



Training, Learning & Events Programme

Summer 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 third programme of training, learning and events in our Diocese for the Summer term. It contains a range of events, workshops and sessions for all, whether 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.



I am seeking some feedback. Thank you very much to those of you who have given me some feedback already. If you have time, please do complete the online questions about what training you would like in the Autumn 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/nM74rb3nft?origin=IprLink>

Please do pass this on to anyone in your parishes 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		
Online 	Both  	On Site 

	Course Title	Date	Location	Pg no.
	Churchwarden Café: How to Complete the Online Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)	Mon 28 April	Online	7
	Pioneering Parishes – Culture Change in Practice	Tues 29 April	Online	8
	LDBE: New to RE Leadership	Wed 30 Apr	Online	9
	The Online Difference Course	Begins Wed 30 Apr	Online	10
	LDBE Deepening Routes: Teaching RE	Thurs 1 May	Online	11
	Bite-sized Training – Dementia Awareness – Key Messages	Tues 6 May	Online	12
	LDBE: New to RE Leadership	Wed 7 May	Online	13
	The On-Site Difference Course	Begins Wed 7 May	Emmanuel, Harlescott	14
	LDBE Deepening Routes: Teaching RE	Thurs 8 May	Online	15
	LDBE Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non-Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity	Tues 13 May	The Lighthouse Centre, Bucknall	16
	LDBE: New to RE Leadership	Wed 14 May	Online	17
	LDBE: Deepening Routes: Teaching RE	Thurs 15 May	Online	18
	Mental Health & Well-Being	Thurs 15 May	Catalyst Building, Staffs Uni	19
	Legalities of Weddings	Thurs 15 May	Online	19
	Biblical Studies – Faith & Romans	Sat 17 May	St John's, Essington	20
	Churchwarden Café: Bats & Church Buildings	Thurs 22 May	St Andrew Church, Weston-under-Lizard	20
	Unconscious Bias	Thurs 5 June	Reeve Room, Lichfield	21
	Community of Evangelists – 'Evangelism on the Terraces'	Tues 10 June	Holy Trinity, Sneyd	21
	Pioneering Parishes – First Steps	Wed 11 June	Online	22
	Preaching with Purpose	Thurs 12 June	St Thomas, Aldridge	23
	Churchwarden Café: Churchwardens & Volunteerism	Tues 17 June	Barlaston Parish Church	24
	Biblical Studies – Faith & Hebrews	Thurs 19 June	Online	25
	LDBE: Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non-Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity	Thurs 19 June	The Lighthouse Centre, Bucknall	26

	Course Title	Date	Location	Pg no.
	LDBE: Deepening Routes - Invitational, Inclusive and Inspiring Collective Worship	Mon 23 June	TBC	27
	Supporting SEND Families	Thurs 26 June	St Thomas, Aldridge	28
	LDBE: Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non-Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity	Thurs 26 June	Online	29
	Bite-sized Training – Dementia Awareness – Bookcase Picture	Tues 1 July	Online	30
	LDBE: Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non-Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity	Thurs 3 July	Online	31
	Collaboration Impossible?	Sat 5 July	Shallowford House	32
	LDBE: Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non-Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity	Thurs 10 July	Online	33
	LDBE: Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non-Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity	Thurs 17 July	Online	34
Dementia-Friendly Churches Offer				
	See page for details			35
WM CMD				
	Developing Ministry	Tues 17 – Wed 18 June	Residential	36
	Celebrating Wisdom	Mon 9 – Fri 13 June	Residential	37
	Letting Go to Live Anew	Mon 14 – Wed 16 July	Residential	38
Safeguarding				
	Please see a list of the Safeguarding courses available and links to the training portal at the end of the brochure.			
SAVE THE DATES 2025 & 2026				
	We will be adding any events and training that will be coming up later in 2025 and into 2026 – at the end of the brochure.			

April 2025

Churchwarden Café: How to Complete the Online Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

Monday 28 April



This online webinar will help participants learn how to complete the online Footprint Tool (EFT). It will provide a review of the online form, highlighting practical 'how to' tips, providing specific examples, and answering questions.

Who is it for?

Although this series is designed primarily for churchwardens, all church officers, clergy, and volunteers are welcome to participate

Course Hosts - Richard Barrett, Executive Assistant to Mission Team, and

Christine Rier, Church Buildings Support Officer (CBSO), Diocese of Lichfield

Time: 12.30 - 1.30pm

Cost: Free

Venue: Online

Booking Link:

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



Pioneering Parishes: Culture Change & Practice

Starts 29 April (6, 13, 20 May)



**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: 12.00 midday – 1.30pm

Booking Link: <https://cms.org.uk/ccp290425>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: New to RE Leadership

Wednesday 30 April



This course is made up of three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions. **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: Louisa Harrop & 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, 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

Other Online Dates: 7 May & 14 May (must attend all 3 sessions)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

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



The Online Difference Course

Beginning Wednesday 30 April



The Reconciling Leaders Network (RLN) have brought together leading thinkers and peacemakers to help us think through the divisions we see in society and equip us to live well together. Together they developed *Difference*, a 5-session course that has equipped many thousands of adults, both in person and online, (both in the UK and internationally) to think wisely about reconciliation, disagreement, tensions in daily life and living well together.

The course is written from a Christian perspective, but speaks to something we all experience and need, we all need connection and we all experience conflict at some level. The course's potential is to equip people to talk about sensitive areas, and importantly help people listen. The broad nature of the course is not being issue based, and the aim is that through reflecting on lived experiences throughout the sessions the participants will be able to bring the pertinent issue at hand into the course. This is how we expect issues at hand such as, political tension, situations of change or differences in Church to be part of it.

At its centre there are three habits; being curious, being present and reimagine. Through practicing the habits, participants explore how they are already part of us as people and how they may be strengthened to help build flourishing relationships. The habits are the thing you come away with, that you build on and put into long-term practice. Through embedding these, they transform how we engage with societal differences, everyday tensions and navigate disagreement.

Difference on Junction:

This course focuses on three habits: Be Curious; Be Present; and Reimagine. In the sessions it does this by reflecting on biblical stories, a recent story and creating space to include how our own story and experiences shape our thinking. These habits can have an impact on our everyday lives and relationships and affect how we relate to people and the life of the communities that we're part of. The content of the sessions is non-issue based because the skills and practices within it are relevant for any difference. It is brilliant but can also be a good stepping stone to get you thinking about differences you're faced with in your context. The habits framework set foundations for introducing ways of navigating them, embedding them before engaging directly on a specific issue.

This is a hybrid course so:

Between these Zoom sessions there will be four sessions to be completed independently using an online portal each week. This means you can choose when in the week you do each session. This specific online version of *Difference* is still in the early stages, any feedback given will be shared with the Junction program developers so they can consider them for program improvements.

Dates: Wednesday 30 April (zoom), Monday 7 May, Monday 14 May, Monday 21 May, Monday 4 June (zoom), Wednesday 11 June (this is a looking forward session)

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Host: Jules Smith & Emma Crick De Boom

Booking Link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/2025TheOnlineDifferenceCourse>

To get the best out of the learning on this course, please try to complete at least four out of the five sessions



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

Thursday 1 May



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 first online 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 in RE 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.

Online Dates: 8th May & 15th May 2025

Time: 3.30 – 5.00pm

Venue: Online

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



Bite-sized Training: Dementia Awareness – Key Messages

Tuesday 6 May



Dementia is part of every community – including our church communities. As patterns change through advancing dementia, a little bit of dementia awareness goes a long way. To equip us to stay in step with people affected by dementia, this bite-sized training session will explore four key messages about dementia. Come along – and bring others from your church family or local community. This one-hour session is a helpful next step in becoming a more dementia-friendly church.

Who is it for?

Clergy, Pastoral care assistants, anyone involved/interested in becoming a more dementia-friendly church, anyone affected by dementia, anyone who wants to understand a bit more about dementia

Host: Sarah Thorpe, Dementia-Friendly Church Enabler, Diocese of Lichfield

Venue: Online

Time: 9.00-10.00am

Cost: Free

Booking: Email sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org to book your place



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: New to RE Leadership

Wednesday 7 May



This course is made up of three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions. **This is the second online session.**

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

Lead by: Louisa Harrop & 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, 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

Other Online Dates: 14 May (must attend all 3 sessions)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

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



The On-Site Difference Course

Beginning Wednesday 7 May



The Reconciling Leaders Network (RLN) have brought together leading thinkers and peacemakers to help us think through the divisions we see in society and equip us to live well together. Together they developed *Difference*, a 5-session course that has equipped many thousands of adults in person, (both in the UK and internationally) to think wisely about reconciliation, disagreement, tensions in daily life and living well together.

The course is written from a Christian perspective, but speaks to something we all experience and need, we all need connection and we all experience conflict at some level. The course's potential is to equip people to talk about sensitive areas, and importantly help people listen. The broad nature of the course is not being issue based, and the aim is that through reflecting on lived experiences throughout the sessions the participants will be able to bring the pertinent issue at hand into the course. This is how we expect issues at hand such as, political tension, situations of change or differences in Church to be part of it.

At its centre there are three habits; **being curious, being present and reimagine**. Through practicing the habits, participants explore how they are already part of us as people and how they may be strengthened to help build flourishing relationships. The habits are the thing you come away with, that you build on and put into long-term practice. Through embedding these, they transform how we engage with societal differences, everyday tensions and navigate disagreement.

This course focuses on three habits: **Be Curious; Be Present; and Re-imagine**. In the sessions it does this by reflecting on biblical stories, a recent story and creating space to include how our own story and experiences shape our thinking. These habits can have an impact on our everyday lives & relationships and affect how we relate to people and the life of the communities that we're part of. The content of the sessions is non-issue based because the skills and practices within it are relevant for any difference. It is brilliant but can also be a good stepping stone to get you thinking about particular differences your faced with in your context. The habits framework set foundations for introducing ways of navigating them, embedding them before engaging directly on a specific issue.

Who is it for?

Dates: Wednesday 7 May, Monday 12 May, Monday 19 May, Mon 2 June, and Mon 9 June

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Venue: Emmanuel Church, Mount Pleasant Road, Shrewsbury, SY1 3HY

Host: Jules Smith

Cost: Free

Booking Link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/2025TheOnSiteDifferenceCourse>

To get the best out of the learning on this course, please try to attend/complete at least four out of the five sessions



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

Thursday 8 May



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 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 in RE 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.

Online Dates: 15th May 2025

Time: 3.30 – 5.00pm

Venue: Online

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



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non- Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity

Tuesday 13 May



This course will be offered as a one day in person event and repeated in 4 on-line twilight sessions, you must commit to all 4 sessions if you choose this option. **This is the in-person training event.**

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

Lead by: Alex Wolvers & Lynsay Jennings

A full day, in person, with the morning session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of non-religious worldviews and the afternoon session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a global faith.

During the morning session, there will be opportunities to explore the main concepts of a range of non-religious world views, including Humanism and Philosophy, alongside background information, practical activities and resources which can be embedded into classroom practice.

The afternoon session will consider four dimensions of Christianity in a global context: Christian history, faith and culture, global interfaith work, and culturally distinctive worship. This will include a look at practical activities and resources for bringing this unit alive in the classroom or through a RE drop-down day.

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

Time: 9:30am – 16:00 pm (must attend both sessions)

Venue: [The Lighthouse Centre, Kingsland Academy, Eaves Lane, Werrington Road, Bucknall ST2 9AS](#)

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

Booking link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/ensuring-high-quality-religious-education-developing-subject-knowledge-and-understanding-of-non-religious-world-views-and-global-christianity/>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education: New to RE Leadership

Wednesday 14 May



This course is made up of three twilight sessions, you must commit to all three sessions. **This is the third and last online session.**

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

Lead by: Louisa Harrop & 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, 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

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

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



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

Thursday 15 May



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 third and last 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 & Louisa Harrop

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

Time: 3.30 – 5.00pm

Venue: Online

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



Mental Health & Well-Being

Thursday 15 May



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: Catalyst Building, Staffordshire University, Leek Rd, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2DF

Cost: Free

Time: 9.30am (arrival for coffee) - 3.00pm (please bring your own lunch)

Hosts: Revd Charlotte Gompertz & Rachel Moore

Booking Link:

https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/_202425MentalHealthWellBeingTraining



Legalities of Weddings: A Refresher

Thursday 15 May



An afternoon session led by Andrew Wynne – Joint Registrar for Lichfield Diocese & Alex Chong – Diocesan Registry Assistant. Marriage is a wonderful institution but is also a legal minefield. This session will cover all the basics, from who may be married in your church, through calling the banns, to when you might need a Common or an Archbishop's Special Licence. The rules about the marriage of Foreign Nationals will be fully covered.

Venue: Online

Cost: Free

Time: 3.00-5.00pm

Booking Link:

https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/_202425LegalitiesOfWeddings



New Testament Biblical Studies Programme:

Session 5 'Faith and Hebrews'

Saturday 17 May



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.

Host: Dr Dave Allen

Venue: St John's Church, Wolverhampton Rd, Essington, Wolverhampton. WV11 2BX

Time: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Booking Link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/May2025BiblicalStudies>



Churchwarden Café: Bats & Church Buildings

Thursday 22 May

Exploring how churches can work with the Bat Conservation Trust in the shared management of bats, particularly during the planning of church building repairs and maintenance.



Host: Hazel Tocock, Bats in Churches Advisor with the Bat Conservation Trust & Elaine Townsend, Churchwarden, St Andrew's Church

Who is it for?

Although this series is designed primarily for churchwardens, all church officers, clergy, and volunteers are welcome to participate

Venue: Weston-under-Lizard: St Andrew, Weston Park Estate, Weston Under Lizard TF11 8LD

Time: 12.30pm-2.00pm

Booking Link:

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

A complimentary light lunch will be provided; please include food sensitivities and allergies when booking.



Unconscious Bias

Thursday 5 June

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

Host: Andy Wynter

Venue: Reeve Room, St Mary's House, Reeve Lane, Lichfield, WS13 7LD

Cost: Free - costs covered by Diocese

Time: 10.00am-3.00pm

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



Community of Evangelists 'Evangelism of the Terraces'

Tuesday 10 June

Andrew Swift (Keeper of Valiant Church) will be hosting us and talking about his experiences of setting up Valiant Church which meets before every Port Vale home game.



Starting with refreshments and ending with a walk for the more energetic!

Who is it for? Everyone is welcome

Time: 6.00-9.00pm

Venue: Holy Trinity Sneyd, Hamil Rd, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 1AP

Booking: To book your place contact Warden, Lynne Mills, at lynne@fpe-network.org
Free refreshments are provided – please state your dietary requirements at the time of booking



Pioneering Parishes: First Steps

Starts Wednesday 11 June (25 June, 9 and 23 July)

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: 2.00 - 3.30pm

Booking Link: https://cms.org.uk/fs_110625



**Pioneering
Parishes**



Preaching with Purpose

Thursday 12 June



There can't be too many of us who have had someone fall asleep and fall out of the window when we were preaching, (Acts 20:9), or who have been pelted with stones whilst we were at the pulpit, (Acts 7). However, there are probably times when we've read a passage numerous times and wondered where to go with it - or been enthusiastically mid-flow in our preaching, only to catch a glimpse of someone trying to hide a wide yawn...

We'd love to see you on this 'Purposeful Preaching' day - we'll be discussing why we do it, different ways we might prepare for it, hints and tips with how to preach- across different contexts and traditions. And you'll go home with some free resources, as well as an excitement for all that preaching can do in the hearts of God's people.

Overview:

- 1) Why do we preach? (some Theology and some Ecclesial thinking)
- 2) How do we prepare to preach?
- 3) How do we "do" the preach?
- 4) How do we reflect on our preaching?

Please bring your own lunch.

Who is it for?

Clergy, Readers, Lay Ministers, Curate and Ordinands

Hosts: Revd David Sims

Venue: St Thomas' Church, St Thomas' Close, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8SL

Cost: Free - costs covered by Diocese

Time: 10.00am-2.30pm

Booking Link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/2025PreachingWithPurpose>



Church Warden Café: Volunteerism for Churchwardens

Tuesday 17 June



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?

Although this series is designed primarily for churchwardens, all church officers, clergy, and volunteers are welcome to participate

Time: 12.30-2.00pm

Venue: St John's Barlaston, 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.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/ChurchWardenCaféVolunteerismForChurchwardens>

New Testament Biblical Studies Programme:

Session 6 '*Faith and Hebrews*'

Thursday 19 June



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 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.

Host: Dr Dave Allen

Venue: Online

Time: 7.30-9.00pm

Booking Link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/June2025BiblicalStudies>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non- Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity

Thursday 19 June



This course will be offered as a one day in person event and repeated in 4 on-line twilight sessions, you must commit to all 4 sessions if you choose this option. **This is the in-person session.**

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

Lead by: Lynsay Jennings

A full day, in person, with the morning session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of non-religious worldviews and the afternoon session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a global faith.

During the morning session, there will be opportunities to explore the main concepts of a range of non-religious world views, including Humanism and Philosophy, alongside background information, practical activities and resources which can be embedded into classroom practice.

The afternoon session will consider four dimensions of Christianity in a global context: Christian history, faith and culture, global interfaith work, and culturally distinctive worship. This will include a look at practical activities and resources for bringing this unit alive in the classroom or through a RE drop-down day.

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

In-Person Date: Thursday 19 June

Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm (must attend both sessions)

Venue: [The Lighthouse Centre, Kingsland Academy, Eaves Lane, Werrington Road, Bucknall ST2 9AS](#)

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

Booking link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/ensuring-high-quality-religious-education-developing-subject-knowledge-and-understanding-of-non-religious-world-views-and-global-christianity/>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

Deepening Roots: Invitational, Inclusive and Inspiring Collective Worship

Monday 23 June



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, in order 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 & 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.

Fee: 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 on the Booking Form.

Time: 10.00am – 3.30pm

Date: Monday 23rd June 2025 (click [here](#) to book)

Venue: TBC



Supporting Families with SEND Children & Young People (Autism)

Thursday 26 June



Session 1 - How to Include Autistic Children and Young People in Church

Without considered and intentional measures, many aspects of church life can pose challenges for Autistic children and young people. This practical training provides useful advice on how to make church a space where Autistic children and young people can thrive. It urges children's, youth and families workers to be agents of change within both their own ministries and the wider church community, building a better place for accessibility, inclusion, belonging and spiritual development for all.

Areas covered include:

- What Autism is (and isn't!), medical model vs. social model, brain overloads, myth busting etc.
- Barriers experienced by Autistic children and young people in church, including physical, programme and people barriers.
- Reducing or removing these barriers, and who can help.
- How these changes can create belonging for everyone, including stories from Autistic young people, their families, and church children's/youth workers. 10 ways to create belonging.
- Further resources, links, and information.

Session 2 - Exploring eight of our senses and sensory additional needs and disabilities including Sensory Processing Disorder / Differences

There are at least eight senses; five that we can all think of; sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch, as well as three that we might not know so much about; vestibular (balance and movement), proprioception (body awareness), and interoception (awareness of what's happening inside the body).

This seminar explores all eight senses, and provides us with practical ways to learn about them with our own children, or with children we care for in a club or group, as well as thinking about what Jesus did when he met people with sensory impairments or how he and the disciples responded to their own senses.

Please bring your own lunch.

Who is it for? Anyone is welcome.

Host: Mark Arnold & Su Parker

Venue: St Thomas's Church, St Thomas' Close, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8SL

Time: 9.30am gather for coffee; finish at 3.00pm

Booking Link:

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



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non- Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity

Thursday 26 June



This course will be offered as a one day in person event and repeated in 4 on-line twilight sessions, you must commit to all 4 sessions if you choose this option. **This is the first online twilight session.**

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

Lead by: Lynsay Jennings

A full day, in person, with the morning session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of non-religious worldviews and the afternoon session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a global faith.

During the morning session, there will be opportunities to explore the main concepts of a range of non-religious world views, including Humanism and Philosophy, alongside background information, practical activities and resources which can be embedded into classroom practice.

The afternoon session will consider four dimensions of Christianity in a global context: Christian history, faith and culture, global interfaith work, and culturally distinctive worship. This will include a look at practical activities and resources for bringing this unit alive in the classroom or through a RE drop-down day.

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

On-Line Dates: 26 June, 3 July, 10 July & 17 July

Time: 3.30 – 5.00pm

Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/ensuring-high-quality-religious-education-developing-subject-knowledge-and-understanding-of-non-religious-world-views-and-global-christianity/>



Bite-sized Training: Dementia Awareness – Bookcase Picture

Tuesday 1 July



Dementia is part of every community – including our church communities. As patterns change through advancing dementia, a little bit of dementia awareness goes a long way. The bookcase picture comes from Alzheimer's Society: it's memorable and helpful to equip us to stay in step with people affected by dementia. Come along to our bite-sized training session – and bring others from your church family or local community. This one-hour session is a helpful next step in becoming a more dementia-friendly church.

Who is it for?

Clergy, Pastoral care assistants, anyone involved/interested in becoming a more dementia-friendly church, anyone affected by dementia, anyone who wants to understand a bit more about dementia

Host: Sarah Thorpe, Dementia-Friendly Church Enabler, Diocese of Lichfield

Venue: Online

Time: 1.00-2.00pm

Cost: Free

Booking: Email sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org to book your place



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non- Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity

Thursday 3 July



This course will be offered as a one day in person event and repeated in 4 on-line twilight sessions, you must commit to all 4 sessions if you choose this option. **This is the second online twilight session.**

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

Lead by: Lynsay Jennings

A full day, in person, with the morning session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of non-religious worldviews and the afternoon session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a global faith.

During the morning session, there will be opportunities to explore the main concepts of a range of non-religious world views, including Humanism and Philosophy, alongside background information, practical activities and resources which can be embedded into classroom practice.

The afternoon session will consider four dimensions of Christianity in a global context: Christian history, faith and culture, global interfaith work, and culturally distinctive worship. This will include a look at practical activities and resources for bringing this unit alive in the classroom or through a RE drop-down day.

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

On-Line Dates: 3 July, 10 July & 17 July

Time: 3.30 – 5.00pm

Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/ensuring-high-quality-religious-education-developing-subject-knowledge-and-understanding-of-non-religious-world-views-and-global-christianity/>



Collaboration Impossible?

Saturday 5 July



The church, and other institutions, often speak of collaboration in ministry and work. Team working and collaboration can be empowering and enjoyable. Pursuing a shared vision is rewarding and even grace filled.

Yet collaboration can be elusive. Sometimes the promise of genuine team working can seem to vanish like mist, leaving us doubtful whether it can even be achieved.

Does collaboration have a place in ministry and leadership? How easy is it to be collaborative? What skills can we learn? Join us for a relaxed summer workshop to look at collaboration in ministry and leadership.

We will look at:

- A model that identifies different levels of collaboration
- Identify what our own preferences and tendencies are
- Identify when different levels of collaboration are desirable
- Explore how parish or organisational structures help or hinder collaborative approaches
- Look at what's in our power to change, and what's not.

Who is it for?

People with decision-making and creative roles, especially those looking to collaborate in mission or ministry.

Could suit:

- Clergy and lay ministers in parishes or fresh expressions
- Diocesan officers
- School leaders, including Christian Distinctiveness leads and
- Some chaplaincy roles

Please bring your own lunch.

Host: Revd Simon Foster

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

Time: 9.30am gather for coffee; finish at 3.00pm

Booking Link: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/LichfieldDiocese/2025CollaborationImpossible>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non- Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity

Thursday 10 July



This course will be offered as a one day in person event and repeated in 4 on-line twilight sessions, you must commit to all 4 sessions if you choose this option. **This is the third online twilight session.**

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

Lead by: Lynsay Jennings

A full day, in person, with the morning session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of non-religious worldviews and the afternoon session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a global faith.

During the morning session, there will be opportunities to explore the main concepts of a range of non-religious world views, including Humanism and Philosophy, alongside background information, practical activities and resources which can be embedded into classroom practice.

The afternoon session will consider four dimensions of Christianity in a global context: Christian history, faith and culture, global interfaith work, and culturally distinctive worship. This will include a look at practical activities and resources for bringing this unit alive in the classroom or through a RE drop-down day.

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

On-Line Dates: 10 July & 17 July

Time: 3.30 – 5.00pm

Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/ensuring-high-quality-religious-education-developing-subject-knowledge-and-understanding-of-non-religious-world-views-and-global-christianity/>



Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education

Ensuring High Quality RE: Developing Subject Knowledge and Understanding of 'Non- Religious' Worldviews and Global Christianity

Thursday 17 July



This course will be offered as a one day in person event and repeated in 4 on-line twilight sessions, you must commit to all 4 sessions if you choose this option. **This is the fourth and last online twilight session.**

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

Lead by: Lynsay Jennings

A full day, in person, with the morning session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of non-religious worldviews and the afternoon session on developing teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a global faith.

During the morning session, there will be opportunities to explore the main concepts of a range of non-religious world views, including Humanism and Philosophy, alongside background information, practical activities and resources which can be embedded into classroom practice.

The afternoon session will consider four dimensions of Christianity in a global context: Christian history, faith and culture, global interfaith work, and culturally distinctive worship. This will include a look at practical activities and resources for bringing this unit alive in the classroom or through a RE drop-down day.

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

Time: 3.30 – 5.00pm

Booking Link: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/ensuring-high-quality-religious-education-developing-subject-knowledge-and-understanding-of-non-religious-world-views-and-global-christianity/>



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** Hour-long or 90-minute dementia-friendly church training sessions are regularly offered online by Sarah Thorpe. As well as offering dementia introduction/awareness sessions, 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 lead a session.

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

Developing Ministry

Residential 2: 17 – 18 June 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.



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 it's 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

Letting Go to Live Anew

Monday 14 - Wednesday 16 July



A Retreat for Clergy (including their spouses and partners if clergy want to invite them – optional) in preparation for retirement.

The transition into retirement can be one of huge potential, leaving a specific role and responsibilities to re-discover oneself and one's vocation for the next phase of living. Letting go can be both disturbing and freeing, disorientating and liberating, feared and desired, so is potentially deeply creative.

Jesus embodied this in the movements of his passion, which was also his journey to his Father and his deepest fulfilment. He invites us to discover how what we may face, may long for, and which can be full of unknowns, can become key elements in the process of finding in new freedoms a new sense of vocation. Jesus' own letting go and leaving offers us both a creative model and resources for the journey into the unknown and the new.

The retreat will be led by Philip & Charlotte Swan. It includes input, times for prayer and reflection, times for sharing, all held within a rhythm of worship.

Who is it for?

The retreat is for those who are considering retirement within the next 12-18 months and offers the opportunity to reflect on the transition into retirement. This time can be one of huge potential - leaving a specific role and responsibilities to re-discover oneself and one's vocation for the next phase of living. Letting go can be both disturbing and freeing, disorientating and liberating, feared and desired, so is potentially deeply creative.

Outcomes:

By the end of the retreat, we hope you will have had an opportunity to:

- reflect in a personal way on your journey into retirement
- begin to discern what it is you desire
- explore and share concerns
- become more aware of resources that are potentially life-giving

The retreat is a 2-night residential (48 hours) beginning and ending with lunch at 1pm.

Venue: Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 0PY

Cost: The retreat costs around £300 per person. Your contribution would be travel only. The rest of the cost will be borne by your diocese.

What do I do now?

If you wish to find out more about this course, please contact your diocesan CMD officer or administrator who will send you further details. You can find their details under the Contact tab.

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 & 2026

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](#)



Biblical Studies Discipleship



When thinking about what 'discipleship' might look like, the New Testament tends to be the starting point for our thinking and inquiry. Whether Martha or Bartimaeus, whether Mary Magdalene or the post- Damascus Road Paul, it is generally New Testament figures to whom we go in such discussion.

How, though, does the Old Testament contribute to such thinking? How might figures from the OT also help shape our understanding about what it might mean to follow God faithfully? What might we learn from Sarah and Joshua, or from Daniel and Deborah?

These sessions consider several OT examples and how they might help us in our own discipleship practice.

Dates, Venues & Times:

04/10/25 - On site - 10.00am-12.30pm St James Church, Church Road, Brownhills, Walsall WS8 6AR
13/11/25 - Online - 7.30-9.00pm
31/01/26 - On site - 10.00am-12.30pm Trentham Parish Church, Park Drive, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 8AB Stoke
12/03/26 - Online - 7.30-9.00pm
25/04/26 - On site - 10.00am-12.30pm Emmanuel, Harlescott, Mount Pleasant Road, Shrewsbury. SY1 3HY
11/06/26 - Online - 7.30-9.00pm



Creative Discipleship: Encountering God Through the Senses Tuesday 23 September

As those who lead in church settings in a variety of ways, we guide others in faith - but how often do we pause to experience God ourselves? This interactive workshop invites church leaders and lay leaders to explore discipleship through the five senses, deepening personal faith and enriching ministry.



Through Scripture, creative reflection, and hands-on activities, we'll engage sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell to awaken fresh encounters with God. Discover how sensory awareness can transform worship, prayer, and discipleship in your context.

Who is it for?

Anyone is welcome

Please bring your own lunch

Host: Revd Laura Lenander

Time: Gather at 9.30am to start at 10am; 2.00pm finish

Venue: Telford Minster



The Selwyn Lecture 2025

Thursday 6 November

Time: 9.15am gather; finish at 12.15pm

Venue: Lichfield Cathedral

Cost: Free



The Gospel of Matthew Study Day

Saturday 8 November

A study day for preachers, ministers, and anyone on a journey of faith to explore the themes and meanings of Matthew's Gospel. Led by Dr Dave Allen.



Who is it for?

Anyone who preaches or is interested in finding out more about the Gospel of Matthew

Venue: Telford Minster

Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm (Please bring your own lunch, refreshments will be provided)

Cost: Free



Pioneering Parishes



Culture Change in Practice	15-Sep	Monday	15, 29 Sept 13, 27 Oct	12.00	13.30	https://cms.org.uk/ccp150925
Values Day	27-Sep	Saturday	1 session	10.00	16.00	https://cms.org.uk/vday270925
First Steps	02-Oct	Thursday	2, 16, 30 Oct 13 Nov	19.30	21.00	https://cms.org.uk/fs021025

Arthur Rank Centre News

Germinate Leadership 25-26



Arthur Rank
Centre

CONFIDENT RURAL CHRISTIANS

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 residencies, 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.](#)