloaded, our conference dedicated to over four hundred individuals from the seventeen Arrow cohorts, as we celebrate and give thanks for 25 years of the Arrow Programme in the UK. Join us in January for a gathering filled with inspiration, learning, and social time.

Venue: The Hayes Conference Centre, Alfreton, DE55 1AU

Time: Mon 27 Jan 5.00pm-Thurs 30 Jan 2.00pm

Cost: £350.00

Booking Link: <https://www.cpas.org.uk/browse-everything/arrow-reloaded-2025?r=%2Fbrowse%2Fevents>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Understanding Christianity

Thursday 30 January

This course will be offered as a one day in person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. Please choose the correct booking form below.



Lead by: Alex Wolvers & Rebecca Nash

A full day training suitable for those who want a recap of their knowledge of Understanding Christianity. The course will go through the thinking behind the Understanding Christianity resource, how it is structured, the main themes, use of the frieze, and how to use the resource to plan lessons that are balanced, inspirational and promote children's religious literacy and understanding of Christianity.

Please note refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch

Time: 10.00am-3.30pm

Venue: TBC

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

Booking Link: [Understanding Christianity | LDBE](#)



Church Warden Cafe & Enabling All Bitesize Training – 'Making Your Building Accessible'

Thursday 30 January



Our Enabling All Co-ordinator is teaming up with the Churchwarden Café. Come and learn about the process of making your building accessible from an access audit to what to consider when making changes or additions to your church buildings. This hour's training with central staff from Enabling All and the Church Buildings Support Office will try and answer the common questions that arise.

Who is it for?

Clergy, Laity, Church Wardens, Administrators, PCC Members

Time: 10.30-11.30am

Venue: Online

Cost: Free

Booking Link:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/ChurchBuildingsEnablingAllMakingYourBuildingAccessible>



Good Faith Partnership: Church Works Team Social Prescribing Webinar Launch

Thursday 30 January



Good Faith
Partnership

At the event we will share our report findings, hear from key case studies on the impact that faith groups can have through social prescribing and we will walk through our 'how-to' guides which offer practical steps for local churches and link workers to collaborate more effectively.

The event is designed for anyone eager to strengthen the connections between faith and social prescribing.

Who is it for?

It will be beneficial for local ministry or church leaders, link workers, PCN leads and those exploring how best to resource neighbourhood healthcare at a strategic level.

To secure your spot, please find the Eventbrite link below to purchase your tickets. This will also grant you access to our Zoom webinar.

Time: 11.00am-12 midday

Venue: Online

Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1063273302069?aff=oddtcreator>



Diocese of Lichfield Community of Evangelists: 'Being Tentmakers in the Workplace' Saturday 1 February



Led by Louise Jones and Nicola Busby and other members of the Church Tent Team at the Stafford County Show.

Free refreshments are provided – please state your specific dietary requirements

If you are not a member of the Community of Evangelists, you can still come to 'try us out' - all welcome!

Who is it for?

Anyone

Time: 10.30am-12 midday (lunch, then a prayer walk to finish)

Venue: St Thomas & St Andrew Doxey, Doxey, Stafford, ST16 1EQ

Nearest railway station: Stafford Railway Station, Station Road, Stafford ST16 2AA

Booking Link: To book your place contact Warden, Lynne Mills, at lynne@fpe-network.org



Effective Conversation using Coaching Skills Tuesday 4 & Tuesday 11 February



An introduction to coaching skills taught over two sessions. We begin by identifying what you would like to be different by the end of the workshop. There will be a coaching skills demonstration from which we will identify useful skills which can be applied to the one to one conversations which you have in your context.

Session two is a practice -oriented session, putting learning into action.

The course is hosted by Revd Paula Smith - an Anglican Priest, coach, trainer, spiritual director and supervisor, draws on experience as a Parish Priest and Diocesan Ministry Development Enabler in the Lichfield Diocese. She is currently living, working and cultivating a garden in Yorkshire.

Who is it for?

Year 2 Curates

Time: 6.30-9.00pm / 6.30-9.30pm

Booking link:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/202425EffectiveConversationsBookingForm>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Deepening Routes - Spirituality and Agents of Change

Thursday 6 February



This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option.

Please note we reserve the right to cancel any training event if there is less than ten delegates booked.

Lead by: Lynsay Jennings & Charmian Gamble

A full day, in-person, session to explore spiritual development and courageous advocacy.

During this session, there will be opportunities to deepen understanding of the concept of spirituality, reflecting on the most recent research and educational practice. The session will focus on developing the language of spirituality with children along with further embedding spiritual development across the curriculum. There will be opportunities to explore how spiritual development is at the heart of all things in a flourishing Church of England school.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about courageous advocacy, focusing on local, national, and global organisations with practical ideas to encourage and facilitate children to be 'Agents of change'.

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

In Person Date: Thurs 6 Feb 2025

Time: 10.00am-3.00pm

Venue: TBC



Please note: Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Online Dates: 6 Mar, 13 Mar & 20 Mar (must attend all three sessions)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/deepening-routes-spirituality-and-agents-of-change/>



Creative Arts Workshop

Thursday 6 February

Join us for an inspiring workshop where we explore worship through the richness of our senses. Whether you have experience in visual arts or are simply curious to explore creative expression, this session invites you to engage with scripture in a fresh, multisensory way as we connect with God. We'll experiment with smells, painting, drawing, and other artistic media, discovering how our senses can deepen our worship experience. Come ready to unleash your creativity, strengthen your faith, and experience the power of art as a form of worship. All materials are provided—no prior experience needed!



Who is it for?

Anyone who wants to grow their creativity!

Time: 10.00am-12 midday

Venue: Shallowford House, Stone, Staffs, ST15 0NZ

Cost: £5.00 (please pay at the time of booking)

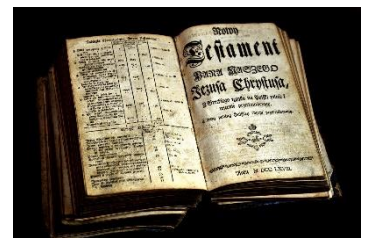
Booking Link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/2425CreativeArtsWorshipWorkshop>



New Testament Biblical Studies Programme:

Session 3 'Faith and St Paul'

Saturday 8 February



Come and hear how the notion of faithfulness is portrayed within books of the New Testament, seeking and considering new ways to grow your own faith and to inspire others in their faith journey. Is it about what we believe? Or is it more geared to what we actually do? And how far does the faith of others impact on mine?

This series of six mini lectures led by Dr Dave Allen will help you think more deeply about faith and the working out of it within our ministry and daily lives. Three sessions will be in person and three sessions will be online.

Who is it for?

Anyone is welcome.

Venue: St Thomas' & St Andrew's C of E Church, Doxey, Stafford ST16 1EQ

Time: 10.00am-12.30pm

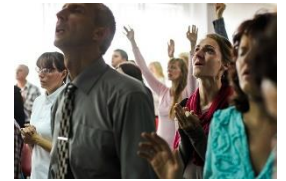
Booking Link:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/February2025BiblicalStudiesFaithStPaul>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Deepening Roots - 'Inclusive, Invitational & Inspirational Collective Worship Training'

Tuesday 11 February



This is a three-hour online training session. Please choose either the morning or afternoon session.

Please note we reserve the right to cancel any training event if there is less than ten delegates booked.

Lead by: Charmian Gamble and Rebecca Nash

Collective worship is the unique heartbeat of a Church school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

This session is intended to support leaders of collective worship in Church schools. During this session, leaders will have the opportunity to explore the expectations of the Church of England guidance for collective worship as well as the SIAMS framework. Practical examples and useful resources will also be shared.

Who is it for?

Anyone who leads collective worship and wants to develop the inclusiveness, invitational worship that inspires pupils and staff to engage with God

Cost: Free to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

Please click on either the morning or afternoon session to book your preferred time.

Time: 10.00am-1.00pm

or

Time: 2.00-5.00pm

Venue: Online

Booking link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/inclusive-invitational-and-inspirational-collective-worship/>



Centre for Chaplaincy in Education: Being a Trauma-Informed Chaplain Session 2

Wednesday 12 February



Join the Dots, a charity dedicated to raising trauma awareness in faith-based organizations, in collaboration with the Centre for Chaplaincy in Education (CCE), invites you to a three-part webinar series titled *Becoming a Trauma-Informed Chaplain*.

Why Words Are Not Enough

Dive into the science of trauma, exploring how it affects the nervous system. Discover practical tools for helping students regulate their emotions, fostering a safe environment that goes beyond verbal support. Learn the power of sensory regulation and maintaining trust with traumatised students.

Who is it for?

This training is tailored to chaplains in educational settings, helping you become a more effective support for students who have experienced trauma.

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Online

Cost: £55.00 for all three sessions

Booking Link: [Becoming a Trauma-Informed Chaplain](#)



Mental Health & Well-Being

Thursday 13 February

An introduction to this vast subject with former Mental Health Nurse, Revd Charlotte Gompertz and Occupational Therapist, Rachel Moore. Through teaching and discussion the day will include topics such as theology of mental health; understanding the brain; managing stress and explaining mental illness.



Who is it for?

Anyone who wants to find out more about how to support mental health and ideas to look after their own mental health and well-being.

Venue: The Reeve Room, The Close, Lichfield, WS13 7LD

Cost: Free

Time: 10.00am-3.00pm (please bring your own lunch)

Booking Link:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/202425MentalHealthWellBeingTraining>

(Please note that there is a further course that will be running later this year – 'Going Deeper into Mental Health & Well-Being in the summer term')



CHRISM (the National Association of Ministers in Secular Employment): Reflective Weekend - A creative exploration of Jacob's Journey led by artist, Jan Lees

Friday 14 - Sunday 16 February 2025



A reflective weekend based around Jacob's journey and led by artist, Jan Lees, entitled '...and Jacob went out...' - disruption and exploration in story, faith and painting. Enjoy a refreshing and relaxing weekend retreat at Shallowford House, set within 9 acres of secluded gardens, woodland and meadows in the Staffordshire countryside. There will be time for both reflective silence and companionship, and the opportunity to explore the area, or simply have some free time to walk, talk, snooze, reflect, read, pray..... Shallowford is about 3 miles from Junction 14 of the M6 - within an hour of Birmingham, Manchester or Stoke-on-Trent – and the nearest station is Stafford.

Cost: from dinner on Friday evening to lunch on Sunday, inclusive: **£220** (members and spouses); **£230** (non-members)

Grants may be available from your Church to cover all or part of the cost – apply now to get their support!

A limited number of scholarships are available to enable attendance. Please ask CHRISM for details or a receipt. CHRISM can accept payments through GoCardless. If you would like to use this, please email Ali (as below).

Booking: Please email revalisoncreasey@gmail.com



Connecting Communities with Places of Welcome

Tuesday 25 February



In this 1-hour, informal workshop we will tell you all that you need to know about Places of Welcome!

- What is a Place of Welcome?
- How do I join the Places of Welcome network?
- What things do I need to consider before starting a Place of Welcome?
- What support will I receive?
- What impact do Places of Welcome have?

If you would like to know the answer to these questions and find out more, then please sign up to this online workshop.

Who is it for?

Anyone

Hosts: Carrie Blount and Lesley Bovington

Venue: Online

Cost: Free

Time: 10.00am-11.00am

Booking Link:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/LichfieldDiocese/ConnectingCommunitiesWithPlacesOfWelcome>



College of Preachers: 'Preaching the Story of Holy Week'

Tuesday 25 February



The events commemorated in Holy Week together tell the story of the last days of Jesus' earthly life and ministry. Dwelling in Holy Week helps us to understand the meaning of the cross and to prepare for the astonishing miracle of Easter. This workshop will explore the narrative that connects these events and consider ways in which our preaching through Holy Week can tell a coherent story of the journey to the cross, while still managing to be effective 'stand-alone' sermons.

The workshop will be led by the Revd Dr Michael Beck. Dr Beck has been a priest for forty-four years in a variety of settings: mainly parish but also five years in a major cathedral, as well as having been a police chaplain and a locum hospital chaplain alongside parochial work. He did his theological training at Kings College London and Lincoln Theological College. His main interests are in preaching and practical theology and he holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Seabury Western Seminary in Chicago. Dr Beck was Director of Reader Ministry for Durham diocese for five years and transferred to Lindisfarne RTP when it was formed, remaining there as a member of the core staff until he 'retired' in 2015. He has since continued as a tutor for Preaching and Theology, Ritual and Pastoral Care as well as tutoring for the Lay Pastoral Ministry Course alongside a continuing active ministry covering for colleagues or with parishes in vacancy for Sundays and Occasional Offices. He has been a member of the College since 1980 and a tutor for over twenty years.

Who is it for?

Anyone who preaches

Time: 10.30am-1.00pm

Venue: Online

Book tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/preaching-the-story-of-holy-week-tickets-1006659564857>

When prompted enter the password Preach252

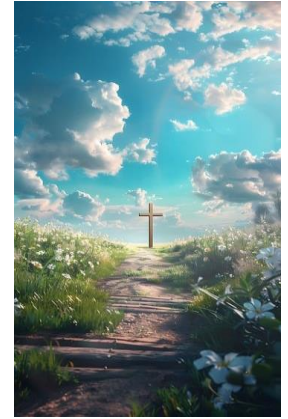
Ticket prices: general, £12; ministry student, £10 (discount available when booked together with 'The language of Resurrection'.)

Booking closes 20 February 2025.



The Green Team : "Mortal, can these bones live?" - A theological and practical study day on creation care in the season of resurrection

Thursday 27 February



A one-day workshop of Bible Study, learning, networking and worship. This workshop aims to help you prepare to lead worship, events and small groups through Holy Week and the Easter season in the light of concern for creation and our environment.

Mortal, Can These Bones Live is hosted and co-ordinated by Lichfield Diocesan Green Team

Who is it for?

Designed for Christians in leadership, especially incumbents, readers, clergy and those leading worship and study. It is also suitable for parish eco representatives and all Christians who are concerned for the care of creation.

Hosts: The Green Team - Abbie Walsh/Hannah Lins/Rich Clarkson/Jan Firth/Simon Foster

Time: This will be an all day event – further details will follow post registration.

Venue: St Matthew's Church, St Matthew's Close, Walsall, WS1 3DG

Cost: Free

Booking Link:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/2425MortalCanTheseBonesLive>



Enabling All: Network Meeting Monday 3 March



Come and join Su Parker and the Diocesan 'Enabling All' Team in a network meeting for 'Enabling All', which is open to anyone who wants to find out more and be encouraged and supported with the challenges that they are facing regarding church communities.

Who is it for?

Anyone who would like to make church communities accessible

Time: 10.30-11.30am

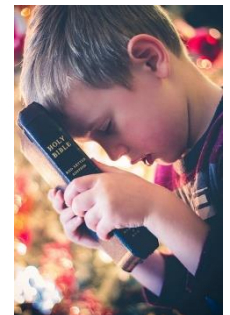
Venue: Online

Cost: Free

Booking Link: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/EnablingAllNetworkMeeting>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Understanding Christianity Tuesday 4 March



This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. Please choose the correct booking form below. **This is the first online session.**

Lead by: Alex Wolvers & Rebecca Nash

A full day training suitable for those who want a recap of their knowledge of Understanding Christianity. The course will go through the thinking behind the Understanding Christianity resource, how it is structured, the main themes, use of the frieze, and how to use the resource to plan lessons that are balanced, inspirational and promote children's religious literacy and understanding of Christianity.

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

On-line Dates: Tuesday 4, 11 & 18 March 2025 (Must attend all three sessions)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Venue: Online

Booking Link: [Understanding Christianity | LDBE](#)



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Deepening Routes - Spirituality and Agents of Change

Thursday 6 March



This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all 3 sessions if you choose this option. **This is the first online session.**

Please note we reserve the right to cancel any training event if there is less than ten delegates booked.

Lead by: Lysay Jennings & Charmian Gamble

A full day, in-person, session to explore spiritual development and courageous advocacy. During this session, there will be opportunities to deepen understanding of the concept of spirituality, reflecting on the most recent research and educational practice. The session will focus on developing the language of spirituality with children along with further embedding spiritual development across the curriculum. There will be opportunities to explore how spiritual development is at the heart of all things in a flourishing Church of England school.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about courageous advocacy, focusing on local, national, and global organisations with practical ideas to encourage and facilitate children to be 'Agents of change'.

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

Online Dates: 6 Mar, 13 Mar & 20 Mar (must attend all three sessions)

Time: 3.30-5.00 pm

Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/deepening-routes-spirituality-and-agents-of-change/>



Becoming a Dementia-Friendly Church

Saturday 8 March



Dementia is part of every community – including every church – and none of us must face the deep waters of dementia alone. All are welcome to join this session to understand more about dementia and becoming more dementia-friendly churches, so that we can better stay in step with one another through advancing dementia. Across our dementia-friendly churches network in this diocese, we share resources, understanding, experience and encouragement. The session will be led by Sarah Thorpe, Dementia-Friendly Church Enabler, Diocese of Lichfield

Who is it for?

Anyone from churches across the Diocese is welcome to come.

Time: 9.30am onwards for 10.00am-12.30pm

Cost: Free

Venue: Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, Chesterton, Newcastle, ST5 7HJ

Booking and further questions: Sarah Thorpe sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org or 0798 224 8949.

Other Dementia-Friendly Church Training available:

We are glad to offer dementia-friendly church training responsively. If you are interested in any of the following training, please contact Sarah Thorpe, Dementia-Friendly Church Enabler, on sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org or 0798 224 8949.

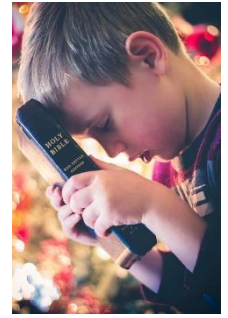
- **Dementia and Dementia-Friendly Churches Training** Sarah Thorpe is available to lead a free session in a church where 10 or more people wish to attend, opening up the invitation for people from other churches in the deanery to join us. We can discuss the appropriate length of session, for your needs – typically 90 minutes to 2 ½ hours long. And the session can be run in daytime or evening.
- **Online Bite-sized training** 90-minute dementia-friendly church training sessions are regularly offered online by Sarah Thorpe. As well as offering a “Dementia Introduction” session, we run sessions on dementia-related topics that people indicate they would find helpful.
- **Deanery Chapter or Deanery Synod** If you would like dementia-friendly churches training in this context, Sarah Thorpe is available to led a session.

For details of upcoming sessions, ask Sarah Thorpe to add your name to the Dementia-Friendly Churches Newsletter circulation list.

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Understanding Christianity

Tuesday 11 March

This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. Please choose the correct booking form below. **This is the second online session.**



Lead by: Alex Wolvers & Rebecca Nash

A full day training suitable for those who want a recap of their knowledge of Understanding Christianity. The course will go through the thinking behind the Understanding Christianity resource, how it is structured, the main themes, use of the frieze, and how to use the resource to plan lessons that are balanced, inspirational and promote children's religious literacy and understanding of Christianity.

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

On-line Dates: 11 & 18 March 2025 (Must attend all three sessions)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Venue: Online

Booking Link: [Understanding Christianity | LDBE](#)



Centre for Chaplaincy in Education: Being a Trauma-Informed Chaplain Session 3

Wednesday 12 March



Join the Dots, a charity dedicated to raising trauma awareness in faith-based organizations, in collaboration with the Centre for Chaplaincy in Education (CCE), invites you to a three-part webinar series titled *Becoming a Trauma-Informed Chaplain*.

Your Pivotal Role in the Wider Staff Team

As a chaplain, your role extends beyond individual student support. In this final session, you'll learn how to bridge the gap between students and staff, ensuring that teaching staff understand the needs of traumatised students. You'll explore techniques for effective communication and collaboration within the school setting, ensuring trauma-informed care is part of the wider support system.

Who is it for?

This training is tailored to chaplains in educational settings, helping you become a more effective support for students who have experienced trauma.

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Online

Cost: £55.00 for all three sessions

Booking Link: [Becoming a Trauma-Informed Chaplain](#)



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Deepening Routes - Spirituality and Agents of Change

Thursday 13 March



This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. **This is the second online session.**

Please note we reserve the right to cancel any training event if there is less than 10 delegates booked.

Lead by: Lynsay Jennings & Charmian Gamble

A full day, in-person, session to explore spiritual development and courageous advocacy. During this session, there will be opportunities to deepen understanding of the concept of spirituality, reflecting on the most recent research and educational practice. The session will focus on developing the language of spirituality with children along with further embedding spiritual development across the curriculum. There will be opportunities to explore how spiritual development is at the heart of all things in a flourishing Church of England school.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about courageous advocacy, focusing on local, national, and global organisations with practical ideas to encourage and facilitate children to be 'Agents of change'.

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

Online Dates: 13 Mar & 20 Mar (must attend all three sessions)

Time: 3.30-5.00 pm

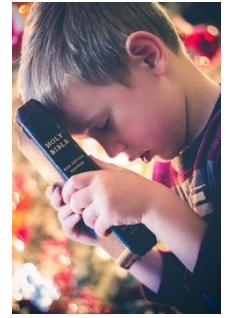
Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/deepening-routes-spirituality-and-agents-of-change/>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Understanding Christianity

Tuesday 18 March

This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. Please choose the correct booking form below. **This is final/third online session.**



Lead by: Alex Wolvers & Rebecca Nash

A full day training suitable for those who want a recap of their knowledge of Understanding Christianity. The course will go through the thinking behind the Understanding Christianity resource, how it is structured, the main themes, use of the frieze, and how to use the resource to plan lessons that are balanced, inspirational and promote children's religious literacy and understanding of Christianity.

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

On-line Dates: 18 Mar 2025 (Must attend all three sessions)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Venue: Online

Booking Link: [Understanding Christianity | LDBE](#)



Growing Faith Workshops 2024/ 2025:

Engaging with Families

Tuesday 18 March



A session to explore how to engage with younger families in your community. Ideas include starting a toddler group, a school-based stay and play, 'who let the dad's out' and fresh expressions.

Led by Laura Edwards and Alex Wolvers with guests from around the diocese sharing good practice.

Who is it for?

Children & Youth Workers

Cost: Free

Time: 10.00 -11.30am

Cost: Free

Venue: Online (a zoom link will be sent after booking)

Booking Link:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/2025GrowingFaithWorkshopEngagingWithFamilies>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Deepening Routes - Spirituality and Agents of Change

Thursday 20 March



This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. **This is the final/third online session.**

Please note we reserve the right to cancel any training event if there are less than 10 delegates booked.

Lead by: Lynsay Jennings & Charmian Gamble

A full day, in-person, session to explore spiritual development and courageous advocacy. During this session, there will be opportunities to deepen understanding of the concept of spirituality, reflecting on the most recent research and educational practice. The session will focus on developing the language of spirituality with children along with further embedding spiritual development across the curriculum. There will be opportunities to explore how spiritual development is at the heart of all things in a flourishing Church of England school.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about courageous advocacy, focusing on local, national, and global organisations with practical ideas to encourage and facilitate children to be 'Agents of change'.

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

Online Dates: 20th Mar (must attend all 3 sessions)

Time: 3.30 pm-5.00 pm

Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/deepening-routes-spirituality-and-agents-of-change/>



New Testament Biblical Studies Programme:

Session 4 '*Faith and St Paul*'

Thursday 20 March



Come and hear how the notion of faithfulness is portrayed within books of the New Testament, seeking and considering new ways to grow your own faith and to inspire others in their faith journey. Is it about what we believe? Or is it more geared to what we actually do? And how far does the faith of others impact on mine?

This series of six mini lectures led by Dr Dave Allen will help you think more deeply about faith and the working out of it within our ministry and daily lives. Three sessions will be in person and three sessions will be online.

Who is it for?

Anyone is welcome.

Venue: Zoom

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Booking Link:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/March2025BiblicalStudiesFaithStPaul>



College of Preachers: 'Preaching and Apologetics'

Saturday 22 March



"Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that you have."
(1 Peter 3.15)

This workshop will explore the importance of apologetics within the Church, the relationship between preaching and apologetics, and how our sermons can become effective and powerful tools for equipping Christians to think and speak confidently about their faith. The seminar will seek to model how to communicate the Christian message with a clarity and credibility that will engage those who are not yet Christians, so that they can join the dots concerning life, God and the universe.

This workshop will be led by Rev Dr John Woods, who is the Training Director of the School of Preachers Trust. He has had four decades of experience in pastoral work in the UK and since 1993 has taught preaching in Latvia and other parts of Eastern Europe. He is the author of *God is in the House, which seeks to reimagine how we prepare sermons.*

Who is it for?

Anyone who preaches

Time: 10.30am-1.00pm

Venue: Online

Book tickets: [link here](#)

When prompted enter the password Preach223.

Ticket prices: general, £12; ministry student, £10

Booking closes 19 March 2025



Supporting Children & Young People with Additional Needs and Supporting their Families

Monday 24 March



Supporting Children and Young People with Additional Needs

Most children's and youth workers want to include children of all abilities and needs in what they do, but many struggle to make this a reality. There are many different kinds of additional needs, and each one, each child, needs thinking about and planning for carefully. How can parents, churches, and children's/youth workers not only understand more about the children and young people they are working with, but also change the way they work with them so to be more inclusive and create belonging for all? This training session inspires and equips participants to bring about meaningful change.

Supporting Families

Understanding and supporting, practically and pastorally, families of children and young people with additional needs. This training session provides participants with everything they need to better understand some of the challenges families of children and young people with additional needs encounter, what that experience can be like for them, and how to offer and provide appropriate and informed practical and pastoral support.

Both training sessions include full colour A4 training workbooks, plus a guide to twenty-five different additional needs and how to support children and young people who journey with them. There is also a video playlist of additional content included with each training session.

This course is the beginning of further training to support people in this area of additional needs. There will be a following in person training course in the summer as well as offering zoom discussions after this course in the summer.

Host: Mark Arnold is the Additional Needs Ministry Director at leading national Christian children's and youth organisation Urban Saints and is Founder of The Dads Fire Circle and Co-Founder of the Additional Needs Alliance, both vibrant and fast-growing online communities. He is an enthusiastic national and international advocate for children and young people with additional needs and is passionate about enabling everyone engaging with them to be inspired, trained and well resourced. Mark is a Churches for All and Living Fully Network partner, a member of the Council for Disabled Children and the European Disability Network. He blogs as the award winning The Additional Needs Blogfather and is father to James who is Autistic and has Learning Difficulties and Epilepsy.

Who is it for?

Children & Youth Workers, Clergy. Lay Ministers and anyone else who is interested in how to support children with additional needs and their families.

Time: 10.00am-3.00pm

Venue: St Giles Church, Church St, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Newcastle ST5 1QS

Booking Link:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/LichfieldDiocese/SupportingChildrenYoungPeopleWithAdditionalNeedsAndTheirFamilies>



Blessed are the Peacemakers – Reconciliation Workshop

Wednesday 26 March



Reconciliation, Peacebuilding, Difference and Conflict

An initial workshop to support and connect people who are actively exploring reconciliation, peacebuilding, difference, and diversity in their ministry or work.

Participants are welcome from any setting (parishes, schools, fresh expressions and chaplaincies). Does your work or ministry involve navigating conflict? Perhaps you seek to step beyond 'tolerance' into active encounter? You could be working towards reconciliation and justice within your church or community? Or maybe looking to give others the skills to navigate a complex modern world of diversity and conflict. Perhaps you've led the *Difference Course* or the *Unity* course and are wondering 'what next?'

This three-hour workshop will:

- Begin with Bible Study
- Explore some of the resources and initiatives available
- Hear from each participant about their experiences and aims
- Look for areas of future collaboration

Please note this is not a taught workshop and doesn't offer skills-building, although we will look at some of the resources people use in their work.

And it aims to give participants a constructive space to:

- Explore your own next steps
- Hear what other are doing
- Review resources
- Identify where collaboration might be effective

This is a one-off workshop, but we envisage it may become an ongoing resource for those working in the fourth mark of mission.

Who is it for?

People who are actively exploring reconciliation, peacebuilding, difference, and diversity in their ministry or work.

Participants are welcome from any setting (parishes, schools, fresh expressions and chaplaincies) and are likely to be people in leadership roles (including clergy)



Time: 10.00am-1.00pm (Bring your own lunch to share afterwards)

Venue: St John's Essington, Wolverhampton Road, Essington, Wolverhampton, WV11 2BX

Booking link: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/2025BlessedAreThePeacemakers>

For more information or to see if it would be suitable for you, please contact simon.foster@lichfield.anglican.org (07496 638805).

Unconscious Bias

Thursday 27 March

This workshop offers the opportunity to increase self-awareness, learn new information and get up to speed with the latest research on Equality Diversity Inclusion and how this may be impacted by unconscious bias.

This is an interactive workshop which is led with honest open discussion and sharing experiences.

Who is it for?

Year 2 Curates, Clergy, Readers, Lay Ministers, Wardens & Diocesan Staff

Venue: St Thomas' & St Andrew's C of E Church, Doxey, Stafford ST16 1EQ

Cost: Free - costs covered by Diocese

Time: 10.00am-3.00pm

Booking Link: <https://www.cognitofirms.com/LichfieldDiocese/202425UnconsciousBias>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Deepening Routes 'Teaching RE'

Tuesday 1 April



This course will be offered as a one day in-person event and repeated in three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions if you choose this option. **This is the in-person course.**

Please note we reserve the right to cancel any training event if there is less than 10 delegates booked.

Lead by: Lynsay Jennings & Louisa Harrop

A full day, in-person, session to support teachers who would like to deepen their understanding and develop and enhance their practice RE in and worldviews.

During this session, there will be opportunities to reflect on the most recent RE research and educational practice and consider new ways to explore balanced RE and promote excellent religious literacy. The session will also provide signposting to useful websites and resources, further training and RE networks and practical ideas to help to promote, enable and 'evidence' high quality RE across all key stages.

Cost: Free of charge to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

In Person Date: Tues 1 Apr 2025

Time: 10.00-am-3.30pm

Venue: TBC

Please note refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/deepening-routes-teaching-re/>



College of Preachers: 'The Language of Resurrection - Finding the Right Words'

Wednesday 2 April



How are preachers to speak meaningfully of the Resurrection in a time where informed opinion is 'led by the science', and many lives are troubled by a quiet desperation concerning humanity's future? Where are the words, images, and the silences between them to be found that honour scripture and tradition while also exploring new ways of conceiving the future hope that flows from the resurrection of Christ?

This workshop is for preachers wishing to engage with such questions in a secular age. Preparing for Holy Week and Easter provides the fitting, even urgent context, in which teaching and faithfulness to the word of God can be enriched by the fruits of theology and the creative imagination.

This workshop will be led by Rod Garner, Anglican priest, writer and theologian. Rod has served in four urban parishes and taught at colleges and universities in the UK and America. He is an Honorary Fellow at Liverpool Hope University and Emeritus Canon of Liverpool Cathedral. The author of numerous books, including biographies of St John Henry Newman and Josephine Butler, his most recent publication is *Outsiders: Marching to a Different Drum* (Liverpool Hope University Press 2022). His research interests have included theories of atonement, and the role of the urban church in the 21st century. He is a Tertiary Member of The Order of the Holy Paraclete.

Who is it for?

Anyone who preaches

Time: 10.30am-1.00pm

Venue: Online

Book tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-language-of-resurrection-finding-the-right-words-tickets-1006667869697>

When prompted enter the password Preach204

Ticket prices: general, £12; ministry student, £10 (discount available when booked together with 'Preaching the Themes of Lent' and Preaching the Story of Holy Week')



Booking closes 28 March 2025

Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Senior Leader Online Updates

Thursday 3 April



The Senior Leaders Online Update will provide a termly review of developments within the context of Church of England Schools, as well as considering emerging developments on the horizon.

Please note: we reserve the right to cancel any training event if there are less than 10 delegates booked.

A regular focus of these meetings will include:

- Responding to DfE updates within the context of the Diocesan Strategy for School Development
- Continuous and sustainable Church School Improvement matters (including SIAMS Inspections)
- Placing children and young people instructively at the heart of the diocesan vision and strategy
- Professional learning programmes and networking opportunities for teachers, leaders and governor development

An opportunity to reflect, collaborate and respond alongside local leaders will be programmed into these sessions, so that the local context of each school community can be considered.

Booking Link: Please click on each date to book your place.

[Thursday 3rd April 2025, 15:30 – 17:00 p.m.](#)



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: Deepening Roots - 'Inclusive, Invitational & Inspirational Collective Worship Training'

Wednesday 9 April



This is a deepening routes course on collective worship. **You need to have completed the 3-hour online course, or have equivalent knowledge and experience, to book onto this course.**

Please note we reserve the right to cancel any training event if there are less than 10 delegates booked.

Lead by: Charmian Gamble and Rebecca Nash

Collective worship is the unique heartbeat of a Church school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

This session looks more deeply at the theology, background and practice of collective worship, sharing both tradition and the latest research, in helping leaders more confidently to implement inclusive, invitational and inspiring Collective Worship, that fits with their vision and context. Practical examples and useful resources will be shared.

Cost: Free to schools in the Diocesan Service Agreement, £75.00 to all other delegates.

Please note refreshments will be provided but you will need to bring a packed lunch. This is a full day course and is being repeated twice in the year.

Please click on the date you wish to book for the Booking Form.

Time: 10.00am – 3.30pm

Venue: Aico Ltd, Oswestry

Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/deepening-routes-invitational-inclusive-and-inspiring-collective-worship/>



Tamworth Places of Welcome Training Offer

See below for the dates of each event



Thanks to the UK Shared Prosperity Funding, these sessions are all taking place in Tamworth, specifically aimed at groups that deliver services in Tamworth. These sessions will only be available until the end of March 2025, so please do make the most of them, and share with your colleagues who might also be interested in attending. The sessions are:

Tuesday 19 November - Teamwork - explore effective team skills and dynamics, time management techniques and examine how to manage stress and wellbeing

Wednesday 27 November - Effective Bid Writing (this course usually costs £60!) - how to evidence need and improve your chances of success

Wednesday 4 December - Introduction to Social Media - help to set up and manage social media accounts across 2 well-used platforms and reflect on the principles of data protection and privacy laws relevant to social media

Thursday 16 January - Chairing and Running Effective Committee and Trustee Meetings - effective meetings are vital, but sometimes can be a challenge

Wednesday 5 February - Introduction to Marketing (this course would usually costs £60 too!) - help to know how to market and communicate your cause, strengths and skills effectively, looking at various types of marketing that you can use to promote your organisation

Tuesday 11 February - Emergency First Aid at Work - (also usually costs you £60 for one place) - learn life-saving First Aid Skills and receive a certificate that's valid for 3 years

Wednesday 12 March - Fundraising - NEW COURSE - explores the principles of writing grant applications whilst focussing on alternative ways to increase general funds that you can use freely to support the work that you do and organise fundraising events

[You can book a place for any of these session online here.](#)



Developing Ministry

**Residential 1: Tuesday 25 – Thursday
27 February 2025**



A formation-focused course for clergy and ministers of the West Midlands who want to develop their leadership in changing situations.

'Developing Ministry' focuses on formational development for ordained ministers in positions of primary responsibility. The course explores the dynamics of being a fruitful and godly Christian leader, viewed from practical, personal and theological perspectives.

'Developing Ministry' is particularly designed for those who are in the early years of their first post of primary responsibility. However, clergy at other stages of ministry also find it stimulating, refreshing and helpful.

'Developing Ministry' includes a blend of expert input, theological & practical reflection, and in-depth reflection in small groups. The small 'Reflective Practice Groups' lie at the heart of this course and continue to meet (either in person or online) between the residentials.

The course is structured around three residentials which are held in the attractive surroundings of the Stratford Manor Hotel, near Stratford on Avon.

'Developing Ministry' is hosted by the Rev'd Roger Latham of Worcester Diocese and the Rev'd Rob Harrison of Coventry Diocese, with additional input from specialist external speakers.

Who is it for?

This course is open to clergy and lay ministers in a post of primary responsibility. It is especially suitable for those who are in their secondary post responsibility roles, and who have been in post for at least eighteen months. It can also work well for those who have recently become team rectors or been given responsibility for a multi-parish benefice. Sector ministers have also participated in the course and found it very helpful.

Location: Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0PY

For details contact: Jules Smith

Email: jules.smith@lichfield.anglican.org

Mobile : 07498 192669

Course costs are paid for by the Diocese. You only incur travel costs.



Working with Change

**Tuesday 11 & Wednesday 12 March
2025**



'Working with Change' is part of a suite of three courses on the dynamics of leadership and pastoral relationships

This course offers time to reflect and develop our skills in change. We will look at our own responses to change before exploring different types of change and appropriate tools to work with each type. This will be a practical workshop covering the main models of change and the limits of each of them. We will be working with participants' current change projects and applying what we are learning to those situations.

This course is of a high calibre and has been greatly appreciated by previous attendees. In addition to the formal course structure and input, participants appreciate interacting with a range of other clergy and ministers in similar situations from other dioceses.

Please see the course website [here](#) for further information.

Who is it for?

It is intended for clergy and ministers who want to develop their ability to deal with change in their parish(es).

Host: Nicky McGinty

Venue: Holland House, Cropthorne, Pershore WR10 3NB

Cost: The cost of the programme is borne by your Diocese. Your contribution is travel only.

For details contact: Jules Smith

Email: jules.smith@lichfield.anglican.org

Mobile: 07498 192669



Celebrating Wisdom

‘Renewing Ministry for a Changing Church’



Monday 9 – Friday 13 June 2025

A course for Clergy and Ministers of the West Midlands who want to reflect on their vision for Ministry

This programme is more of a workshop/retreat that aims to encourage those with longer experience of ministry to step back and reflect on their journey, recognise and celebrate of the wisdom acquired. More than this it aims to enable the discernment of continuing vocation and gifts, to release energy and set free imagination for the discerning of God’s lead into the next stage of their journey as Ministers in Christ’s Church.

The programme involves:

- a regular rhythm of prayer and worship: Offices, Eucharist and Lectio Divina;
- personal reflection activities and exercises;
- facilitated group work - ‘Wisdom Groups’;
- space for rest and recreation.

The Wisdom Groups are central to the course, learning from experience and critical reflection upon life and our ministerial journey.

The course will be hosted by the Revd Kate Stacey with a highly experienced team of facilitators.

Who is it for?

The programme is for those in ministry with more than 10 years of ordained experience. It is particularly valuable for those wanting to ‘take stock’ and ponder the next phase of their ministry - whether its time to move posts, shift gear, or keep on keeping on. It provides a process for reflecting on vocation and discern the future. We have a maximum of 12 Participants on the course.

Outcomes:

By the end of the course, we hope you will have gained:

- renewal of energy for your ministry and discipleship;
- re-envisioning of your ministry in a changing Church;
- encouragement to offer your skills and experience beyond your context;
- (and perhaps, greater clarity about whether to stay, or to go!).

Time: The programme begins with lunch (1pm) on Monday 9 June and ends after lunch on Friday 13 June. **Participants are expected to commit to the entire programme to fully benefit from the programme.**

Venue: Holland House, Cropthorne, Pershore WR10 3NB

Cost: The cost of the programme is borne by your Diocese. Your contribution is travel only.

For details contact: Jules Smith

Email: jules.smith@lichfield.anglican.org

Mobile : 07498 192669



Diocese of Lichfield Safeguarding Team



Basic Awareness course This course aims to provide learners with a basic awareness of safeguarding and enable them to integrate this into their Christian faith and the Church's ministry. It is required learning for anyone with a role within the church, but any member of a church is encouraged to access it to have a greater understanding of safeguarding in a Christian context. This module is available via [Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](#)

Foundations course This course aims to enable learners to contribute to, and implement, good safeguarding practice within church and community contexts. It is required learning for members of the PCC, all those who work with children and/or vulnerable adults, and those with public facing roles in the church. This module is available via [Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](#)

Leadership Training Leadership training is for Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers, Authorised Lay Ministers, Parish Safeguarding Officer's and anyone who has a leadership role with children and/or vulnerable adults. It is delivered online via zoom over two 90-minute sessions. Further information about this course and dates can be found here: [Safeguarding Training - Diocese of Lichfield \(anglican.org\)](#)

Permission to Officiate Pathway This pathway is for all ordained clergy, Readers and LLMs with PTO. It is delivered online via zoom over 2 x 90-minute sessions. Invites will be sent via email at the time of renewal and further information can be found here. [Safeguarding Training - Diocese of Lichfield \(anglican.org\)](#)

Safer Recruitment and People Management This course specifically aims to equip participants with an understanding of both safer recruitment and people management, and the role these play in building a safer church community. This course is for Parish Safeguarding Officers and anyone else who is involved in parish recruitment. This module is available via [Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](#)

Parish Safeguarding Officer Induction This course is run in one 3-hour session via zoom and aims to equip learners with an understanding of their role and induct them into key working practices and relationships. It is primarily for newly appointed PSO's but we welcome expressions of interest from those who have been in post some time and wish to attend as a refresher.

Any upcoming dates for this course are on the diocesan website ([Safeguarding Training - Diocese of Lichfield \(anglican.org\)](#)) or if there are no available dates please do get in touch as we run this course when there is a need to do so.

Raising awareness of Domestic Abuse This course aims to develop a greater understanding of what Domestic Abuse is, who it affects, as well as its impact on individuals, children, the wider family, and the community. It is recommended for PSO's, Clergy, LLMs and others in roles working with children and vulnerable adults. This module is available via [Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](#)

SAVE THE DATES 2025

College of Preachers

The next preaching conference, with the theme of 'The Wonder of Words', will be taking place in 2025. The conference will be held at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick from 9 to 11 September. Click here for further information available from January 2025: [Events from the College of Preachers](#)



The Programme of the Vacation Term for Biblical Study (VTBS)



Below is a link to a booking form, and details of the 2025 programme of **Summer Biblical Study in Cambridge (VTBS)**; which is meeting at Westminster College, Cambridge. This course may be of interest to clergy, and readers and other lay members, who are serving in your parishes; especially those in training.

Bursaries available to help towards resident attendance as well (£575). 2024 saw several bursaries awarded, but there is a surplus of money for Awards & Bursaries. Those awarded a Bursary or Award would be eligible for the £20 discount on fees (even after the 31 January date).

For further details please encourage them to contact the VTBS Secretary secvtbs@gmail.com or myselfdrtim.winder@googlemail.com

Booking form:



2025 Summer Biblical Study in Cambridge 1

Information Flyer:



VTBS Pub 25.doc

Arthur Rank Centre News

Germinate Leadership 25-26



What is Germinate Leadership?

Germinate Leadership is a unique programme for clergy and lay people developing their own leadership style. It fosters a collaborative, ecumenical approach and a culture of continuing personal and professional development.

There is no single way of being a leader and context will always shape the leadership that is required. The Germinate Leadership programme takes seriously the variety of rural contexts in which leadership is exercised and seeks to encourage and enable the development of creative, entrepreneurial and realistic leaders better equipped to engage effectively with local communities and encourage churches to be an effective Christian presence.

The rural church faces new challenges and new opportunities and will be enriched by a creative and entrepreneurial approach to leadership.

How does Germinate Leadership help in ministry?

The programme develops Christian leadership through engagement with leadership theory, theological reflection and practical leadership issues including conflict resolution, team building and group dynamics, collaboration between lay and ordained leaders, and the importance of deepening emotional intelligence.

What are the benefits of Germinate Leadership?

The 15-month programme includes three full-board residentials, and also comprises a 360° leadership appraisal, mentoring and work-shadowing. A variety of learning styles are used, and teaching incorporates wisdom and experience drawn from secular and church leadership spheres. The programme draws on lay and ordained leadership experience from across the denominations.

Over the course of the programme, participants create a portfolio and leadership development plan which encourage reflection on the programme and the setting of ongoing leadership development goals. These form the starting point for a professional dialogue with two senior Christian leaders at the programme's conclusion.

Germinate Leadership is delivered by the Arthur Rank Centre, the national organisation for the rural church.

The programme is overseen by an ecumenical steering group.

Interested, but want to know more?

To express an initial interest in the programme, either for yourself, or someone else, [please provide your details here](#) and we'll be in touch to discuss this with you.

If you wish to discuss suitability for the programme, or for any further information please feel free to contact: The Arthur Rank Centre CEO – Revd Matt Jeffrey info@arthurrankcentre.org.uk or Tel: 02476 853060

[New bookings for the 2025-26 programme are now open. Click here to register your interest.](#)