



ACORN TRAINING PROSPECTUS 2016

Acorn Christian Healing Foundation
training, equipping and supporting the church in ministry



A Message from Acorn's Director

It is a genuine privilege to introduce to you Acorn's 2016 Training Prospectus. Over the last year Acorn has reviewed and refreshed its understanding of its calling, to more fully reflect the vision and passion woven into it by Bishop Morris Maddocks back in 1983. In the process it became clear that we needed to focus on three key elements: Training, Ministry at our centre at Whitehill Chase, and being a Community of Healing Prayer.

As a result, we have both reviewed existing training material, and also expanded our training modules to offer a wider range of focused training experiences which meet the needs of churches and individuals, who want to serve their communities better. Training on the Ministry of Healing, Reconciliation, Wholeness, and Prayer Ministry to name but a few, equip the church to make a transforming impact in their communities, and also utilise Acorn's well known emphasis on Effective Listening Practice.

We know that training needs to be accessible - so we have looked at the different ways in which people learn and we've integrated into our training elements that cater for different learning styles. We also know that training needs to be focused - so most of our training modules take place over one day and are packed with learning and ministry experience. Every module can lead you to another if delegates wish, but they also operate as 'stand alone' elements providing a complete package in themselves.

Training needs to be affordable - so we have fixed a flat rate charge, but allowing the organising church or community to put as many 'people in the room' as they like (with a



small charge for additional training materials over a certain number).

I believe that the range of training events, delivered by 'trained' trainers - who themselves receive ongoing training and appraisal - will prove a valuable and effective resource for churches and individuals alike, and I look forward to being able to work with you to make Christ's transforming love a reality for others.

Wes Sutton (Director)

Who we are and what we do

Acorn Christian Healing Foundation delivers Healing and Wholeness to individuals and communities.

Through training, service and resources we provide a safe and effective Christian context in which people can experience personal and community wholeness, through exploring the essential elements of Healing, Reconciliation and Listening, around the UK and at its Training and Retreat Centre in Bordon, Hampshire.

Established in 1983 by Bishop Morris Maddocks, Acorn has been at the forefront of providing people, regardless of their circumstances, background or life choices, with the opportunity to experience the 'shalom' – a life-encompassing peace – that is at the heart of the Christian message. Shalom impacts every area of a person's life - relationships, physical and spiritual wellbeing and emotional wholeness.



Acorn remains engaged in, and committed to being a transformative agent in today's multifaceted society. Our training events are divided into three main pathways of learning:

Healing

Working in harmony with health professionals, we have seen how compassionate and responsible prayer ministry enables and supports healing and recovery.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation is a central theme in the Christian message. Finding not just solutions to conflict but learning how the relationships impacted by conflict can be strengthened is essential for individuals, families, and communities. Understanding how conflict starts and ends is essential for healthy, life giving relationships.

Acorn's purpose is to make wholeness available to all and in so doing make communities a place of thriving, trust and wholeness.

Listening

Learning to listen effectively – to ourselves, to God and to others - enables us to clearly understand and authentically live our own life story.

Acorn Training contains a range of training days designed to equip individuals, churches, chaplaincies and community groups in the ministry of healing and wholeness.



Our Training Team

All our training is delivered by two of our experienced team of Acorn Trainers.

Each of our trainers has attended a rigorous development programme and we offer a number of 'Calling Days' for those who might want to explore God's Calling for our work. Many of our trainers have been with us for a number of years, and we also have a number of new additions to the team each year. Our team are spread throughout the UK and work closely with our Director of Training, Jennie Fytche. If you would like to know more about how to become one of the Acorn Training Team, please contact Jennie at jfytche@acornchristian.org

Our Methodology – Working in Partnership with You

Each training event is tailored to the needs of your church or organization. Our Trainers will discuss your aims and using our approved materials; the event will be designed to meet the objectives together.

The training is led so that delegates will develop new knowledge and understanding of the subject and leave the day inspired to use their newly acquired skills.

Our training is therefore:

- Offering foundational teaching with sound biblical values, which shape ministry
- Interactive in training approach
- Reflective with space to listen to God, and to others within the group
- Challenging as delegates gain skills required to enable others to find wholeness
- Exciting as delegates develop their God given potential as a disciple of Christ.

HEALING MODULES

Growing a Healing Ministry

Growing a Healing Ministry is a five session introduction to the Christian healing ministry. Designed for a small group context it gives an excellent introduction to the ministry of healing and provides helpful and practical advice for encouraging those seeking to establish a safe and effective healing ministry in and through the local church.

The complete pack includes Leaders' notes, PowerPoint Presentation and a copy of the participant's handbook. Each participant attending *Growing a Healing Ministry* will need their own handbook to enable them to benefit fully from this interactive learning experience. It is 'a course that anyone can share in' - delegate.

Growing a Healing Ministry Pack ~ £17.50 + £5.00 P&P

***Handbooks ~ £5.50 including P&P
(£45.00 for set of 10 inc. P&P)***



Christian Healing 101

Christian Healing 101 is the next and logical step after GAHM in learning how to exercise a credible and Christ centred healing ministry. It can also serve as a church's first engagement with Christian Healing.

CH101 focuses on providing a robust theological and practical framework for the Christian Healing Ministry. This module examines the nature of Christian Ministry itself and explores the different arenas in which it is exercised. It considers the ministry of Jesus in the gospels, and throughout early and contemporary church history. It confronts some of the difficult questions inherent in the Christian Healing ministry and provides a framework for understanding and operating in the ministry gifts of the Holy Spirit, in a competent and compassionate way.

CH101 lays out clear practical steps for exercising a Christian Healing ministry and provides opportunity for delegates to participate in prayer for Christian healing.

***Day event ~ £250 per church, including 10 workbooks (additional workbooks £3 or £25 for 10 inc p&p). This module can also be run at a more in-depth level over a church weekend.
POA***

HEALING MODULES

Generational Healing

During this specialist module you will be exploring a Biblical perspective on generational healing and you will learn how to put together a 'genogram' or family tree. There will be time to reflect privately, and in God's presence, on the wounds and pains that we experience from people in our family who have hurt us or loved ones we might have lost.

It is an opportunity to consider what has shaped us from the past and find peace for the pains picked up on life's journey. You will be encouraged in the safe place that this module provides to talk to God about your wounds and allow Him to heal your heart, your emotions and broken relationships with other family members.

At the end of the day you will be invited to participate in Holy Communion laying before God your dreams and desires about your family.

Day event ~ £250 per church, including 10 workbooks (additional workbooks £3 or £25 for 10 inc p&sp).



Health and Wholeness: Authentic Living

A day covering what it means to be made in the image of God and how in life's difficulties God can restore people to wholeness. This event containing worship, teaching and prayer and will help your congregation to find wholeness themselves.

It will explore how to pray effectively and how to support others in their journey towards physical and spiritual wholeness.

Day event ~ £250 per church, including 10 workbooks (additional workbooks £3 or £25 for 10 inc p&sp).

RECONCILIATION MODULES

Facing conflict to find reconciliation and growth

Many Christians regard conflict as intrinsically unspiritual and to be avoided at all costs – with the result we either hide from it or handle it badly.

This module is led by specially trained Acorn trainers and will explore the process by which individuals and church communities can understand what is happening in times of conflict, and teach them how to find the appropriate and biblical mechanisms of handling ‘difference’ before it become destructive. This interactive module provides

both a biblical and theoretical framework for engaging with conflict and approaches to transforming the relationships involved.

Day event ~ £250 per church, including 10 workbooks (additional workbooks £3 or £25 for 10 inc p&sp).

Focus on Forgiveness

This module considers what happens when we forgive and what happens when we don't. It examines how the church can become a community of forgiveness and what that looks like in real life. It will help a church take a fresh look at what Jesus meant when he taught his disciples within the Lord's Prayer, 'forgive us...as we forgive'.

The day looks at the theological and ethical issues surrounding forgiveness and how Jesus' teaching ran contrary to the norms of his day - as it does ours. We will consider what the impact of forgiveness has on us and others and how the church can model the forgiving heart of God to the world.

Day event ~ £250 per church, including 10 workbooks (additional workbooks £3 or £25 for 10 inc p&sp).



LISTENING MODULES

We live in a busy world. Social media screams headlines; conversations extend to the length of a tweet, or the time it takes to drink a cappuccino. We tire quickly, and long for space to breathe, talk, be heard. Acorn's *Listening Modules* respond to this longing because Listening is a vital part of the healing process.

Just Listen!

Many of us today have discovered for ourselves the difference it makes when someone really listens to us. Being well listened to can be a life-changing experience, and yet sadly also one which is comparatively rare in our busy world.

This introductory DVD and self guided module offers foundational teaching on the

value of listening to others, to God and to ourselves.

Just Listen! DVD ~ £18.50

Module Books £4.50 each (Inc. P&P) - per Delegate

Effective Listening Practice Module 1

This module introduces the ministry of listening as a foundational element of the wholeness ministry. On this day delegates will learn active reflective listening skills.

Day event ~ £250 per church, including 10 workbooks (additional workbooks £3 or £25 for 10 inc p&p).

Applied Listening Practice Module 2

On this module delegates are invited to explore more deeply the places in which God may call people to listen. Building on the skills in module 1 the full Acorn paradigm of

listening is introduced and developed fully.

Day event ~ £250 per church, including 10 workbooks (additional workbooks £3 or £25 for 10 inc p&p).

Professional Volunteer Listening Practice Module 3

This next step in the listening pathway equips delegates to listening safely in a formal one to one setting. We consider what is good and safe practice shaped through biblical understanding. The full Acorn paradigm will

be revisited with an assessment undertaken by Acorn providing the assurance of authorized listener accreditation.

LISTENING MODULES

Staying in Touch

Equipping churches to support all those affected by the impact of the early stages of dementia

This module is specially designed to equip those affected by dementia with the listening and communicating tools they need to reduce isolation and relate better to those with dementia. It also offers opportunities to meet others in a similar situation and to feel refreshed and energized.

The module develops a clear understanding of the dynamics accompanying dementia and identifies creative ways in which to respond to those impacted by it, and focuses on equipping your church or community to reduce the isolation people experience.

This two part module is run by specially trained and experienced trainers and provides an appreciation of the impact of the early stages of dementia.

Part one examines the difficult issues facing those caring for people living with the early stages of dementia and how we might give appropriate support to family members and carers.

Part two focuses on the importance of how we can effectively listen to and communicate with a person living with the condition.

Parts 1 and 2 ~ £250 per church, including 10 workbooks (additional workbooks £3 or £25 for 10 inc p&sp).



CHURCH LIFE MODULES

Prayer Ministry

This module provides a clear conceptual framework for the development and practice of a competent and compassionate prayer ministry in a church and community setting.

It examines the biblical foundations of drawing others into the presence of God through prayer ministry, and explores the essential nature of being made 'Imago Dei'. Setting this essential ministry within the overall life of the church, this module establishes a clear understanding of personal and ministry boundaries, and devotes time to

working in small groups and to assessing real life ministry scenarios. There is opportunity to put learning into practice and the day concludes with a brief service of dedication.

Day event ~ £250 per church, including 10 workbooks (additional workbooks £3 or £25 for 10 inc p&sp).

Coming soon:

Give Sorrow Words: Equipping churches and individuals for bereavement ministry based upon the Acorn Listening Model.



More About Acorn ~ Our Team



Revd Wes Sutton
~ Acorn's Director

Wes Sutton has been in Christian Ministry some 30 years. Wes trained as a teacher, he started full-time ministry with Youth for Christ in N.E. London in 1982 as a worship leader, songwriter, and evangelist. After 6 productive years with YFC, he moved to Loughton to lead a small church of 20, which over the next 19 years grew to over 400. On leaving Vineyard Church, Loughton, Wes led the Oasis Church Network for 3 years, initiating a church planting strategy to establish churches in challenging communities, and immediately prior to joining Acorn as Director, ran a consultancy helping churches and leaders understand and define their calling.



Revd Elizabeth Knifton
~ Acorn's Chaplain

Elizabeth has been Chaplain of Acorn since 2005. She was previously a nurse and a hospital chaplain. Elizabeth was ordained in the Church of England in 1997 and has an Advanced Diploma in Theology and Pastoral Studies. She is the Bishop of Guildford's adviser on healing.

Her passion is to bring the healing love of Christ to a broken world through Listening, Healing and Reconciliation.



Jennie Fytche
~ Acorn's Director of Training

Jennie Fytche is our Director of Training. Originally trained as a nurse and then later studying theology, Jennie has been actively serving God in the healing and wholeness ministry in many contexts.

In recent years along side active engagement in pastoral care ministry, Jennie has focused upon training and mentoring individuals, churches and communities to fulfil their God given potential to serve in the healing and wholeness ministry.



How To Book

You can speak to our events co-ordinator on 01420 478121 for further information and you will soon be able to book directly on our website.

Please note, the prices in this prospectus will be reviewed in June 2016 and may be subject to changes.



To find out more about Acorn, please go to our website www.acornchristian.org and subscribe to our newsletter.



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wholeness for all