

DIOCESE
OF EXETER
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
IN DEVON



CULTIVATE

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT
FOR ALL IN THE
DIOCESE OF EXETER

SEPTEMBER 2026 - JULY 2027

Introduction

I was brought up on the myth that, when the land became really dry a tree puts its roots down deeper to reach the water below. I think it was the school of discipleship that says, ‘when the going gets tough, the tough get going’. But it’s obvious to me this summer (and always has been obvious to farmers and gardeners) that trees put down deep roots when the weather is fair, so that when the surface dries up, they already have access to the ground water. In ministry we tend towards fire-fighting – doing the urgent and important things and not much else. But the theory is that even if we can regularly spend a fraction of a week on something that is ‘important but not urgent’, something developmental, an investment in our own growth, an investment in the future, then over time there are fewer fires to fight. Nothing in Cultivate is ‘urgent and important’ – but everything is ‘important not urgent’. Is there something here that might help you invest in yourself or in your future ministry? Do take a look, and dig down for those sources of lifegiving nourishment when you don’t need them, so that they’re there when you do....

Rev’d Preb. Ian Bussell
Director of Mission and Ministry

Quick links: Click on the icons below to read more about some of our regular courses and training opportunities.



Lay Commissioned Roles



Do you feel called to a specific ministry in your local church? And want to support your community in mission?

The Diocese of Exeter is partnering with a variety of well established organisations to help equip and enable the local church in mission. We hope that through the delivery of high quality training, tried and tested resources, and mission funding, local commissioned leaders and volunteers will feel supported and valued by the church today.

Role Descriptions

- [Growing Faith Leader for Children and Families](#)
- [Growing Faith Leader for Youth and Families](#)
- [Lay Leader of Evangelism and Mission \[inc. Pioneer\]](#)
- [Anna Chaplaincy](#)
- [Leader for Creation Care](#)

How to book onto Training and Development Courses

When you have decided which courses you would like to attend, the links are within the section to take you to a booking form

<https://bookwhen.com/exeterdiocese>



OTHER TRAINING AND EVENTS Please note that training offered by other organisations will have different booking systems and may incur payment.

General Information

To sign up for our monthly Cultivate Newsletter please [click here](#).

All courses are open to all, lay and ordained apart from those specified.

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AT A GLANCE.....the year ahead

Missional Leadership	Missional DNA	Vocations	C & YP	Mixed Ecology
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Date	Event	Venue	Provider/Trainer	Section	5P
SEPTEMBER					
Tue 1	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Tue 8	Beyond the Walls #19	Online	Jeremy Putnam	2	
Thu 10	Planning Great Christmas Communications	Online	Grace Stanhope	6	
Thu 10	Discerning God's Call for My Future	Online	Samantha Stayte/ Joel Love	4	
Thu 17	Flags Englishness and the Church of England	Old Deanery	Bishop Moira	3	
Sat 19	Treasurer Training	Exeter	Lizzie Anderson	6	
Wed 23	Treasurer Training	Barnstaple	Lizzie Anderson	6	
Sat 26	Exploring the Enneagram	EX5 5LL	Judy Friend	4	
Sun 27	Exploring the Enneagram	EX5 5LL	Judy Friend	4	
Mon 28	Treasurer Training	Buckfastleigh	Lizzie Anderson	6	
Tue 29	People Services Training Anti-sexual harassment	Old Deanery and Online	John Nosowski	3	
Wed 30	Catalyst	Old Deanery	Sharon Blyth	1	
Wed 30	Church Warden's training	Barnstaple	Archdeacons	6	
OCTOBER					
Thu 1	Grow: Growing in Prayer (1 of 4)	Online	Sally Dakin	3	
Tue 6	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Wed 7	Christmas Connections	Old Deanery	Sharon Blyth	1	
Wed 7	Grow: Preaching (1 of 5)	Online	Philip Sourbut	5	
Wed 7	Church Warden's training	Plymouth	Archdeacons	6	
Thu 8	Grow: Growing in Prayer (2 of 4)	Online	Sally Dakin	3	
Fri 9	ISingPop	Exeter	Sharon Blyth	1	
Sat 10	Foundations (1 of 7 sessions)	Barnstaple	Jo Friend	4	
Sat 10	Foundations (1 of 7 sessions)	Exeter	Jo Friend	4	
Sat 10	Foundations (1 of 7 sessions)	Plymouth	Jo Friend	4	
Tues 10	Church Warden's training	Exeter	Archdeacons	6	
Thur 12	Church Warden's training	Exeter	Archdeacons	6	
Tue 13	Beyond the Walls #20	Online	Jeremy Putnam	2	
Wed 14	Resources for Resilience	Old Deanery	Gillian Ahlgren	3	
Wed 14	Grow: Preaching (2 of 5)	Online	Philip Sourbut	5	
Thu 15	Taxation issues for existing ministers	Online	Dan Brown	3	
Thu 15	Grow: Growing in Prayer (3 of 4)	Online	Sally Dakin	3	
Thur 17	Church Warden's training	Totnes	Archdeacons	6	

Wed 21	Gaming & gambling harm prevention workshop for community and faith leaders	Online	Ygam	3	
Wed 21	Grow: Preaching (3 of 5)	Online	Philip Sourbut	5	
Thu 22	Using AI for Communication	Online	Chloe Axford	6	
Thu 22	Grow: Growing in Prayer (4 of 4)	Online	Sally Dakin	3	
Wed 28	Grow: Preaching (4 of 5)	Online	Philip Sourbut	5	
NOVEMBER					
Tue 3	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Tue 3	Clergy Finance Training	Old Deanery	Lizzy Anderson	6	
Sat 7	Comms: Digital Ministry Skills	Old Deanery	Chloe Axford	6	
Tue 10	Beyond the Walls #21	Online	Jeremy Putnam	2	
Tues 10	Trauma informed ministry day	Old Deanery	Tim Treanor	6	
Tues 10	Foundations	Exeter	Jo Friend	4	
Tues 10	Foundations	Plymouth	Jo Friend	4	
Wed 11	Foundations	Barnstaple	Jo Friend	4	
Wed 18	Preaching the lectionary Gospel: Mark	Old Deanery	Anna Hutchinson	5	
Sat 21	Bishop Mike's Teaching Morning - Plymouth	Plymouth	Bishop Mike	7	
Wed 25	GROW: Preaching (5 of 5)	Online	Philip Sourbut	5	
Sat 28	Children's Ministry Essentials (1 of 6 sessions)	Old Deanery	Sharon Blyth	1	
DECEMBER					
Tue 1	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Tue 8	Beyond the Walls #22	Online	Jeremy Putnam	2	
Tues 8	Foundations	Exeter	Jo Friend	4	
Tues 8	Foundations	Plymouth	Jo Friend	4	
Wed 10	Foundations	Barnstaple	Jo Friend	4	
JANUARY 2027					
Tue 5	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Tues 12	Beyond the Walls #23	Online	Jeremy Putnam	2	
Thu 14	Telling Great Stories through Photos and Videos	Online	Cassie Long	6	
Sat 16	Foundations	Exeter	Jo Friend	4	
Sat 16	Foundations	Plymouth	Jo Friend	4	
Wed 20	Creation Care: Churches championing sustainable schools	Online	CC Engagement Officer	2	
Wed 27	Using Experiences as an Outreach	Online	Sharon Blyth	1	
Sat 30	Foundations	Barnstaple	Jo Friend	4	
FEBRUARY					
Mon 1	Coaching, mentoring and supervision: Day 1	Old Deanery	Ian Bussell	6	
Tue 2	Coaching, mentoring and supervision: Day 2	Old Deanery	Ian Bussell	6	
Tue 2	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Wed 3	Helping Others Hear God's Call: Preparing for Vocations Sunday	Old Deanery	Samantha Stayte/ Joel Love	4	
Tues 9	Connecting with Community Schools	Exeter	Sharon Blyth	1	

Tues 9	Beyond the Walls #24	Online	Jeremy Putnam	2	
Wed 10	Creation Care: Using the Energy Footprint Tool	Online	Emma Kemp	2	
Thu 11	Canva Design for Beginners	Online	Grace Stanhope	6	
Thur 11	Creation care: carbon confidence course	Online	CC Engagement Officer		
Tues 23	Foundations	Exeter	Jo Friend	4	
Tues 23	Foundations	Plymouth	Jo Friend	4	
Wed 24	Foundations	Barnstaple	Jo Friend	4	
MARCH					
Tue 2	"Who am I now? A post-retirement reflection day"	Old Deanery	Giles King-Smith	3	
Tue 2	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Thu 4	Including Children and Young People with Disabilities and Additional Needs	Old Deanery	Claire Reynolds	1	
Tues 9	First Aid for Children and Family ministers	Old Deanery	Matt Upston	1	
Tues 9	Beyond the Walls #25	Online	Jeremy Putnam	2	
Wed 10	Creation Care: Carbon Confidence	Online	CC Engagement Officer	2	
Thu 11	Using AI for Communication	Online	Chloe Axford	6	
Sat 13	Step Forward SW	Exeter	DDO/Vocations	4	
Tue 16	Bishop Mike's Teaching Morning – Barnstaple	Barnstaple	Bishop Mike	7	
Tues 16	Foundations	Exeter	Jo Friend	4	
Tues 16	Foundations	Plymouth	Jo Friend	4	
Wed 17	Foundations	Barnstaple	Jo Friend	4	
APRIL					
Tue 6	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Wed 7	Grow: Digital Ministry (1 of 4)	Online	Chloe Axford	6	
Wed 14	Grow: Digital Ministry (2 of 4)	Online	Chloe Axford	6	
Wed 21	Church for all: Inclusion for all	Exeter	Claire Reynolds		
Wed 21	Creation Care: Environment as a tool for mission	Online	CC Engagement Officer	2	
Wed 21	Grow: Digital Ministry (3 of 4)	Online	Chloe Axford	6	
Sat 17	Foundations	Exeter	Jo Friend	4	
Sat 17	Foundations	Plymouth	Jo Friend	4	
Sat 24	Foundations	Barnstaple	Jo Friend	4	
Wed 28	Grow: Digital Ministry (4 of 4)	Online	Chloe Axford	6	
MAY					
Tue 4	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Tue 4	Ministry of Deliverance	Old Deanery	Nick Fennemore	3	
Sat 8	Responding to God's Call (further details tbc)		Samantha Stayte/ Joel Love	4	
Mon 10	Coaching, mentoring and supervision: Day 3	Old Deanery	Ian Bussell	6	
Tue 11	Coaching, mentoring and supervision: Day 4	Old Deanery	Ian Bussell	6	
Thu 13	Mission through Media	Online	Chloe Axford	6	

Tue 18	People services – Unconscious bias	Exeter/online	John Noswoski	6	
JUNE					
Tue 1	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Thu 3	Creating a Sustainable Comms Strategy	Online	Chloe Axford	6	
Thu 10	Branding for Beginners	Online	Grace Stanhope	6	
Sat 12	Bishop's Study Morning	Exeter Racecourse	Bishop Mike	2	
JULY					
Tue 6	Time Well Spent: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer	Online	Sue Roberts	4	
Wed 7	Bishop Mike's Teaching Morning – Exeter	Exeter	Bishop Mike	7	

Grants for theological books.

Clergy (licensed and pto) can apply for a grant of up to £50 per year to pay for theological books.

To apply for the grant please send receipts to the Bishop's PA, Debbie Herbert Debbie.herbert@exeter.anglican.org and she will arrange for you to be reimbursed from the Grigg-Smith bequest.

Children, Families & Youth Ministry

CATALYST

Applications for Catalyst Course Now OPEN!

We are excited that applications for the Catalyst course are now open! Catalyst is a training course which aims to equip and connect those who work with children and young people in their local church. The course is free, and fully funded by the Church of England.

The course is aimed at people who want to serve the next generation, and those who want to be a catalyst for change in churches and communities.

Sharon Blyth, Children and Families Mission Enabler, said, "I recommend this course for anyone who wants to develop their skills, reflective practice and thoughts on children and families ministry.

"In the past we have had both lay people and clergy on this course, and all have moved on in their learning and practice. Several of the Catalyst graduates have been commissioned in their mission communities."

If you would like to find out more, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#). Applications close on 29 September 2026.

You can also contact Sharon Blyth: sharon.blyth@exeter.anglican.org

CHRISTMAS CONNECTION

Wednesday 7 October
10 – 12.30pm

One of the best moments to be in contact with people is around Christmas. However, we need to be strategic and missional within this. This presentation will share ideas and resources to create focussed invitations, activities and prayers.

Sharon Blyth – Children and Families Mission Enabler has worked in schools and churches for many years and has been in this role with the Diocese for almost 4 years. She has previously run many Christmas outreach events in her local church.

Venue: Old Deanery

Led by: Sharon Blyth

Who is it for? Church leaders including clergy, children's workers, Churchwardens, volunteers and pioneers

Booking: [Book here](#).

POPUK CHURCH / ISINGPOP

Friday 9 October
9.30am – 12 noon

The fantastic i-sing pop are starting a collaboration with Dioceses, and Exeter want to be one of the first to work together to bring this fabulous resource to parishes and mission communities, with the added bonus of supportive funding opportunities. iSingPOP is a primary school project that brings schools, churches and communities together through music. At the moment, they support schools in creating inspirational collective worship and equip churches with the confidence to reach out to the families in their community. The newest initiative is pop up church, so we are launching an information session and launch on Friday 9th October.

Here is a lovely short video: [PopUP Church | iSingPOP](#)

Breakfast launch - School and Church Partnership Opp - iSingPop

Venue: Great Hall, Old Deanery, Exeter

Who is it for? Aimed at Church and school leaders and children and families ministers, leaders and volunteers

Booking: [Book here.](#)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ESSENTIALS

Saturday 28th November – units 1 and 2

Saturday 13th March – units 4 and 5

Sat 10th July – units 7 and 8

10am – 2.30pm

The course is designed to be a comprehensive introduction to mission and ministry with children whatever context you work in. There are ten modules some of which will be delivered in person, and some online or at your own pace. Each module introduces the key concepts for the theme and then explores how these can be applied to both your practice and you as a practitioner. Every module starts and ends with a reflective prayer activity designed to inspire how you enable the children you work with the engage with the Bible and pray.

Sharon Blyth is the Diocesan Children and Families Mission Enabler has worked in schools and churches for many years. She has been in her role with the Diocese for almost 4 years.

Monica has a rich experience of leading children's work across a range of settings and is a very valuable member of her parish in Seaton and Beer.

Venue: Old Deanery, Exeter

Led by: Sharon Blyth and Monica Weber-Butler

Who is it for? Anyone working with children and young people or looking to grow in this area of ministry

Booking: [Book here.](#)

USING EXPERIENCES AS AN OUTREACH TO COMMUNITIES

Wednesday 27 January

2pm and 8pm

We will explore the benefits using *Experience* events to reach schools, families and children. The session will be 45 minutes and interactive so do feel free to ask questions and share contributions and expertise. These are Jumping Fish Ltd® publications that support spiritual development, collective worship and RE teaching in schools.

Our high quality and user-friendly resources also help churches make links with their local schools.

[Experience Journeys – Jumping Fish Publications](#)

Sharon Blyth – Children and Families Mission Enabler has worked in schools and churches for many years and has been in role with the Diocese for almost 4 years. Sharon has seen considerable impact from the Experience resources in local schools and across the Diocese.

Venue: Online

Led by: Sharon Blyth

Who is it for? Church leaders and volunteers in children's ministry, especially those who wish to develop school's links.

Booking: [Book here.](#)

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**Tuesday 9 February****10am – 1pm**

Join us to discover how to develop a strategy that connects with all schools within your mission community. This includes:

- Chaplaincy
- Collective Worship
- Growing Faith

And much more!

Sharon Blyth is the Diocesan Children and Families Mission Enabler has worked in schools and churches for many years. She has been in her role with the Diocese for almost 4 years.

She will be joined by practitioners sharing their learning from working in schools for many years.

Venue: Old Deanery, Exeter

Led by: Sharon Blyth and The Education Team

Who is it for? School and Church leaders, volunteers and those interested in developing links with schools

Booking: [Book here.](#)

INCLUDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND ADDITIONAL NEEDS**Thursday 4 March****10am – 2pm**

Most churches, PCC's, 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 special or additional needs, and each one, each child, needs thinking about and planning for carefully.

It is hard for us all to navigate the right path through this sometimes difficult and complex area; being caring, inclusive and supportive to each child (and their families), while not losing focus on the needs of the rest of the group.

How can parents, churches and children's/youth workers not only understand more about the children we are working with, but also change the way we work with them so to be more inclusive and create belonging for all?

This training will specially focus on the needs of families and young people, but will increase awareness and offer practical suggestions suitable for all ministry settings.

Sharon Blyth is the Children and Families mission enabler for the Diocese of Exeter, and a qualified teacher who has worked or volunteered in church and education settings. Sharon has a Masters in Ministry and Mission and has also worked in alternative provisions and with neurodiverse children, and has a passion for inclusive groups.

Rev'd Claire Reynolds is the Additional Needs and Disability Advisor as well as parish priest. Claire works hard to champion positive change across the Diocese as an advocate for access, inclusion, and participation for those with disabilities and additional needs, giving them the equal opportunity to fully take part in church life and ministry.

Venue: The Old Deanery

Led by: - Sharon Blyth, Claire Reynolds and other practitioners

Who is it for? PCC's, Clergy, Children and Families and Youth leads and volunteers

Booking: [Book here.](#)

FIRST AID FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTERS

Tuesday 9th March 2027

Times: 9am – 4pm but TBC confirmed. 6 hours training

Come learn how to support your church and ministry with an accredited First Aid course. This course is engaging and hands-on and you will leave feeling more confident about your abilities, with a certificate that lasts three years. We ask for your church or mission community to cover 50% of the cost, which is £25 per person, payable at time of booking.

Matt is a qualified outdoor and PE teacher who has been teaching First aid for over 20 years. He has taught first aid for the past 5 years full time as part of his business 'Matt Upston Education' alongside being a first responder and PE Consultant. Matt's vision is First Aid is a required skill for all but needs to be delivered in a practical, informative and enjoyable environment.

Venue: Old Deanery, Exeter, EX1 1HS

Led by: - Matt Upston

Who is it for? First Aid for Children and Family ministers

Booking: [Book here.](#)

SWYM Activate Camps

Throughout the year

With specific focusses:

Geek Factory – Feb Half Term

Venue: In person

Led by: South- West Youth Ministries

Who is it for? 11-16yrs

Booking: [Click here for further information](#)

SPREE 2027

Friday 25 – Sunday 27 June

Westpoint, Exeter

A weekend camp at Exeter Westpoint with 2000 children & young people from across the region with teaching sessions for different age groups, seminars, fairground rides, workshops, silent disco and more.

Venue: Exeter Westpoint

Led by: South West Youth Ministries

Who is it for? 8-17yr olds

Booking: [Click here for further information](#)

Satellites 2027

DATE TBC

Bath & West Showground

Summer Festival for Youth/Church groups, joining in with thousands of other Christians from across England to worship and spend the week together.

Venue: Bath & West Showground

Led by: Satellites

Who is it for? 11-17yr olds

Booking: [Click here for further information](#)

YouthScape Essentials (training for youth workers)

Youthscape Essentials is designed for those exploring volunteering as youth leaders, first time youth workers and those who've been in the game a while and need a refresher. It has been attended old and young, experienced and totally new to youth ministry and by people in all sorts of churches.

[All-round training for every volunteer youth leader | Youthscape](#)

Led by: South West Youth Ministries

Who is it for? Youth Workers and Volunteers

Booking: Contact [Jonny Schnarr](#)

Mission, Engagement and Environment

2 - Mission, Engagement and Environment

BEYOND THE WALLS #19 Webinar: Pioneering Art

Tuesday 8 September 1pm

Speaker: Gill Sakakini

Gill is a Priest Missioner at Wells Cathedral with a special interest in exploring faith through community engagement in the arts. Her ministry takes place beyond the church walls where the beauty of creation inspires spiritual conversations through small and large community events. Her own art practice is drawing, painting and large textile installations in sacred and other public spaces. Gill leads residential retreats, workshops, and designs and delivers Spiritual Retreats in schools.

Gill leads Flock Arts, a multi-faceted community at whose core is creativity, compassion and belonging. Gill is co-author of *Imaging the Story*, a course on a theology of making which she leads regularly and widely. With a background in education Gill is interested in teaching and writing on the place of art in Spiritual Direction and she will begin Spiritual Direction training this autumn.

Venue: Online

Led by: Jeremy Putnam

Who is it for? Anyone involved in or interested in pioneering, innovation, entrepreneurship in mission, as well as fresh expressions of church.

Booking: www.beyondthewalls.online

BEYOND THE WALLS #20 Webinar

Tuesday 13 October

Booking: www.beyondthewalls.online

BEYOND THE WALLS #21 Webinar

Tuesday 10 November

Booking: www.beyondthewalls.online

BEYOND THE WALLS #22 Webinar

Tuesday 8 December

Booking: www.beyondthewalls.online

BEYOND THE WALLS #23 Webinar

Tuesday 12 January

Booking: www.beyondthewalls.online

CREATION CARE: Churches Championing Sustainable Schools**Wednesday 20 January**
7.30 – 9pm

Young people care more than ever about the environment. This session will equip you to support and link with schools and families through environment projects.

Venue: Online

Led by: Creation Care Engagement Officer

Who is it for? Everyone eager to see closer school/church partnerships through nature and environment projects.

Booking: [Book here.](#)**BEYOND THE WALLS #24 Webinar****Tuesday 9 February**Booking: www.beyondthewalls.online**BEYOND THE WALLS #25 Webinar****Tuesday 9 March**Booking: www.beyondthewalls.online**CREATION CARE: Using the Energy Footprint Tool****Wednesday 10 February**
7.30 – 9pm

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is a quick, easy to use tool designed to help your church calculate its carbon footprint using information from your energy bills. It's an essential step towards understanding your energy usage, enabling you to track progress over time and identify opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and care for creation. Completing the Tool can also help you to be considered for relevant grant funding.

Venue: Online

Led by: Emma Kemp, Net Zero Carbon Officer

Who is it for? Anyone who has questions about accessing and using the Energy Footprint Tool or wants to find out how it can benefit their church.

Booking: [Book here.](#)**CREATION CARE: Carbon Confidence Course****Wednesday 11th February**
7.30pm-9pm

An introductory session looking at our carbon impact and how our faith should guide us in our choices.

Venue: Online

Led by: - Creation Care Officer

Who is it for? Everyone eager to see closer school/church partnerships through nature & environment projects

Booking: [Book here.](#)

CREATION CARE: Environment Is Tool for Mission

Wednesday 21st April
7.30pm-9pm

A session exploring the Eco Church scheme and how each category can be a tool for mission.

Venue: Online

Led by: - Everyone keen to see increased community engagement in the churches mission to go green.

Who is it for?

Booking: [Book here.](#)

Bishop's Study Morning:

Saturday 12th June 2027
9:30am to 2pm

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE, DETAILS TO FOLLOW AT A LATER DATE.

Who is it for? All licensed clergy & LLMs

Venue:

Booking:

People and Pastoral

FLAGS, ENGLISHNESS AND THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Thursday 17th September 2026

10.00am – 1pm

A half-day workshop to help resource ordained and lay members of the church to have difficult conversations in their churches.

This will be a facilitated reflection led by Rev'd Dr Al Barrett and Carey Haslam of Reconciliation Initiatives (<https://reconciliation-initiatives.org/>). As an organisation, Reconciliation Initiatives has a vision for how the Church can contribute to addressing inequalities and strengthening relationships in divided societies.

As part of our current programme, we are offering a workshop to respond to the current national disquiet that for some has manifested in the need to display St George flags in and around Exeter. The session seeks to provide a structured and safe space where people can reflect on what this means for them and to explore how we can give space for all perspectives to be heard. We anticipate the discussions will focus on issues such as our identity, our sense of belonging and place, our history, and our faith. There are no easy solutions (and none will be offered) but it recognises that we must engage with the current context carefully, critically and theologically.

Facilitators:

Rev'd Dr Al Barrett is Rector of Hodge Hill Church, an Anglican-URC partnership in east Birmingham, and an RI Associate. He is co-author, with Ruth Harley, of *Being Interrupted: Re-imagining the Church's Mission from the Outside, In* (SCM Press, 2020), and of a chapter in the book *Deconstructing Whiteness, Empire and Mission* (SCM Press, 2023). In 2021 he was co-convenor, with Anthony Reddie and Jill Marsh, of an international conference on critical white theology, 'Dismantling Whiteness?'. Al is engaged in ongoing critical reflection, always in conversation, on the theology and practice of Christian ministry from a location of multiple structural advantage, and opening himself to the dismantling and decomposition of those oppressive structures, in the Church, the wider world, and within himself.



Carey Haslam is RI's Racial Justice Lead. An experienced trainer and facilitator in conflict resolution, mediation and diversity. She is an Associate Consultant & Trainer with [Onvero](#). Previously she was a Senior Manager and Lead Trainer with [Leap Confronting Conflict](#), and co-authored Leap's training manual, *Playing with Fire*. Carey had always thought of herself as one of the 'good' white people but, as she came to understand white privilege and the structural nature of racism, was shocked to find out that she is part of the problem. That learning has led to the co-development of the *Being White* programme.



9:30am arrival, workshop 10:00am - 1:00pm followed by lunch

Venue: Old Deanery, Exeter, EX1 1HS

Led by: Reconciliation Initiatives

Refreshments and lunch will be provided

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking: [Book here.](#)

PEOPLE SERVICES: Anti Sexual Harassment Training

Tuesday 29 September

Time: 2:00 pm coffee, tea and welcome, session to start at 2:30 for approximately one hour.

In 2024 legislation addressing sexual harassment was strengthened placing an expectation on all employers to act proactively in preventing it. This applies directly to parishes and so the Diocese of Exeter has prepared training to equip church leaders in this area. It is suitable for all in a leadership role or preparing for one in churches. Any employees of EDBF who wish to attend are also most welcome.

This practical session will explore the legal definition of sexual harassment and provide guidance on recognising its various forms within the workplace. We will consider the relevant laws, statutory expectations and best practice for preparing for and responding to it effectively. Drawing on the latest research the training will also examine the impact of sexual harassment on both individuals and the organisations in which they work.

This free course will be held in person at the Old Deanery and online. We look forward to welcoming you.

John Nosowski is a People Services Coordinator and has been a part of the EDBF People Services Team for three years. He currently holds responsibility for developing clergy and EDBF policy. Before moving to HR, he was a primary teacher for fifteen years.

Venue: Online and in person

Led by: John Nosowski

Who is it for? Clergy, church leadership, trainees and EDBF employees

Booking: [Book here.](#)

GROW: Growing in Prayer

Thursday 1 October – Session 1

Thursday 8 October – Session 2

Thursday 15 October – Session 3

Thursday 22 October – Session 3

7.30pm-9pm

Growing in Prayer – led by Rev'd Sally Dakin, for lay people looking to enrich their prayer and spiritual life, to support others to Grow in Prayer and to learn how to lead our congregations in prayer. There are 4 sessions to this Grow course

Venue: Online

Led by: Rev'd Sally Dakin

Who is it for? Everyone wanting to develop prayer for themselves or their church

Booking: [Book here.](#)

TAXATION ISSUES FOR EXISTING MINISTERS

Thursday 15 October
10am – 12pm

The session is mainly aimed at explaining how the self-assessment system works, what new curates will need to know about, why they need to complete Tax Returns, how to complete those Tax Returns and crucially a breakdown of the kind of expenses that ministers can claim within their roles. The aim is to give clergy confidence that they know what the Inland Revenue expects of them and what benefits and concessions are available. There is also a question and answer session at the end.

Daniel has been with Tax Management for Clergy for the last 7 years. He is a fully qualified Chartered Tax Advisor with the CIOT and a fully qualified member of the Association of Taxation Technicians.

Venue: Online

Led by: Dan Brown

Who is it for? All Clergy

Booking: [Book here.](#)

CHURCH FOR ALL – Dementia and Alzheimer's

Wednesday 21 April
10am – 3pm

Rev'd Claire Reynolds, Exeter Diocese Disabilities advisor hosts a day of training on how to make our churches and worshipping communities more accessible for those living with progressive neurological conditions, such as Dementia and Alzheimer's. Hear from experts in the field, and from local church leaders offering support and church services welcoming for people living with this.

Claire has been the Diocese's Disability advisor since 2023. She is also a full-time parish priest. She lives in Okehampton with her husband Al and two grown up children, one of whom has additional needs.

Venue: Old Deanery, Exeter

Led by: Claire Reynolds

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking: [Book here.](#)

RESOURCES FOR RESILIENCE: Spiritual Courage

Wednesday 14 October
10am-3pm

This training day introduces us to the definition of courage, providing points for reflection and drawing on examples of leaders from the past (Francis of Assisi, Oscar Romero, and Dorothy Day) whose courage has inspired others to make changes in their lives and in the societies in which they lived.

We will refer to the book *Faces of Metanoia* as the grounding for our work, and some follow-up reading and prompts for reflection will be suggested following the training day.

Venue: Old Deanery

Led by: Gillian Ahlgren [Dr Gillian Ahlgren - Sarum College](#)

Who is it for? All those interested in learning more about building resilience in the workplace or supporting others in this area.

Booking: [Book here.](#)

GAMING & GAMBLING HARM PREVENTION WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY AND FAITH LEADERS

Wednesday 21st October 2026

10:00 – 12:30

Online (Microsoft Teams)

Free of charge



During the workshop, participants will learn:

- How young people encounter gaming and gambling in their daily lives.
- The role of advertising, social media, and evolving gaming mechanics
- Vulnerability factors in underserved groups
- The role religion and culture can play in relation to gaming and gambling.
- Gaming, gambling, and their impact on mental health and wellbeing
- Understanding in-game purchases, microtransactions and virtual currencies
- Spotting the changes in behaviour that may signal harm.
- Supporting young people through effective conversations
- Signposting and connecting young people with appropriate support

Booking: please register using the following [link](#). Alternatively, for a free bespoke workshop just for your organisation, email me directly at favillgill@ygam.org

CHRISTIAN DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

Tuesday 4 May

10.30am – 2.30pm

This course will look at the various aspects of Deliverance Ministry and equip clergy to deal with the more common requests for this ministry.

Nick Fennemore is the Diocesan's Lead for the CDM team. He has various experience in the Church's healing ministry in several dioceses and spent 34 years in the NHS as a Chaplain - both in acute hospitals and mental health trusts.

Venue: Old Deanery Exeter

Led by: Rev'd Canon Nick Fennemore

Who is it for? Anyone who wishes to gain a better understanding of this ministry and are probably in their first 5 years of Holy Orders

Booking: [Book here.](#)

"Who am I now?" A post-retirement reflection day

Tuesday 2nd March

10:30am- 3pm

"Who Am I Now?", a session for those who have retired in the past few years

Venue: In person at the Old Deanery, Exeter

Led by: - Marisa Cockfield, Giles King-Smith and Philip Sourbut, who will bring their varied experiences of retirement.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided

Who is it for? Anyone who has retired in the last few years

Booking: [Book here.](#)

Vocation, Faith & Spirituality

Foundations

Barnstaple Cohort

Saturday 10 October
Wednesday 11 November
Wednesday 9 December
Saturday 30 January
Wednesday 24 February
Wednesday 17 March
Saturday 24 April

Exeter Cohort

Saturday 10 October
Tuesday 10 November
Tuesday 8 December
Saturday 16 January
Tuesday 23 February
Tuesday 16 March
Saturday 17 April

Plymouth Cohort

Saturday 10 October
Tuesday 10 November
Tuesday 8 December
Saturday 16 January
Tuesday 23 February
Tuesday 16 March
Saturday 17 April

Foundations is the foundational course for anyone exploring their own sense of ministry or calling, anyone wanting to become an LLM, take on a Commissioned Role, or who is going forward for Ordination. It covers some of the basics of theology, ministry, the Bible and spirituality in a supportive and active learning environment. Some basic reading, watching and thinking will occur between sessions. This course has a number of centres to avoid excessive travel across the county.

Venue: Barnstaple, Exeter and Plymouth

Led by: Mission & Ministry

Who is it for? Anyone wanting a taster in theology and ministry. Great for those wondering about a nudge from God.

Anyone in the discernment process for ordained or LLM ministry.

Booking:

Barnstaple - [Book here.](#)

Exeter - [Book here.](#)

Plymouth - [Book here.](#)

TIME WELL SPENT: Contemplative Ignatian Prayer

First Tuesday of every month

8pm – 8.45pm

We all know that time spent in prayer is time well spent, and yet it can be so difficult to make that time when there are so many things that compete for our attention.

Time Well Spent offers you an opportunity to put all those other demands to one side and turn your attention to Jesus. Using Scripture as the focus for guided contemplative prayer, this is an opportunity to nourish and deepen our relationship with Our Lord. In each session we will focus on a single passage of Scripture, and be gently guided in using the imagination to bring us into a closer encounter with Jesus. In doing this, we ask to be drawn more deeply into the Gospels in ways that are meaningful for us now, and we open ourselves to God communicating with each of us in a personal and evocative way that nourishes and deepens the life of Jesus within us.



Venue: Online

Led by: Rev'd Preb. Sue Roberts

Who is it for? Anyone who is open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and longs to go deeper.

Booking: Please email Sue Roberts direct on sue41260@gmail.com

DISCERNING GOD'S CALL FOR MY FUTURE**Thursday 10 September 2026****7pm – 9pm**

Many people come to the end of the summer with questions emerging “what’s next for me?” or “what more might I be doing with my life?” This session will offer some time and space to land those questions, along with some practices and tools for discernment to help you attune to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Samantha Stayte is the Vocations Development Officer for the Diocese and Associate DDO. Joel Love is the DDO. They both have a deep interest in accompanying others on the journey of discovering the joy of recognising God’s call in our lives.

Venue: Online

Led by: Samantha Stayte and Joel Love

Who is it for? Anyone who is seeking to deepen their discipleship by attending to the movement of the Holy Spirit in their life.

Booking: [Book here.](#)**HELPING OTHERS HEAR GOD'S CALL: PREPARING FOR VOCATIONS SUNDAY****Wednesday 3 February 2027****10 am – 2pm**

This is a session in which we will work together to overturn the myth that “vocation” means a calling to ordination alone. As a preparation for Vocations Sunday, we will explore ways of preaching, preaching and establishing a church culture in which vocational discernment is understood as an integral part of discipleship.

Samantha Stayte is the Vocations Development Officer for the Diocese and Associate DDO. Joel Love is the DDO. They both have a deep interest in accompanying others on the journey of discovering the joy of recognising God’s call in our lives and are keen to support others in that ministry.

Venue: Old Deanery

Led by: Joel Love and Samantha Stayte

Who is it for? Anyone is seeking to develop a whole church culture of vocations discernment within their context

Booking: [Book here.](#)**STEP FORWARD SOUTH WEST****Sat 13 March 2026****Save the date : all further details to be confirmed****RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL****Sat 8 May 2027****TIME TBC**

Before his ascension Jesus tells his disciples to wait for the “promise of the Father” and that receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit they will become his witnesses to the ends of the earth. This is a session in which we can explore together what our calling as witnesses might be now, and what specific vocational form it might take. There will be a chance to reflect on our giftings and a chance to learn about the breadth of next steps available for further discernment.

Samantha Stayte is the Vocations Development Officer for the Diocese and Associate DDO. She has a deep interest in accompanying others on the journey of discovering the joy of recognising God's call in our

Venue: TBC

Led by: Samantha Stayte

Who is it for? Anyone who is looking for space and support to explore what God might be calling them to at this time

Booking: [Book here.](#)

Courses at St Mellitus College

Non-accredited programme:

Students who simply want to enjoy our theology programmes without assessment or accreditation can enjoy sitting in on teaching at undergraduate level by auditing mid-week classes for selected first year/certificate level modules on Foundational Theological Practice and Biblical Studies. Students will be able to audit the following three modules: Introduction to the Old Testament, Elements of Mission and Evangelism and Introduction to the New Testament.

Duration: 1 year.

Link to web page: <https://stmellitus.ac.uk/study/programmes/non-accredited>

Undergraduate Certificate in Theology, Ministry & Mission:

The Certificate (120 credits at Level 4) gives an excellent foundation across the major disciplines of theology. Alongside Biblical Studies, Mission, and Theological Reflection, students engage with Christian Doctrine and Church History, gaining a broader grasp of how theology has shaped, and continues to shape, the life of the Church. The Certificate strengthens both understanding and practice, helping students integrate theology with the realities of ministry and mission today.

Duration: 1 year, full-time.

Link to web page: [Undergraduate Theology, Ministry and Mission | St Mellitus](#)

Foundation Award:

The Foundation Award (60 credits at Level 4) introduces students to the essential building blocks of Christian theology. Through core subjects such as Biblical Studies, Mission, and Theological Reflection, students begin to explore how faith and practice inform one another. The programme encourages theological reflection on practical aspects of theology, ministry and mission, providing an accessible entry point for those beginning formal theological study or exploring vocational discernment.

Duration: 1 year, part-time.

Link to web page: [Undergraduate Theology, Ministry and Mission | St Mellitus](#)

EXPLORING THE ENNEAGRAM

Saturday 26 – Sunday 27 September

9am – 5pm

See the poster below for more information

Venue: EX5 5LL

Led by: Judy Friend and Jeanie Honey

Who is it for? Those who would like to get to know themselves and their families and colleagues better.

Booking: Please email Judy Friend direct judy@red-earth.org

EXPLORING THE ENNEAGRAM

JUDY FRIEND & JEANIE HONEY

A map of human development and growth
A powerful resource for understanding self & others

An Introduction to The Enneagram

Understanding a person's Enneagram type helps us to see why people are so different and why we behave the way we do. Each of the nine Enneagram types has a different focus of attention which consistently influences where our energy goes and how we respond. The particular drive and focus of our type are often not in our conscious awareness and yet they are at the core of our reactions, behaviour and relationships. Once we have an understanding of our type, we have the freedom and awareness to wake up and choose to behave in different, less reactive ways.

Would you like an opportunity to get to know yourself and your family, colleagues and those you accompany better? The wisdom of the Enneagram is profound and very helpful for all the relationships in your life.

Come and join us on **26/27 September 2026** (9am-5pm) in the beautiful Exe Valley where we will use the Enneagram as a tool to explore our motivations and behaviours. This is an exciting opportunity to learn from each other and from 2 people who have been studying the Enneagram for many years.

We offer a stunning Studio space on the banks of the River Exe. Refreshments and cakes are provided; please bring your own lunch.

Total cost for the 2 days is £120 (Concessions are available). Book soon as spaces are limited. It is non-residential; advice on local accommodation is available on booking - judy@red-earth.org



ABOUT US



Jeanie Honey is an accredited Enneagram teacher and coach. More details at www.exeterenneagram.com



Judy Friend is a Psychosynthesis Counsellor (BACP) and Enneagram coach. More details at www.judyfriendcounselling.com and contact her at judy@red-earth.org

Your Enneagram Type

You will get more out of the weekend if you have had an Enneagram typing interview beforehand. You can book one with Jeanie: email her at exeterenneagram@gmail.com. If you want to take an on-line test, there is only one we recommend, which is the Enneagram Compass test. <https://cpenneagram.com/taketestnow>

Directions

Higher Mill, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5LL. Important note: putting EX5 5LL in your satnav will bring you via Thorverton which is a very narrow difficult lane. Put Bickleigh Castle EX16 8RP in satnav and Higher Mill is the next house on left - 1 mile beyond the Castle.

Worship and Preaching

GROW: Preaching

Wednesday 7 October: Session 1

Wednesday 14 October: Session 2

Wednesday 21 October: Session 3

Wednesday 28 October: Session 4

Wednesday 25 November: Session 5

All sessions will take place from 7.30 – 9pm

For lay people undertaking or considering undertaking occasional preaching in their local churches. These sessions cover the basics of sermon content, handling Biblical texts, structuring a sermon and practical preparation. There are 5 sessions to this Grow course.

Venue: Online

Led by: Philip Sourbut

Who is it for? For all those who are interested in preaching

Booking: [Book here.](#)

PREACHING THE LECTIONARY GOSPEL: Mark

Wednesday 18 November

10am – 1pm

The session description can be: This session will think about ways in which we can effectively preach from the Gospels, looking specifically at Mark ahead of the coming lectionary year. We'll consider context, themes and the distinctive flavour of Mark's Gospel and think about how we might engage afresh with the story of Jesus, according to Mark!

Anna is a Lecturer and Tutor at St Mellitus College, South West. She has a PhD in Theology looking at hermeneutics and the doctrine of Scripture. She has previously been a Tutor for Oxford Diocese and has worked in school chaplaincy. She is passionate about making Theology accessible and related to the reality of everyday faith.

Venue: Old Deanery, Exeter

Led by: Dr Anna Hutchinson [Dr Anna Hutchinson | St Mellitus](#)

Who is it for? For all those who preach

Booking: [Book here.](#)

Leadership and Management

COMMS: Planning Great Christmas Communications

Thursday 10 September

2pm – 3pm

Everything you need to know to plan your communications for an invitation and missional Advent and Christmas season.

Venue: Online

Led by: Grace Stanhope

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking:

TREASURER TRAINING DAYS

Exeter: Saturday 19 September 10am – 4pm

Barnstaple: Wednesday 23 September 10am – 4pm

Buckfastleigh: Monday 28 September 10am – 4pm

We are holding our annual Parish Treasurer Training days with a day each in Exeter, Buckfastleigh and Barnstaple. If you are a new PCC Treasurer, or an existing PCC Treasurer who would like a refresher, then this is the course for you. If you are not the official PCC Treasurer, but are involved in parish finance, you would be very welcome too.

There is no cost to attend the sessions and lunch and refreshments will be provided.

The following areas will be covered: Legal overview, the Role of the Treasurer, Budgeting, Principles of Accounting, Systems and Record Keeping, Preparing End-of-Year Accounts, VAT, Gift Aid and GASDS, Employment Issues, Statutory Fees, Trusts and Common Fund.

Venue: See above

Led by: Neil Williams, Lizzy Anderson and the Diocesan Finance Team

Who is it for? Treasurers

Booking: Contact [Lizzy Anderson](#)

CHURCHWARDENS TRAINING DAYS

Barnstaple Archdeaconry

Wednesday 30th September

Exeter Archdeaconry

Tuesday 10 October 6pm – 9pm at the Old Deanery

Thursday 12 October 10am – 12pm at St Matt's, Exeter

Plymouth Archdeaconry

Wednesday 7th October

Totnes Archdeaconry

Saturday 17th October

Who is it for? Churchwardens

Booking: Information will be sent out following the Visitations with more information from the Archdeacons

COMMS: Using AI for Communication**Thursday 22 October****2pm – 3pm**

Learn about useful tools and the ethical considerations of using AI in your written and visual communications.

Venue: Online

Led by: Chloe Axford and Cassie Long

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking: [Book here.](#)**CLERGY FINANCE TRAINING****Tuesday 3 November****10am – 3pm**

Finance is the shared legal responsibility of the PCC, and this responsibility cannot be delegated to the Treasurer. This session is designed to help incumbents understand:

- What is needed to comply with the Charity Commission statutory requirements and the Church Representation Rules
- How to look at Financial Information to understand the financial position and sustainability of the PCC
- What the treasurer role involves and the questions the PCC should be asking them.
- That whilst the budget and finances should be driven by the Mission, without sustainable finances, there is no mission!

Refreshments and Lunch will be provided

Venue: Great Hall, Old Deanery, Exeter

Led by: Neil Williams, Lizzy Anderson and the Diocesan Finance Team

Who is it for? Incumbents and Clergy

Booking: [Book here.](#)**COMMS: Digital Ministry Skills Day****Saturday 7 November****10am – 2.30pm**

This practical day of workshops will teach basic skills in photography, filming, editing, graphic design, using AI tools, tech for church services, storytelling and interviewing. You will be invited to sign up for different workshops when you book.

Venue: Old Deanery, Exeter

Led by: Chloe Axford, Cassie Long, Grace Stanhope

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking: [Book here.](#)

TRAUMA INFORMED MINISTRY

Tuesday 10th November

10am – 3.30pm

Trauma-informed Ministry: Standing fast in a stressed and overwhelmed church.

Ministry can feel overwhelming. This workshop explores the causes of overwhelm and offers responses that may be helpful. It draws upon a range of perspectives, including Scripture, theology, trauma theory, poetry, neurobiology and group dynamics.

Participants will learn:

What happens in our body and brain when we are experiencing trauma, chronic stress, anxiety and conflict

What happens in church communities that experience trauma?

How leaders, congregations and communities can respond pastorally with responses that are less reactive and more considered, creative and sustainable

Where God is in all of this, and what connections there are between our experience of trauma and our biblical and faith resources.

Training provider

This workshop was previously called 'Trauma-informed ministry: reflecting on COVID and moving forward in a changing world', run by Hilary Ison. An updated course has been written in collaboration with the Reverend Tim Treanor.

Tim is an Anglican priest and accredited pastoral supervisor. Tim let go of parish ministry having discerned a vocation to support clergy in the midst of the complexity of ministry. He offers one-to-one pastoral supervision and also facilitates Reflective Practice Groups. Influences on his practice include service as a Team Rector, Ignatian spirituality, group analysis and contemplative prayer.

Venue: Online

Led by: Tim Treanor

Who is it for? All clergy – due to the requirements of the funders

Booking: [Book here.](#)

COMMS: Telling Great Stories through Photos and Videos

Thursday 14 January

2pm – 3pm

Every photo and video tells a story – learn top practical tips and ideas for sharing the 'wondrous story' through your photos and videos.

Venue: Online

Led by: Cassie Long

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking: [Book here.](#)

COACHING, MENTORING AND SUPERVISION: skills for enabling the ministry of others (4 Day Course)

Monday 1 February 9am-5pm

Tuesday 2 February 9am-5pm

Monday 10 May 9am-5pm

Tuesday 11 May 9am-5pm

Coaching is essentially the skill of helping someone think through their stuff in their own way. It's a core skill for anyone enabling and empowering the ministry of others. Mentors use coaching skills and bring their own experience into the mix. Supervisors also use coaching skills but bring in other aspects of the role, the organisation and the people we serve. This four-day course is learning through practice so that, like learning to ride a bike, what feels clunky at first becomes part of your practice by day four.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Who is this for?

Anyone wanting to enable the ministry of others, those in supervisory roles such as training incumbents, rural deans and team leaders, mentors, and those who may have the heart and the time to offer coaching to others in the diocese.

Ian Bussell is the Director of Mission and Ministry. He trained as a teacher and then as a psychotherapist before ordination. He has had two parish roles where he has been a training incumbent. He is now offers coaching, spiritual direction and mindfulness teaching as part of his ministry.

Venue: Great Hall, Old Deanery, Exeter, EX1 1HS

Led by: Rev'd Ian Bussell

Who is it for? Church Leaders

Booking: [Book here.](#)

COMMS: Canva Design for Beginners

Thursday 11 February

2pm – 3pm

This step-by-step guide will teach you how to create great posters, flyers and social media posts using the free Canva design programme.

Venue: Online

Led by: Grace Stanhope

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking: [Book here.](#)

COMMS: Using AI for Communication

Thursday 11 March

2pm – 3pm

Learn about useful tools and the ethical considerations of using AI in your written and visual communications.

Venue: Online

Led by: Chloe Axford and Cassie Long

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking: [Book here](#)

GROW: Digital Ministry**Wednesday 7 April 7pm – 8.30pm****Wednesday 14 April 7pm – 8.30pm****Wednesday 21 April 7pm – 8.30pm****Wednesday 28 April 7pm – 8.30pm**

The Digital Ministry Grow Course is aimed at anyone involved in church communications and tech, or anyone who would like to be. Over 4 weeks, we will look at the theology of Digital Ministry and cover practical skills for good communications and engagement in church services, on social media, through church websites and in print too. The course will be delivered by the Diocese of Exeter Communications and Engagement Team with contributions from guest experts.

Venue: Online

Led by: Chloe Axford and Comms Team

Who is it for? Anyone involved in church AV, websites, social media, magazine editing (or those who would like to have a go!)

Booking: [Book here.](#)**COMMS: Mission Through the Media****Thursday 13 May****2pm – 3pm**

Learn how to write press releases, build connections with your local media, get good coverage for your stories and deal with potentially negative media coverage.

Venue: Online

Led by: Chloe Axford

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking: [Book here.](#)**COMMS: Branding for Beginners****Thursday 10 June****2pm – 3pm**

Practical ideas and guidance to help you create a strong brand for your Mission Community from start to finish.

Venue: Online

Led by: Grace Stanhope

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking: [Book when.](#)**COMMS: Creating a Sustainable Communications Strategy for your Parish****Thursday 17 June****2pm – 3pm**

Practical ideas and guidance to help you plan your Parish and Mission Community communications in a missional and sustainable way.

Venue: Online

Led by: Chloe Axford

Who is it for? Everyone

Booking: [Book here.](#)

Bible & Theology

PREACHING THE LECTIONARY GOSPEL: Mark

Wednesday 18 November

10am – 1pm

The session description can be: This session will think about ways in which we can effectively preach from the Gospels, looking specifically at Mark ahead of the coming lectionary year. We'll consider context, themes and the distinctive flavour of Mark's Gospel and think about how we might engage afresh with the story of Jesus, according to Mark!

Anna is a Lecturer and Tutor at St Mellitus College, South West. She has a PhD in Theology looking at hermeneutics and the doctrine of Scripture. She has previously been a Tutor for Oxford Diocese and has worked in school chaplaincy. She is passionate about making Theology accessible and related to the reality of everyday faith.

Venue: Old Deanery, Exeter

Led by: Dr Anna Hutchinson [Dr Anna Hutchinson | St Mellitus](#)

Who is it for? For all those who preach

Booking: [Book here.](#)

BISHOP'S TEACHING MORNING: JOHN 13-17

Saturday 21 November 2026 – AM Plymouth

Tuesday 16 March 2027 – AM Barnstaple

Wednesday 7 July 2027 – PM Exeter

What would you say to your closest friends, your nearest and dearest, the night before you died? What would you do? How would you be? Maybe more important for Christians is to know what Jesus would say, do and be when he knew he was about to die.

Well, we have an account, given to us in the Gospel of John, Chapters 13 to 17. It's also where Jesus unpacks what it means to follow him and along with the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' most prolonged and substantial piece of teaching in the gospels. But it takes some unpacking and understanding.

So, join Bishop Mike to unwrap the gift of John 13-17. The dates and locations are

- **Saturday 21 November 2026** – AM Plymouth – St. Aidan's Church, St. Aidens Church, 42 W Malling Ave, Ernesettle, Plymouth PL5 2SS
- **Tuesday 16 March 2027** – AM Barnstaple - St Peter and St Mary Magdalene, Barnstaple
- **Wednesday 7 July 2027** – PM Exeter – Co Church, Lower Summerlands, Exeter EX1 2LJ

Times for the morning sessions will be 9am coffee/arrival, 9.30am start, 12.30pm finish

Time for the afternoon session will 1.30pm refreshments/arrival, 2pm start, 4.30/5pm finish

Led by: Bishop Mike

Refreshments will be provided

Who is it for? Aimed at all clergy and LLMs, others would also be warmly welcomed.

Booking:

Plymouth: [Book here.](#)

Barnstaple: [Book here.](#)

Exeter: [Book here.](#)

Other Training Providers

Church of England

Various dates and times

Church of England Webinars

The Church of England is offering a range of webinars to resource your church and church leaders.



Led by: Church of England

Booking: For booking and further information regarding these webinars please [visit](#)

Church support hub

Various dates and times

The Church Support Hub is a website which offers resources and learning to support people, churches and dioceses to Grow, and to realise the Church's Vision and Strategy in parishes and local communities.

Whether you are a leader in a diocese, church or network context, you can access a range of resources, from webinars, videos and online courses to research, policy and practice guides, and inspiring stories designed for you. Content is developed with specific audiences in mind.

The site's search feature is designed to enable you to find the learning and resources you most need in just a few clicks. You can also connect with others working on the same theme or approach by reaching out to those sharing their work and peer networks.



CHURCH SUPPORT HUB

LED BY: The Church Support Hub

Booking: For booking and further information regarding these resources [please visit](#)

Exeter Cathedral events

Various dates and times



Please refer to their website for information on various events.

Led by: Exeter Cathedral

Booking: For booking and further information regarding these events [please visit:](#)

SWYM

Various dates and times

What We Do

We place trainee Children and Youth Workers with churches, local ministries and schools work projects throughout the region. We also resource local churches with training events, residentials and leadership development opportunities for young people.



SWYM work with local partners to put positive Christian role models wherever children and young people are. We want to reach out to those who don't know Jesus and share the love of God with them. We also want to see young people become Christians and then encourage them to be a shining light where they are.

We now also offer opportunities to engage in missional leadership in settings around the South West for those with a heart for community transformation. We are excited about seeing how we might resource local churches to reach out to their community in new ways.

We have a great team based across the region, but we need many more people to join us in our mission to the people of the South West.

Led by: SWYM

Further information [please visit](#)

SPIRITUS COLLEGE

Various dates and times

Spiritus, formerly called SWMTC (South West Ministry Training Course), was formed in the late 1970s, originally as a diocesan ministerial formation course for those entering part-time non-stipendiary ministry. We began training Methodist students in the 1980s. As a national training landscape, we continued to evolve in the 1990s and also accepted students training for stipendiary full-time ministry in the Church of England and the Methodist Church, as well as partnering with the United Reformed Church (URC) to train their candidates for ministry.



Spiritus
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

As a result of changing priorities for both the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church in the years leading up to 2012, Spiritus then became an Anglican course, serving the Dioceses of Exeter, Truro, and Bath and Wells, although we maintain strong relationships with other denominations. In the past we have trained students from denominations as diverse as the Russian Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism, and the Baptist Union. This rich ecumenical tapestry continues to shape our understanding of ministry and mission today.

Further information [please visit](#)

St Mellitus SW

Various dates and times

St Mellitus College, South West is committed to training leaders in the south west in a way which responds to the particular context of mission in this challenging and exciting region.



Non-accredited programme:

Students who simply want to enjoy our theology programmes without assessment or accreditation can enjoy sitting in on teaching at undergraduate level by auditing mid-week classes for selected first year/certificate level modules on Foundational Theological Practice and Biblical Studies. Students will be able to audit the following three modules: Introduction to the Old Testament, Elements of Mission and Evangelism and Introduction to the New Testament.

Duration: 1 year.

Link to web page: <https://stmellitus.ac.uk/study/programmes/non-accredited>

Undergraduate Certificate in Theology, Ministry & Mission:

The Certificate (120 credits at Level 4) gives an excellent foundation across the major disciplines of theology. Alongside Biblical Studies, Mission, and Theological Reflection, students engage with Christian Doctrine and Church History, gaining a broader grasp of how theology has shaped, and continues to shape, the life of the Church. The Certificate strengthens both understanding and practice, helping students integrate theology with the realities of ministry and mission today.

Duration: 1 year, full-time.

Link to web page: [Undergraduate Theology, Ministry and Mission | St Mellitus](#)

Foundation Award:

The Foundation Award (60 credits at Level 4) introduces students to the essential building blocks of Christian theology. Through core subjects such as Biblical Studies, Mission, and Theological Reflection, students begin to explore how faith and practice inform one another. The programme encourages theological reflection on practical aspects of theology, ministry and mission, providing an accessible entry point for those beginning formal theological study or exploring vocational discernment.

Duration: 1 year, part-time.

Link to web page: [Undergraduate Theology, Ministry and Mission | St Mellitus](#)

Further information [please visit](#)

College of Preachers

Various dates and times

Our public events and seminars are open to preachers of all denominations. The list below also includes events run by partner organisations.

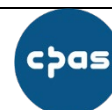
Led by: College of Preachers

Further information [please visit:](#)

Events from CPAS

Various dates and times

Local church mission is the heartbeat of CPAS. As an Anglican evangelical mission agency, we believe that the message of the gospel is relevant to all people, and that effective local church ministry is the key to seeing men, women, young people and children come to faith in Christ.



Led by: CPAS

Further information [please visit:](#)

Events from Sarum College

Various dates and times

Sarum College is a learning community open to all.

Programme formats vary from evening lectures today and residential courses. Course content also varies from academic

to experiential, intensive to leisurely. Life experience feeds into our tailored approach to learning and theological exploration within a community of people who want to develop as thinkers and leaders.



Sarum College
CATHEDRAL CLOSE, SALISBURY

Led by: Sarum College

Further information can [be found by clicking here](#)

Faraday institute for science and religion

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion is a Cambridge-based interdisciplinary research institute improving public understanding of religious beliefs in relation to the sciences. Hear from Faraday Institution researchers and from the wider UK battery research and innovation community at these upcoming events. Connect with the team and collaborate.



Led by: Faraday Institute

Further information [Click here to find out more information](#)

St Martin in the Fields

Lectures & Courses from St Martins in the Fields can be found on their website.

Led by: St Martin in the Fields

Further information [Click here to view](#)



Looking for learning resources

The St Paul's Cathedral learning library holds hundreds of films, podcasts and written resources for adults and children.



Led by: St Paul's Cathedral

Further information [Click here to browse](#)

Pioneering Parishes

Low cost online workshops from CMS
Pioneering Parishes provides tools to help parishes become more outward looking, enabling parish priests and their churches to extend the care of souls into all the parish.



[Click here for further information](#)

Funding grants from Sarum college

Support for your learning

Sarum College has a limited number of bursaries available for UK residents who would be unable to study with us without financial support. We use clear criteria for awarding bursaries, but earlier applicants may receive preference where all other application eligibility criteria are equivalent.

Further information can be found on their [website](#)



New Wine Leadership Network

Equipping Leaders, Empowering Younger Generations & Multiplying churches

Leading a church is a calling filled with significant possibility and potential but carries with it a weight of responsibility and challenge. Our experience is that the more we journey with others the better leaders we become. That's why we created the **New Wine Leadership Network**—a movement of church leaders committed to **seeing local churches thrive, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and transforming their communities.**

You're on the **frontline of Kingdom work** and we are here to help, equip, encourage, and walk **alongside you** in every season of leadership.

Led by: the **New Wine Leadership Network**

Further information [Click here to view](#)

SAVE THE DATE....

Saturday 12 June 2027

Bishop's Study Morning - Exeter

**9am coffee/arrival 9.30am start and finish at 1pm
with lunch.**

**Please save the date, further details and booking link
will follow in due course.**

9 - Save the date.