



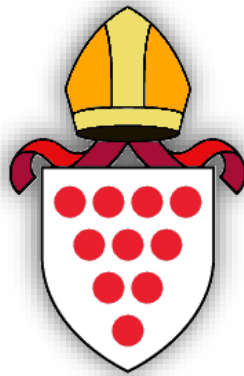
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF  
WORCESTER

## Training & Events Programme

**SUMMER 2024**

*A range of training and events in the  
Diocese of Worcester*



Kingdom People

love • compassion • justice • freedom

Dear Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our offering of training and learning opportunities for Spring and Summer 2024. As always, there is a rich mixture of focus and content from the very practical to the very spiritual (not that these are mutually exclusive!). We are extremely grateful to all who help to make these opportunities available, and are blessed to have a richness of knowledge and wisdom in the diocese upon which we can draw.







As we continue to pursue our diocesan vision to Grow as Kingdom People, and our particular priority in the Mission and Ministry Team to “Equip Ministers for Mission”, we are very keen to hear from you if there are any particular learning opportunities you would like us to develop as we seek to grow healthy and sustainable churches across the diocese. Do please be in touch if you have any ideas of things we might offer in future that would help us all grow towards our goal of sharing Christ’s love more fully with those among whom we live.

Blessings





A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roger', with a stylized flourish at the end.




***Roger Latham, Director of Ministry & Discipleship***



Key		
Ministry and Leadership	Buildings and Churchyards	Governance and Compliance
Finance and Administration	Education	Enrichment
 Online	 In-person	 Both available
<p><b>FCiLL is not a new course.</b> It is a way of organising the training material we already offer, and identify new material we need to support local leadership in our parishes. You can do a single session or multiple sessions, as and when you want or need to do them.</p> <div>  <p><b>Foundation Courses in Local Leadership</b></p> </div>		




## Contents

Course Title	Date	Location
YouthScape Essentials Course	Starting 5 March for 10 weeks	Online
Lunchtime Learning - The Examen	12 March	Online
Good Shepherd? Caring for volunteers by good management.	14 March	In Person
Nurturing relationships between churches and schools: Part 2	19 March	In Person
Helping Others use Your Church – Hiring, Licensing, Leasing	20 March	Online
Overview of SIAMS	16 April	Online
Unleash the power of connection: Facebook & Instagram (Meta)	17 April	Online
Lunchtime Learning – Reading Ruth	23 April	Online
Energy Footprint Tool Surgeries	23 April	Online
SIAMS Framework: Day 1	30 April	In Person
Worcester Spirituality Gathering - Treasure in the Wilderness	2 May	In Person
Overview of Governance in a Church School	9 May	Online
Governors' & Clerks' Briefings	13 May OR 16 May	Online
Lunchtime Learning – Exploring Esther	15 May	Online
Energy Footprint Tool Surgeries	16 May	Online
Everything You Always Wanted to Know about the Church of England (but were afraid to ask)	16 May	In Person
Preaching the Gospel	16 May	In Person
Bishop's Teaching Morning for Clergy	20 May	In Person
2024 Churchyards Workshop	22 May	In Person
Preaching the Gospel	23 May	In Person
SIAMS Framework: Day 2	23 May	In Person
Apologetics – Invitation to a Book Club	23 May	Online
Being an Ex-Officio or Bishop's Representative	23 May	Online
SIAMS Framework: Day 3	4 June	Online
Getting to know the book of Judith	4 June	Online
Parenting as a Church Leader Day Online 2024	11 June	Online
Enabling Governors, Foundation Governors and Ex-Officios to Monitor the Impact of the School's Christian Vision	11 June	Online
Celebrating Diversity through Collective Worship	13 June	In Person
Everything You Always Wanted to Know about the Church of England (but were afraid to ask)	17 June	In Person
Workshop on Funding for Church Building Projects	19 June OR 20 June	Online In Person
Energy Footprint Tool Surgeries	3 July	Online
PCCs as employers – what you need to know!	11 July OR 15 July	In Person Online
Clergy Study Day	12 September	In Person
Exploring St Luke's Gospel	6 November	In Person and Online



<b>Ministry and Leadership</b>	<p><b>YouthScape Essentials Course</b> <b>Starting 5 March for 10 weeks, 19.00 – 21.00</b>  <b>5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> May</b></p> <p>Youthscape Essentials is an innovative course for volunteers and paid youth leaders that increases your skills and understanding about working alongside young people today. Whether you're running a community project, a church youth group, or occasionally helping out on a Sunday morning, the course is designed with you in mind! It's not about the numbers of young people attending, it's about putting God at the centre of your youth ministry.</p> <p>To book: <a href="https://bit.ly/49udzih">https://bit.ly/49udzih</a></p> 
<b>Finance and Administration</b>	<p><b>Lunchtime Learning - The Examen</b> <b>12 March, 12:30 – 13:30</b></p> <p>Led by Helen Stanton</p> <p>When laid up in bed convalescing after a bad war wound, the future St Ignatius started to realise that he felt changed by reading lives of saints in ways he was not be reading romantic adventures. Out of that realisation he developed a whole approach to spirituality which above all he put into his Spiritual Exercises.</p> <p>One of the key disciplines that he developed as part of that is known as the Examen (the normal Spanish word for exam). This refers to a reflection, usually undertaken near the end of the day, that recalls the past day, and tries to notice what was going on, where God was, and where the person was moving more towards or away from, the presence of God. There are several different versions of how to do this, still sharing the same broad approach.</p> <p>In this lunchtime learning session, Helen Stanton will explore how we can make the most of the Examen as a regular spiritual discipline. She is particularly focussed on doing this a positive exercise about growing our relationship with God, and avoiding the common danger of using it as a way of beating ourselves up for mistakes.</p> <p>Helen Stanton is the Warden of Holland House, and a lay theologian. She has trained lay and ordained people for ministry, most recently at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. She is also an experienced leader of quiet days and retreats.</p> <p>To book: <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/nxDppWCwBT">https://forms.office.com/e/nxDppWCwBT</a></p> 
<b>Governance and Compliance</b>	<p><b>Good Shepherd? Caring for volunteers by good management.</b> <b>14 March, 13:00 – 16:00</b></p> <p>This 3 hour, in person, training will be led by Jo Hyrons from HR and Alison Maddocks, Dean of Smaller Churches. Together, in conversation and using case studies, we will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The place of volunteering in the family of the church, including recruitment and retention.</li> <li>• Good principles and practice in managing volunteers.</li> <li>• When is a volunteer no longer a volunteer – understanding employment.</li> <li>• Keeping the show on the road, including dealing with conflict.</li> </ul> <p>To book: <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/CuKXwvgs3r">https://forms.office.com/e/CuKXwvgs3r</a></p>  




Education	<p><b>Nurturing relationships between churches and schools: Part 2</b> <b>19 March, 10:00 – 12:30</b></p> <p>Establishing and maintaining strong effective relationships between school and the local church has far reaching benefits to the community as a whole. This mutual relationship can support both the school and church community to flourish. In this course we will explore how to build strong relationships as well as look at activities that school and church can do together in order to support the flourishing of all.</p> <p>This is a 2-part course designed to help school and church work closely together.</p> <p>Part 2 is designed for clergy and headteachers to work together to begin to plan activities to embed a strong, mutual relationship.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> email <a href="mailto:education@cofe-worcester.org">education@cofe-worcester.org</a></p> 
Buildings and Churchyards	<p><b>Helping Others use Your Church – Hiring, Licensing, Leasing</b> <b>20 March, 14:00 – 16:00</b></p> <p>Enabling others to use your church or church hall is a regular administrative task for parish staff and volunteers. There are lots of practical and legal hoops in hiring, licensing or leasing the use of your spaces to third parties and this session will go through best practice in dealing with these procedures. For clergy, churchwardens, PCC secretaries/treasurers, parish administrators and others who may be involved in this work.</p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/0pyu81zSyz">https://forms.office.com/e/0pyu81zSyz</a></p>  





Education	<p><b>Overview of SIAMS</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>16 April, 18:00 – 20:00</b></span></p> <p>This course is particularly suitable for governors, school leaders and clergy.</p> <p>The session provides delegates with an overview of the SIAMS Framework 2023 for Inspection. It outlines the importance for each school in determining a distinctive Christian vision and gives a sum-mary of the 7 questions which make up the Framework.</p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/KdDEtWd5RG">https://forms.office.com/e/KdDEtWd5RG</a> or email <a href="mailto:education@cofe-worcester.co.uk">education@cofe-worcester.co.uk</a>.</p> 
Finance and Administration	<p><b>Unleash the power of connection: Facebook &amp; Instagram (Meta)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>17 April, 14:00 – 15:00</b></span></p> <p>This interactive training run by the team at Nexus Creative and supported by the diocesan comms team will equip you with the skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Navigate Meta Business Suite:</b> Discover the central hub for managing your Facebook and Instagram accounts.</li> <li>• <b>Connect your accounts:</b> By unifying your church’s Instagram and Facebook in Meta Suite we show you how you can simplify your workflow and leverage the power of both platforms for seamless communication.</li> <li>• <b>Master scheduling:</b> We will show you how to plan and publish engaging content in advance, saving you valuable time.</li> <li>• <b>Captivate your audience with Stories:</b> Share glimpses into your community work, services and church’s story/history while connecting with your followers on a personal level.</li> <li>• <b>Tap into the power of Reels:</b> Tips on how to create dynamic and informative short form videos to reach a wider audience and share your message in a captivating way.</li> </ul> <p>Whether you're a seasoned social media pro or just starting out, this training could help you maximise your use of Facebook and Instagram.</p> <p><b>To book- email:</b> <a href="mailto:annika@nexuscl.com">annika@nexuscl.com</a>.</p> 




Enrichment	<p><b>Lunchtime Learning - Reading Ruth</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>23 April, 12:30 – 13:30</b></span></p> <p>Led by the Rev'd Becky Elliott, Dean of Women's Ministry</p> <p>There are three books of the Bible (including the Apocrypha) that are named after their heroines: Ruth, Esther and Judith. This summer, our lunchtime learning sessions are on these three books, among the lesser known texts of the Bible.</p> <p>Ruth is one of the shortest books in the Old Testament. For Jews, it's in the third section of their Bibles, the Writings. Christians classify it as among the historical books, and place it between the books of Judges and Samuel. This appears to be roughly when it is set, a distant past for the author, who describes the customs of the period for an audience which doesn't know them. The book tells the story of how a foreign woman becomes an ancestor of the great king, David, and thus also how Ruth gets a mention in Jesus's family tree.</p> <p>Come and explore this fascinating short story with our diocesan Dean of Women's Ministry, Rev'd Becky Elliott.</p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/cK4cKDz5eh">https://forms.office.com/e/cK4cKDz5eh</a></p> 
Buildings and Churchyards	<p><b>Energy Footprint Tool Surgeries</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>23 April, 14:00 – 14:45</b></span> (Also repeated on 16 May and 3 July)</p> <p>The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool is a really easy – and increasingly important – way of logging the carbon emissions for each church and parish. The submission is made through the Parish Returns portal and the data collected is not only a way of monitoring our journey toward Net Zero but part of making the case for funding of projects.</p> <p>The deadline for submitting information is 31 July, all you need are your energy bills and details of travel expenses paid to clergy, staff and volunteers.</p> <p>We're putting on a series of short surgeries to help the process along, do join if you need some help in completing your return.</p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/EciuVeNVBe">https://forms.office.com/e/EciuVeNVBe</a></p> 
Education	<p><b>SIAMS Framework: Day 1</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>30 April, 10:00 – 15:30</b></span> <b>Vision and Leadership - <i>Focusing on Inspection</i></b> <b>Questions 1, 2, 4 &amp; 5</b></p> <p>This course is particularly suitable for governors, school leaders and clergy.</p> <p>This course is run in conjunction with <i>SIAMS Framework 2023 Day 2: The Impact of Collective Worship</i> and <i>SIAMS Framework 2023 Day 3 The Effectiveness of Religious Education</i>. This course focuses on question 1 Vision and Leadership, helping schools to interpret the requirement of adopting a vision rooted in theology.</p> <p>Questions 2,4 and 5 will also be explored in detail, as well as systems for self-evaluation.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</a></p> <p><b>To Book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/3z7GkWsiBH">https://forms.office.com/e/3z7GkWsiBH</a> or email <a href="mailto:education@cofe-worcester.co.uk">education@cofe-worcester.co.uk</a></p> 






Enrichment	<p><b>Worcester Spirituality Gathering - Treasure in the Wilderness: Desert spirituality for uncertain times</b></p> <p><b>2 May, 9:30 (for 10:00) – 12:30</b> <b>Optional free soup lunch until 1:30</b></p> <p>A morning of learning, reflection and sharing facilitated by Canon Dr Andrew Mayes TSSF.</p> <p><b>Who is the meeting for?</b> The Gathering is for anyone who is seeking to explore their spiritual awareness and deepen their faithfulness in the life of prayer. It is also likely to be helpful for those who are involved in the work of accompanying and listening to others on their spiritual journeys, whether they regard this work as ‘spiritual direction’ or are called to a more informal ministry of walking alongside others.</p> <p><b>The Purpose of the Gathering</b> Andrew will be sharing and developing spiritual insights and experience which he has published in his latest book entitled Treasure in the Wilderness. In his introduction he writes: ‘The wilderness reveals unexpected, priceless treasures of transformative wisdom which speak into our own contemporary spiritual search. We see how these gems energize and inspire our discipleship or spiritual practice. As we embark on this spiritual quest, we may never be the same again!’</p> <p>Free Simple Lunch: There will be an opportunity to stay for up to a further hour until 1.30pm to meet and share over a free ploughman’s lunch for those who wish to do so – please book in beforehand (by Monday 29th April) to order yours and indicate any dietary requirements.</p> <p>Please contact: Elaine Voice (<a href="mailto:elaine.voice7@gmail.com">elaine.voice7@gmail.com</a> or 07747 607216). It would help us to know beforehand if you plan to attend, but pre-booking is not a requirement - just turn up on the day!</p> <p>There is no charge for attending the Gathering, but we will be inviting donations towards the expenses of the session.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">St. Cecilia's Church Centre, Kidderminster</a></p>	
Education	<p><b>Overview of Governance in a Church School</b></p> <p><b>9 May 18:00 – 20:00</b></p> <p>Suitable for governors who are either new to a church school, or who wish to refresh their knowledge and understanding, this training session will address the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ statutory responsibilities and core function of governance</li> <li>▪ church schools</li> <li>▪ Church of England developments in education</li> <li>▪ the role of a school governor</li> <li>▪ the responsibilities of a foundation governor</li> <li>▪ SIAMS church school inspection</li> </ul> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/nfGQskQc6L">https://forms.office.com/e/nfGQskQc6L</a> or email <a href="mailto:education@cofe-worcester.co.uk">education@cofe-worcester.co.uk</a></p>	

Education	<p><b>Governors' &amp; Clerks' Briefings</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>13 May 18:00 – 19:00</b> <b>OR 16 May 18:00 – 19:00</b></span></p> <p>Topics covered at the termly briefings will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SIAMS,</li> <li>• Ofsted,</li> <li>• Governance,</li> <li>• Monitoring,</li> <li>• Multi-Academy Trusts,</li> <li>• Headteacher recruitment,</li> <li>• Data, attainment and progress,</li> <li>• Staff and governor wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/NvBnRYnHqN">https://forms.office.com/e/NvBnRYnHqN</a> or email <a href="mailto:education@cofe-worcester.co.uk">education@cofe-worcester.co.uk</a>.</p> 
Enrichment	<p><b>Lunchtime Learning – Exploring Esther</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>15 May, 12:30 – 13:30</b></span></p> <p>Led by the Ven. Nikki Groarke, Archdeacon of Dudley</p> <p>There are three books of the Bible (including the Apocrypha) that are named after their heroines: Ruth, Esther and Judith. This summer, our lunchtime learning sessions are on these three books, among the lesser known texts of the Bible.</p> <p>The book of Esther comes in two editions. Depending on your Bible you may have copies of both! There's one version in the Old Testament, translating the original Hebrew text, which famously doesn't mention God, and a longer Greek version in the Apocrypha which explicitly puts God into the story. The story of Esther is the basis of the Jewish feast of Purim, and is set at a time when the Persian empire was at its height. It tells of Esther's part in leading to a miraculous deliverance of the Jewish people in the face of antisemitism.</p> <p>During this session the Archdeacon of Dudley, Nikki Groarke will explore this story, its heroine, and its continuing relevance for today.</p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/1YDShP1JER">https://forms.office.com/e/1YDShP1JER</a></p> 
Buildings and Churchyards	<p><b>Energy Footprint Tool Surgeries</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>16 May, 12:00 – 12:45</b> <b>(Also repeated on 23 April and 3 July)</b></span></p> <p>The Church of England's Energy Footprint Tool is a really easy – and increasingly important – way of logging the carbon emissions for each church and parish. The submission is made through the Parish Returns portal and the data collected is not only a way of monitoring our journey toward Net Zero but part of making the case for funding of projects. The deadline for submitting information is 31 July, all you need are your energy bills and details of travel expenses paid to clergy, staff and volunteers.</p> <p>We're putting on a series of short surgeries to help the process along, do join if you need some help in completing your return.</p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/EciuVeNVBe">https://forms.office.com/e/EciuVeNVBe</a></p> 

Ministry and Leadership	<p><b>Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Church of England (but were afraid to ask)</b></p> <p><b>16 May, 19:30 – 21:00</b> <b>(Also repeated on 17 June in Norton, Stourbridge)</b></p> <p>In response to requests from parishes and deaneries, Doug Chaplin and Sam Setchell will be repeating this session in May and June.</p> <p>Have you ever been confused by church structures or jargon? Have you got questions about the church that you feel embarrassed to ask? If so, this training is for you!</p> <p>In this session, Sam and Doug hope to demystify as much of the Church of England as possible and answer your questions. They are happy to cover everything from our organisational language of benefices and synod through terms such as oversight ministry, pioneers and new worshipping communities to incomprehensible acronyms like PCC, DCC, BMO, DBF etc. And everything in between!</p> <p>Please let us know your questions on your booking form so we can make sure we can find out the answer. After the session, and with your active participation, we shall create a jargon-buster and list of frequently asked questions for our website.</p> <p>Sam is the Diocesan Director of Communications, and Doug is the Discipleship and Lay Training Officer.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">St Andrew's Church Community Room, Pershore</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/3AAaknkKKL">https://forms.office.com/e/3AAaknkKKL</a></p>  
Ministry and Leadership	<p><b>Preaching the Gospel</b></p> <p><b>16 May, 10:00 – 12:00</b> <b>OR 16 May, 19:00 – 21:00</b> <b>(also repeated on 23 and 30 May at Top Church Dudley)</b></p> <p>Sometimes it can be difficult to keep our preaching on the Lectionary Gospel fresh, especially when the same stories and episodes come up in subsequent years, and when the text is divided up and disjointed across the year. In this session, we will explore a narrative approach to Mark's Gospel which enables us to hear the writer's distinctive voice and themes, and to deepen our appreciation for the whole Gospel and its unique portrayal of Jesus. We will use Mark as a focus but the principles will apply to any of the Gospels, so will help in planning for reading Luke next year. It will greatly aid our learning together if participants have read the entire Gospel of Mark beforehand.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/yu59HAdbKD">https://forms.office.com/e/yu59HAdbKD</a></p>  

Enrichment	<p><b>Bishop's Teaching Morning for Clergy</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>20 May, 10:00 – 12:30</b></span></p> <p>Bishop's teaching morning with the Rev'd Dr Olga Fabrikant-Burke (Ridley Hall, Cambridge).</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester WR1 2JE</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> email Fleur Fisher <a href="mailto:ffisher@cofe-worcester.org.uk">ffisher@cofe-worcester.org.uk</a></p> 
Buildings and Churchyards	<p><b>2024 Churchyards Workshop</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>22 May, 12:00 – 14:00</b></span></p> <p>Where clergy and parishes have churchyards (especially open, but also closed ones), they have pastoral opportunity and also a site for many potential problems. They can be experienced as a significant burden, as well as a means of enriching community engagement.</p> <p>This workshop, which will include conversation with both the Archdeacon of Worcester and the Church Buildings Officer, offers an opportunity to meet and share with colleagues. What have you found helpful in dealing with difficult disputes? Where are you most aware of the need for support, and what sort of support would help? Where have you found opportunities in bringing the community together around the churchyard, whether for conservation and environmental projects, for educational opportunities, or simply as working parties and teams from the community generating a sense of ownership or belonging?</p> <p>A sandwich lunch will be provided as part of the workshop, so please indicate your dietary requirements when signing up.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Inkberrow Church Hall, WR7 4DZ</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/BkYVGAc3Tw">https://forms.office.com/e/BkYVGAc3Tw</a></p>  
Ministry and Leadership	<p><b>Preaching the Gospel</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>23 May, 10:00 – 12:00</b> <b>OR 30 May, 19:00 – 21:00</b> <b>(also run in Worcester on 16<sup>th</sup> May)</b></span></p> <p>Sometimes it can be difficult to keep our preaching on the Lectionary Gospel fresh, especially when the same stories and episodes come up in subsequent years, and when the text is divided up and disjointed across the year. In this session, we will explore a narrative approach to Mark's Gospel which enables us to hear the writer's distinctive voice and themes, and to deepen our appreciation for the whole Gospel and its unique portrayal of Jesus. We will use Mark as a focus but the principles will apply to any of the Gospels, so will help in planning for reading Luke next year. It will greatly aid our learning together if participants have read the entire Gospel of Mark beforehand.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Top Church, Dudley, DY1 1QD</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/yu59HAdbKD">https://forms.office.com/e/yu59HAdbKD</a></p>  

Education	<p><b>SIAMS Framework: Day 2</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>23 May, 10:00 – 15:30</b></span></p> <p>The Impact of Collective Worship -  <b><i>Focusing on Inspection Question 3</i></b></p> <p>This course is particularly suitable for governors, school leaders and clergy.</p> <p>High quality Collective Worship has always been at the heart of an effective church school and this expectation is built into the SIAMS Framework 2023. This course will identify the main features of effective practice in Collective Worship and highlight current resources available to help schools enrich the quality of their worship.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</a></p> <p><b>To Book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/5L8WJLsk81">https://forms.office.com/e/5L8WJLsk81</a>  or email <a href="mailto:education@cofe-worcester.co.uk">education@cofe-worcester.co.uk</a></p> 
Ministry and Leadership	<p><b>Apologetics – Invitation to a Book Club</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>23 May, 12:30 – 13:30</b></span></p> <p>The first letter of Peter tells us: “Always be prepared to give an account of the hope that is in you.” (1 Pet 3:15) However, we – clergy and lay people alike – get very little training in how to give either a defence of our faith to those who attack it, or how to offer reasonable explanation of it to those who are confused about what we believe. This is the discipline traditionally known as apologetics, from the Latin <i>apologia</i> – defence.</p> <p>This is an invitation to a meeting, convened by Doug Chaplin, about forming a book club (or if you prefer more academic framing, a seminar) to read and reflect on Alister McGrath’s new book, <i>Christian Apologetics: An Introduction</i> (Wiley Blackwell, 2023). This preliminary meeting will be mainly to gauge interest, and if there is sufficient interest, set up a group, probably meeting fortnightly (perhaps monthly) on Zoom, and for 9 further sessions – giving one session per chapter.</p> <p>This seminar might be of particular interest to clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers, but is open to everyone. Participants will need their own copy of the book. You will get more out of, however, if you have at least done the Bishop’s Certificate course. If you are interested in joining this book club, but unable to make this initial meeting, then email Doug Chaplin (<a href="mailto:doug.chaplin@cofe-worcester.org.uk">doug.chaplin@cofe-worcester.org.uk</a>).</p> <p>You can read Bishop John’s review of this book here: <a href="#">Book review: Christian Apologetics: An introduction by Alister E. McGrath (churchtimes.co.uk)</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/gt79LL7Jkk">https://forms.office.com/e/gt79LL7Jkk</a></p>  



**Being an Ex-Officio or Bishop's Representative****23 May, 18:00 – 19:30**




This session will look at the unique role of the clergy Ex-Officio or approved Bishop's Representative on the governing body of a church school.

We will review their responsibilities and provide an understanding of the position within the governing board and how it relates to other key stakeholders within the school. Additionally, this session offers an opportunity for the Ex-Officio or Bishop's Representative to explore further ways for the school and church communities to work effectively together.





**To Book:** <https://forms.office.com/e/3qLR1P2DAq>  
or email [education@cofe-worcester.co.uk](mailto:education@cofe-worcester.co.uk)






Education	<p><b>SIAMS Framework: Day 3</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>4 June, 10:00 – 15:30</b></span></p> <p><b>The Effectiveness of Religious Education</b> - <i>Focusing on Inspection Question 6 &amp; 7(VA)</i></p> <p>This course is particularly suitable for governors, school leaders and clergy.</p> <p>We will look in detail at RE within the SIAMS Framework 2023, the importance placed on RE, including the requirements for subject leaders, headteachers and governors.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/mWSGJqtiPb">https://forms.office.com/e/mWSGJqtiPb</a> or email <a href="mailto:education@cofe-worcester.co.uk">education@cofe-worcester.co.uk</a></p> 
Enrichment	<p><b>Getting to know the book of Judith</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>4 June, 12:30 – 13:30</b></span></p> <p>Led by Fleur Dorrell, Biblical Apostolate Manager for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England &amp; Wales in partnership with Bible Society.</p> <p>There are three books of the Bible (including the Apocrypha) that are named after their heroines: Ruth, Esther and Judith. This summer, our lunchtime learning sessions are on these three books, among the lesser known texts of the Bible.</p> <p>Written a hundred or so years before the time of Jesus, the book of Judith is a piece of imaginative fiction we now have in the Apocrypha. Set in the time of the Assyrian Empire, it tells a story of the empire invading Israel. Judith demands that the leaders of her town show some faith in God, and resist the invading forces. When the men refuse to act, Judith takes matters into her own hands, and the actions lead to Israelite victory. It is one of the biblical stories that has attracted feminist interpreters, in the way it portrays a bold and faithful woman taking effective action where the men have been both timid and unwilling or unable to trust in God. Judith provides an example of both faith and courage.</p> <p>Come and find out more about this relatively obscure story, which has given rise to a number of famous paintings. Fleur Dorrell, a member of our cathedral community, works jointly for the Bible Society and the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, promoting the understanding and use of the Bible. She has a particular interest in the relation of the Bible and the arts, and maintains a website, <a href="http://www.godwhospeaks.uk">www.godwhospeaks.uk</a> supporting her work with the Roman Catholic Church.</p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/n3EZUFVUip">https://forms.office.com/e/n3EZUFVUip</a></p> 

Enrichment	<p><b>Parenting as a Church Leader Day Online 2024</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>11 June, 9:30 - 14:30</b></span></p> <p>Being a church leader affects every part of our lives, including our children. We all want to be good parents and good leaders. We want to see our children flourish spiritually and emotionally. But how? Parenting as a church leader requires unique skills and choices, and it can feel like a lonely journey. Join other church leaders* for an online day designed especially for you – as a parent. Hear the results of research, share your experience with others, talk honestly about your journey and hear from those who’ve walked this path before.</p> <p>This event will be hosted by Pioneer Minister Rhianne O’Rourke using video teaching from Rachel Turner on Zoom. The sessions will be a mixture of teaching, time for individual reflection, discussion groups (optional) and space for questions. Couples are welcome to join together on one screen for the price of one ticket.</p> <p>*Open to church leaders, children’s and youth leaders and anyone training for ministry and their spouses.</p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="#">Parenting as a Church Leader Day Online 2024 – BRFOonline</a></p> 
Education	<p><b>Enabling Governors, Foundation Governors and Ex-Officios to Monitor the Impact of the School’s Christian Vision</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>11 June, 18:00 – 20:00</b></span></p> <p>This session will give governors, foundation governors and Ex-Officios an understanding of their responsibilities with regards to monitoring the impact of the effectiveness of the Christian vision within a church school.</p> <p>Delegates will be given the practical resources to enable them to monitor the impact of the school’s Christian vision.</p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/QgLM386g36">https://forms.office.com/e/QgLM386g36</a> or email <a href="mailto:education@cofe-worcester.co.uk">education@cofe-worcester.co.uk</a></p> 
Education	<p><b>Celebrating Diversity through Collective Worship</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>13 June, 10:00 – 15:00</b></span></p> <p>Celebrating diversity is a key component of inspection question 3 of the SIAMS Framework as well as being an aspect of how we flourish together.</p> <p>As part of the Church of England response to diversity laid out in the “From Lament to Action” project this course will share excellent examples of collective worship resources that underpin key racial justice concepts and wider celebration of diversity, as well as the resources developed by the central Church of England team.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/71VqaLQGZS">https://forms.office.com/e/71VqaLQGZS</a> or email <a href="mailto:education@cofe-worcester.co.uk">education@cofe-worcester.co.uk</a>.</p> 



<b>Ministry and Leadership</b>	<p><b>Everything you always wanted to know about the Church of England (but were afraid to ask)</b> <b>17 June, 19:30 – 21:00</b> (Also on 16 May in Pershore)</p> <p>In response to requests from parishes and deaneries, Doug Chaplin and Sam Setchell will be repeating this session in May and June.</p> <p>Have you ever been confused by church structures or jargon? Have you got questions about the church that you feel embarrassed to ask? If so, this training is for you!</p> <p>In this session, Sam and Doug hope to demystify as much of the Church of England as possible and answer your questions. They are happy to cover everything from our organisational language of benefices and synod through terms such as oversight ministry, pioneers and new worshipping communities to incomprehensible acronyms like PCC, DCC, BMO, DBF etc. And everything in between!</p> <p>Please let us know your questions on your booking form so we can make sure we can find out the answer. After the session, and with your active participation, we shall create a jargon-buster and list of frequently asked questions for our website.</p> <p>Sam is the Diocesan Director of Communications, and Doug is the Discipleship and Lay Training Officer.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">The Well, St Michael's Church Centre, Norton, Stourbridge</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/3AAaknkKKL">https://forms.office.com/e/3AAaknkKKL</a></p>  
<b>Buildings and Churchyards</b>	<p><b>Workshop on Funding for Church Building Projects</b> <b>19 June, 19:00 – 20:30 (Online)</b> <b>OR 20 June, 11:00 – 12:30 (In Person)</b></p> <p>Join Church Buildings Officer Mark Carter for a workshop on funding for church building projects. The event will include a look at the funding landscape (national and local) and guidance on how to structure a fund-raising plan. This event will be useful for clergy, church wardens and anyone else involved in repair and development projects for their church.</p> <p><b>Location for in person training:</b> <a href="#">Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/eBiRPSPqxxg">https://forms.office.com/e/eBiRPSPqxxg</a></p>  

Buildings and Churchyards	<p><b>Energy Footprint Tool Surgeries</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>3 July, 18:00 – 18:45</b> (Also repeated on 23 April and 16 May)</span></p> <p>The Church of England’s Energy Footprint Tool is a really easy – and increasingly important – way of logging the carbon emissions for each church and parish. The submission is made through the Parish Returns portal and the data collected is not only a way of monitoring our journey toward Net Zero but part of making the case for funding of projects. The deadline for submitting information is 31 July, all you need are your energy bills and details of travel expenses paid to clergy, staff and volunteers.</p> <p>We’re putting on a series of short surgeries to help the process along, do join if you need some help in completing your return.</p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/EciuVeNVBe">https://forms.office.com/e/EciuVeNVBe</a></p> 
Governance and Compliance	<p><b>PCCs as employers – what you need to know!</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>11 July, 10:00 – 12:00 (in person)</b> <b>15 July, 19:00 – 21:00 (online)</b></span></p> <p>Being or becoming an employer can seem daunting but the key is to get the basics right. This training course will help you navigate the administrative and legal side of employing someone in your parish (including administrators, youth or family workers, caretakers or other paid staff).</p> <p>Led by the Diocesan HR team, it will offer clergy and PCC members information, guidance and best practice in an easy to understand, interactive format including the use of short videos and case studies. A range of resource templates will be provided as well as signposting for more complex queries.</p> <p>Jo Hyrons and Becky Lowe hold the role of HR Coordinator on a job-share basis, providing practical employment advice and access to a wealth of templates all specifically tailored to the Church environment as well as offering practical advice for clergy on a range of topics from wellbeing to common tenure! They are ably assisted by Liz Toone who has recently joined the team to support the HR process.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/xLLwSzqwpU">https://forms.office.com/e/xLLwSzqwpU</a></p>  

## Autumn Term dates 2024

### September 2024

Enrichment	<b>Clergy Study Day</b>	<b>12 September, 09:30 – 15:30</b>
	Study day for clergy with the Rt Rev'd Mark Tanner- Bishop of Chester	
	<b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Chapter House Worcester</a>	
	<b>To book:</b> email Fleur Fisher <a href="mailto:ffisher@cofe-worcester.org.uk">ffisher@cofe-worcester.org.uk</a>	






### November 2024

Ministry and Leadership	<b>Exploring St Luke's Gospel</b>	<b>6 November, 10:00 – 12:30 (in person) OR 6 November, 19:00 – 20:30 (online)</b>
	For whom: this workshop, originally arranged as part of the LLM continuing ministerial development programme, is open to all who preach, clergy as well as Readers.	
	In Advent 2024 the church begins the final year of its three year cycle of readings with St Luke's gospel providing the focus for the year. This workshop is being run over a morning, beginning with refreshments at 10.00am and moving to learning at 10.30am. A slightly shortened version of the learning is being presented online in the evening.	
	St Luke's gospel is many people's favourite gospel, and that reflects his skill as a storyteller, who is also more interested than the other gospel writers in the short stories Jesus tells. Famous and much loved parables like the story of the prodigal son and the good Samaritan only occur in Luke's gospel. Luke also pays quite a lot attention to themes of money and possessions, shows us more of Jesus at prayer, and generally makes women more visible in his story. He is also, of course, the only gospel writer to write a sequel!	
	Doug Chaplin, Discipleship and Lay Training Officer, will reflect with those attending on Luke as someone seeking to preach on it over the coming year. This will include ways informed by recent trends in biblical criticism, and addressing the contexts in which we read scripture to inform our individual and corporate following of Jesus today. What are some of the emphases Luke brings to our relationship with Jesus that we can draw out in our preaching through the coming year?	
	The workshop will have a mix of input and discussion, as we also share our own insights and experience with one another.	
	<b>Location for in person training:</b> <a href="#">The Old Library Centre Droitwich (to park please use Covercroft Car Park (WR9 8HE))</a> Please note this is NOT Droitwich Library!	
	<b>To book:</b> <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/LFgt1xgbr2">https://forms.office.com/e/LFgt1xgbr2</a>	



## West Midlands CMD Courses

Enrichment	<p><b>Celebrating Wisdom</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>3 - 7 June</b></span></p> <p><b>A course for Clergy and Ministers of the West Midlands who want to reflect on their vision for Ministry</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>For further information:</b> <a href="https://www.westmidlandscmd.org/training/celebrating-wisdom/">https://www.westmidlandscmd.org/training/celebrating-wisdom/</a></p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Holland House Cropthorne</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> email Janet Fox <a href="mailto:jfox@cofe-worcester.org.uk">jfox@cofe-worcester.org.uk</a></p> 		
Enrichment	<p><b>Letting Go to Live Anew:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>15 – 17 July</b></span></p> <p>A Retreat for Clergy and their spouses and partners in preparation for retirement.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>For further information:</b> <a href="https://www.westmidlandscmd.org/training/letting-go-to-live-anew/">https://www.westmidlandscmd.org/training/letting-go-to-live-anew/</a></p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Shallowford House Retreat Centre, Shallowford, Stone, Staffs,</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> email Janet Fox <a href="mailto:jfox@cofe-worcester.org.uk">jfox@cofe-worcester.org.uk</a></p> 		
Enrichment	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"><b>Transforming Conflict:</b></td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: right;"><b>23 – 24 October (In person) 20 November (Online)</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>A course for (post-curacy) clergy of the West Midlands who want to transform their handling of conflict in their parish(es) or ministerial contexts. For 2024, the first part will be a two-day residential at Shallowford House, Staffordshire, on 23 - 24 October 2024, from 10am on the 23rd to 4pm on the 24th. The second part is then an online follow-on day on 20 November 2024, 10am to 4pm.</p> <p><b>For further information:</b> <a href="https://www.westmidlandscmd.org/training/transforming-conflict/">https://www.westmidlandscmd.org/training/transforming-conflict/</a></p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Shallowford House Retreat Centre, Shallowford, Stone, Staffs,</a></p> <p><b>To book:</b> email Janet Fox <a href="mailto:jfox@cofe-worcester.org.uk">jfox@cofe-worcester.org.uk</a></p> 	<b>Transforming Conflict:</b>	<b>23 – 24 October (In person) 20 November (Online)</b>
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## Safeguarding

### Governance and Compliance

View all safeguarding training and resources on the Diocesan website: <https://bit.ly/3F58oqv>

#### Basic Awareness course

Preparatory module and useful basic knowledge for anyone who is interested. This module is available via the [Safeguarding Training Portal](#).



#### Foundation course

Required learning for all PCC members, those working with children and/or vulnerable adults, and as pre-requisite learning for anyone needing to complete 'Leadership module'. Available via the [Safeguarding Training Portal](#).



#### Leadership Course

For Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers), Authorised Lay Ministers, PSOs & Churchwardens. Takes place over two Zoom meetings plus some preliminary and post-course reflections; further information and dates on the [Diocesan Website](#).



#### Leadership Course – PTO Pathway

For those holding Permission to Officiate; an invitation will be sent at time of renewal.



#### Safer Recruitment Training

For Parish Safeguarding Officers, DBS Administrators, and anyone involved in parish recruitment, this is now available as an online course, accessible through the [Safeguarding Training Portal](#).

