

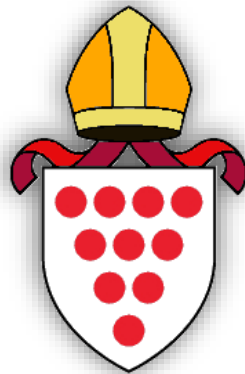


DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

**Training & Events
Programme**

SPRING 2025

*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 2025. As in previous digests there is a veritable smorgasbord of learning and training opportunities from across the various teams at the DBF. We hope you will find something here to interest and benefit you or your benefice, but if there is something you would like to see that isn't here, do please let us know!






This is my last introduction as Director of Mission and Ministry before I move to take up my new role as Vicar of Great Malvern Priory. I'm very much looking forward to new opportunities, but also to being on the receiving end of this digest. Having said that, as well as encouraging everyone to let us know of learning you would like to see us offer, do equally be in touch if you are yourselves available to offer something you think would benefit others. We learn best when we learn with and from one another in community, and in my time in the Diocese I have come to greatly appreciate the wisdom, experience and expertise of so many colleagues. So don't hide your light under a bushel!

Wishing you all every blessing as we seek to be Kingdom People,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Roger Latham', written on a light blue background.

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

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/events-training/diocesan-events-training/>


Contents




Course Title	Date	Location
ECO CHURCH Registration and beyond	13 January	Online
Collective Worship – The Heart of the School	16 January	In Person
Cornerstone training	16 January	Online
Overview of Governance in a Church School	16 January	Online
Being an Ex-Officio or Bishop’s Representative	22 January	Online
Courageous Advocacy	23 January	In Person
Lunchtime Learning — Praying with Classic Prayers Praying with St Patrick’s Breastplate	23 January	Online
Understanding Ministry Share	27 January	Online
Governors’ and Governance Professionals’ (Clerks’) Briefings	27 January 30 January	Online
Bishop’s Teaching Morning	30 January	In Person
According to the Scriptures	4 February	Online
Finances for PCC Members	10 February	Online
Nurturing relationships between churches and schools: Part 1	11 February	In Person
Making the Most of the Parish Giving Scheme	12 February	Online
Diocesan Spirituality Gathering – Poetry in the Spirit: Opening our Imagination	12 February	Online
Meta Mastery: Content & Platform Strategies	13 February	Online
PCCs as employers – what you need to know!	17 February 19 February	Online In Person
ECO CHURCH Registration and beyond	18 February	Online
Lunchtime Learning— Praying with Classic Prayers Praying with St Patrick’s Breastplate	19 February	Online
Keeping our Churches and People Safe	26 February	In Person
What Do We Do When Church Stops Working? A Day with Andrew Root	3 March	In Person
Enabling governors, foundation governors and Ex-Officios to monitor the impact of the school’s Christian Vision	4 March	Online
Climate and Environmental Crises - Part 1 Providence in the Face of Catastrophe	6 March	Online
Holy Communion in the Home	11 March	Online
Lunchtime Learning - Praying with Classic Prayers Praying with the General Thanksgiving	12 March	Online
ECO CHURCH Registration and beyond	12 March	Online
Why should I give through the Parish Giving Scheme	13 March	Online
Climate and Environmental Crises – Part 2 Hope in the Face of Despair	13 March	Online
Engaging the Bible in Ministry	17 March	Online In Person
Nurturing relationships between churches and schools: Part 2	18 March	In person
Copywriting Crash Course: Captivate Your Audience	20 March	Online
Overview of SIAMS	8 April	Online
Instagram for Churches: Boost Your Online Presence	15 May	Online
Ministering in a Church with Creeds	12 May	In Person OR Online




Register Your Interest: New Online Faculty System




Buildings and Churchyards	New Online Faculty System training	Date to be confirmed
	<p>From late Spring, the Church of England will launch a replacement system for the Online Faculty System, the portal that is used by parishes to apply for Faculty and List B consents. The Church Buildings Team will be due to undertake training on the new system early in the new year; following this they will be releasing training dates and venues (including online) for parish training. Training will be useful for clergy, churchwardens, parish staff, fabric committees and anyone else who is involved in caring for churches and churchyards.</p> <p>Link to Register Your Interest and to receive updates: https://forms.office.com/e/Ft3C2fbsFw</p>	



January 2025




Enrichment	ECO CHURCH Registration and beyond	Mon 13 January, 10:00 – 11:00
	<p>An online workshop to take you through the registration process for Eco church. The Revd. Sue Adeney (Diocesan Eco Church lead) and James Atkinson (Diocesan Comms) will lead participants on each step and endeavour to show how to progress to achieving an award. To stay on track with the Net Zero Carbon roadmap, we need at least 60% of our churches registered with Eco Church by 2026. Join us to see how simple it can be to get involved!</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/OXsPngpVUP</p> <p>This session is also repeated on 18th February and 12th March</p> 	




Education	<p>Collective Worship – The Heart of the School Thurs 16 January, 10:00 – 15:30</p> <p>This course is aimed at headteachers, clergy and Collective Worship leads within a school. Collective Worship should be the beating heart of the school. In this course we will look at ways in which we can see Collective Worship afresh and look at opportunities for ensuring that worship is transported from a 20-minute session to a living expression of the school’s distinctively Christian vision, both inside and outside of the school. We will look at ways in which we can take worship beyond the gathered meeting and embed it into all that we do in school life. We will also look at how pupils can have a vital role in ensuring Collective Worship is the heartbeat of the school not only through planning, leading and monitoring but as also being ambassadors for Collective Worship in school and beyond.</p> <p>We will aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider the question: ‘What is worship?’ • examine the legal framework of worship • investigate practical ways to create different experiences of worship • explore ways in which Collective Worship is a whole way of life • explore the role pupils can have in planning, leading and monitoring Collective Worship • explore the possibility of Eucharist within schools. <p>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/bt0iZmdQV1</p> 
Finance and Administration	<p>Cornerstone training Thurs 16 January 12.30-1.30</p> <p>Cornerstone is the new national grants database provided for free through the national Church of England. In this session, we will be demonstrating how you can log on and sign-up other individuals from your church, as well as how you can find grants, apply and keep track of the grants your successes. There will also be some top tips on grant writing and where else you can find funding. Run in partnership with the Stewardship team and Grace Wrigglesworth Parish Operations Manager, for Kingswinford.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/DbtfV6qbyH</p> 
Education	<p>Overview of Governance in a Church School Thurs 16 January, 17:00 – 18:30 (Maintained Schools) 19:00 – 20:30 (Academy Trusts)</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"> ▪ statutory responsibilities and core function of governance ▪ church schools ▪ Church of England developments in education ▪ the role of a school governor ▪ the responsibilities of a foundation governor ▪ SIAMS church school inspection <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has published 2 new governance guides to replace the Governance Handbook 2019. To reflect this change we now offer two different sessions for this training appropriate to the different types of schools.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/u7RSfySJEU</p> 



Education	<p>Being an Ex-Officio or Bishop’s Representative</p> <p>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 include an overview of the Church and School Partnership Award.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/gQeMt7f9d9</p>	<p>Wed 22 January, 18:00 – 19:30</p> 
Education	<p>Courageous Advocacy</p> <p>Helping children to become courageous advocates is an important aspect of enabling children to flourish in school. SIAMS asks us how well the school’s Christian vision inspires the whole school community to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change in their local, national and global communities. But what exactly is courageous advocacy and how can we promote it in our schools?</p> <p>This course will look at what courageous advocacy is and is not in our schools. We will also explore how SIAMS will inspect for courageous advocacy and look at some supporting resources.</p> <p>This session aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an understanding of courageous advocacy in school • understand how children can become courageous advocates • look at some key resources for courageous advocacy including Christian Aid’s <i>Global Neighbours</i> scheme and the Archbishops’ Young Leaders Award. <p>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/G7JdkK3EtV</p>	<p>Thurs 23 January, 10:00 – 12:30</p> 
Enrichment	<p>Lunchtime Learning— Praying with Classic Prayers Praying with St Patrick’s Breastplate</p> <p>Leader: Alison Maddocks</p> <p>This term we are exploring the spirituality of classic prayers, and how they might help us pray today. In the first of our series and fresh from having sailed round the Atlantic coast of Ireland last summer, Alison Maddocks will reflect on the prayer known as St Patrick’s Breastplate.</p> <p>It’s in many of our hymn books in a version written by Mrs C F Alexander. It is perhaps the best known prayer of the whole Celtic tradition of praying and reflects many of the themes of that tradition, and offers us much food for thought for our own prayers. A copy of the prayer will be sent out with the Zoom link.</p> <p>Alison Maddocks is the Dean of Smaller Churches, and a priest in this diocese. She and her husband are also enthusiastic sailors.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/M8FxTn5xXt</p>	<p>Thurs 23 January, 12:30 – 13:30</p> 



Finance and Administration	<p>Understanding Ministry Share Mon 27 January, 12:30 – 13:30</p> <p>In this session we will look at what Ministry Share is, why this is requested from parishes, and how your request is calculated. We will then look at how you can discuss splitting the request between different churches and parishes, what will happen if there is a shortfall, and what grants are available to help with payment. We will also leave time for questions. This training is particularly helpful for treasurers and incumbents, but anyone is welcome.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/dGNvVayQPR</p> 
Education	<p>Governors' and Governance Professionals' (Clerks') Briefings Mon 27 January, 18:00 – 19:00 Thurs 30 January, 18:00 – 19:00</p> <p>Topics covered at the termly briefings will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIAMS, • Ofsted, • Governance, • Monitoring, • Multi-Academy Trusts, • Headteacher recruitment, • Data, attainment and progress, • Staff and governor wellbeing. <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/AcRyMVWTnH</p> 
Enrichment	<p>Bishop's Teaching Morning Thurs 30 January, 09:00 – 12:30 (Bring your own lunch at 12:30)</p> <p>This year's Bishop's Teaching Morning will take place at St Andrews Methodist Church, Pump Street, on Thursday 30 January and will focus on New Worshipping Communities. Our speaker will be the Reverend Dr Mark Earey. Mark is Director of Anglican Formation and Tutor in Liturgy and Worship at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, and the author of many books including <i>Finding your Way around Common Worship: A Simple Guide</i> and <i>Beyond Common Worship: Anglican Identity and Liturgical Diversity</i>. He will share the benefit of his research and experience to enable us to reflect on how our new worshipping communities might best continue to be shaped.</p> <p>Location: St Andrews Methodist Church, Pump Street, Worcester, WR1 2QT</p> <p>To book: Email Fleur Fisher, ffisher@cofe-worcester.org.uk</p> 



Enrichment	<p>According to the Scriptures</p> <p>Speaker: Dr David Allen</p> <p>Every time we say the creed, we repeat that our faith is “in accordance with the scriptures”. When we do so, we are echoing St Paul’s words to the Corinthians. Those words were themselves already a tradition passed on by the apostles when Paul received them perhaps three years after the first Easter. “For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.” (1 Cor 15:3-4) The scriptures Paul and the creed are talking about are the ones we now call the Old Testament, and this session is all about how the New Testament writers used the books we now call the Old Testament.</p> <p>The late New Testament scholar Martin Hengel is reputed to have said: “If all you know is the New Testament, you do not know the New Testament”. In this session we’ll put Hengel’s claim to the test, and do so specifically in terms of how far the NT writers expected their audience to know the Old Testament, and how they appeal to Israel’s Scriptures when trying to understand Jesus and his ministry. How do we see Jesus himself appealing to Scripture, and what parts of the OT are particularly significant in this regard?</p> <p>Dr Dave Allen is Academic Dean and New Testament Tutor at the Queen’s Foundation, and is the author of several books on the way the New Testament writers use the Old Testament / Hebrew Bible.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/jrGeSN9g6x</p>	<p>Tues 4 February, 19:00 – 21:00</p> 
Finance and Administration	<p>Finances for PCC Members</p> <p>A chance for members of the PCC, who are not involved with the finances, to find out what they need to know about their church finances in order to ensure your trustee duties are fulfilled and help better plan for mission and ministry. In this session we will be looking at what your responsibilities are with the finances as a PCC member. We will look at how to read accounts and interpret what they mean, why budgeting is important and how to do it, the different kinds of funds a PCC can hold, and look briefly at how we integrate this into our faith.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/fRyU7i2qjw</p>	<p>Mon 10 February, 14:00 – 16:00</p> 




Education	<p>Nurturing relationships between churches and schools: Part 1 February 11, 10:00 – 12:30</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. Part 2 to be held on Tuesday 18th March 2025. Part 1 is designed for clergy to set out the role of church schools and look at how our relationship fits with the 5 marks of mission.</p> <p>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/ivaSB8xc9G</p> 
Finance and Administration	<p>Making the most of The Parish Giving Scheme Wed 12 February, 12:30 – 13:30</p> <p>A lunchtime session to find out how to make the most of using The Parish Giving Scheme in your church. We will look at how to relaunch, resources that are available to share, how to talk about the inflationary increase and saying thank you to those who give regularly to your church. We will also look at ways you can use PGS for wider fundraising and attracting the local community to support the church through PGS.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/sZ7q00rdrH</p> 
Enrichment	<p>Diocesan Spirituality Gathering – Poetry in the Spirit: Opening our Imaginations Wed 12 February, 19:15 – 21:15</p> <p>An evening of reflection and sharing facilitated by Professor Nicola Slee.</p> <p>In our time together, Nicola will be exploring with us the place that reading and writing poetry might play in our spiritual lives. She will share something of her own love of poetry and offer a selection of poems, including some of her own, that open up key spiritual themes. In discussion and reflection together, we may want to consider the role that poetry could play in the ministry of spiritual direction as well as the role it might play in our own lives.</p> <p>This online Gathering is for anyone who is seeking to explore their spiritual awareness and deepen their faithfulness or experience 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>To book: Please book a place by contacting the Revd Canon Nick Wright (revnmwright@btinternet.com or 07871 163140).</p> 



Finance and Administration	<p>Meta Mastery: Content & Platform Strategies Thurs 13 February, 14:00 – 15:00</p> <p>Learn how to harness the power of Meta platforms (Facebook and Instagram) to connect with your congregation and grow your online presence. This session will cover content creation, audience engagement, and platform optimisation.</p> <p>This training is being run by external agency Nexus in association with the diocesan communications team. Contact annika@nexuscl.com for more information and to book.</p> 
Governance and Compliance	<p>PCCs as employers – what you need to know! Mon 17 February, 19:00 – 21:00 (online) Wed 19 February, 10:00 – 12:00 (in person)</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>Location for in person training: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/dHbTkKPRZc</p> 
Enrichment	<p>ECO CHURCH Registration and beyond. Tues 18 February, 12:00 – 13:00</p> <p>An online workshop to take you through the registration process for Eco church. The Revd. Sue Adeney (Diocesan Eco Church lead) and James Atkinson (Diocesan Comms) will lead participants on each step and endeavour to show how to progress to achieving an award. To stay on track with the Net Zero Carbon roadmap, we need at least 60% of our churches registered with Eco Church by 2026. Join us to see how simple it can be to get involved!</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/OXsPngpVUP</p> <p>This session is also repeated on 13th January and 12th March</p> 



Enrichment	<p>Lunchtime Learning— Praying with Classic Prayers Wed 19 February, 12:30 – 13:30 Praying with St Patrick’s Breastplate Leader: Stephen Edwards</p> <p>This term we are exploring the spirituality of classic prayers, and how they might help us pray today. In the second of our series, the Dean of Worcester will reflect on one of the best known collects of the Anglican tradition.</p> <p>Many Anglicans used to learn some collects by heart, and as a prayer that used to be prayed every day in Lent, the Collect for Ash Wednesday was one of those most likely to be learnt by heart and widely known. As we prepare for the start of Lent in a fortnight’s time, this collect helps us think about how we might pray and see ourselves before God at this time. A copy of the prayer will be sent out with the Zoom link.</p> <p>Stephen Edwards is the Dean of Worcester, an enthusiast for church architecture, and the proud owner of a dog called Jorja.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/gQ7pt7ZB61 </p>
Ministry and Leadership	<p>Keeping our Churches and People Safe Wed 26 February, 10:00 – 13:00</p> <p>From time to time, we hear of a physical attack on a priest, or church member, or read a story about church vandalism. There are also increasing stories of people being verbally abused or harassed, especially online. This workshop is about how we help keep one another, ourselves and our churches as safe and secure as possible. It will also have an opportunity to explore how we deal with hate crime.</p> <p>It will be run by an expert from the Community Safety Trust (CST). CST is a Jewish community charity that was set up to protect the UK Jewish community from antisemitism and related threats, particularly terrorism. They provide the security at 650 Jewish community buildings and 1,000 Jewish community events every year. They therefore have a lot of expertise which they are now offering to all faith communities. They make no charge for their work, and offer it as a gift to us.</p> <p>This session will look at threats to Christian communities; legal aspects of security; risk assessment; the physical security of buildings; security procedures; hostile reconnaissance; dealing with suspicious people, vehicles and packages; emergency procedures and more. It will include an overview of Martyn’s Law – draft legislation currently making its way through parliament, which will oblige most churches to prepare for the possibility of a terror attack.</p> <p>Finally, given the present climate online and in the physical world, it will offer an opportunity to look at the poorly understood, but much publicised offence of hate crime: what it is, how to avoid it and how to protect against it.</p> <p>This event will be particularly valuable for clergy and churchwardens, and is open to all.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/pFs2M1KPva</p> <p>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester </p>

Enrichment	<p>What Do We Do When Church Stops Working? A Day with Andrew Root Mon 3 March, 10:00 – 16:15</p> <p>Narratives of church decline, especially the loss of younger generations, are everywhere. But what if our cultural assumptions have informed our view of ministry and church so much we've become blind to what God's doing? What if this 'dying' church is actually where we might find the very ministry of God?</p> <p>We invite you to a study day with Andrew Root, the Carrie Olson Baalson professor of youth and family ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Alongside various Youth Ministry publications, Andrew has recently completed a 7 part series, reflecting theologically on topics like evangelism, church decline, secular mysticism and congregations within a secular age.</p> <p>During the day, Andrew will guide us through secularity in the west and understanding why ministry feels so hard. He will explore the present pace of western life, the 'accelerated age,' and how the church functions within it. He will explore the narratives of church decline, and where we might discover God within it. He will also unpack the particularity of Youth Ministry provision in this age, and how we might move beyond narratives of attrition to a praxis of fruitfulness.</p> <p>Refreshments provided throughout the day.</p> <p>You are welcome to bring a packed lunch and hang out with others during the lunch break. St Helen's Church is in the heart of the City of Worcester, with plenty of eateries to purchase food.</p> <p>£12 Early Bird Tickets / £15 after 31st Jan.</p> <p>To book: https://tinyurl.com/d9zm4fcb</p> 
Education	<p>Enabling governors, foundation governors and Ex-Officios to monitor the impact of the school's Christian Vision Tues 4 March, 18:00 – 20:00</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. Delegates will be given the practical resources to enable them to monitor the impact of the school's Christian vision.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/RWpKN1B7u1</p> 

Enrichment	<p>Climate and Environmental Crises Part 1 Providence in the Face of Catastrophe Thurs 6 March, 19.00 – 20.00</p> <p>In a time of global environmental destruction and catastrophic climate changes, humankind is on course to destroy life as we know it on this planet, and the signs are that too little is happening to change this course. Is this part of a divine plan and if not what do we mean by divine providence? What is Christian hope and can this be a hope for the world when the future looks so bleak? These two sessions will explore in turn the profound questions of Providence and Hope. They will provide both input and plenty of time to talk together. There will be a short piece of reading to do in preparation for each session.</p> <p>Led by David Hewlett, David has been a lifelong theological educator, most recently as Principal of the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, and is chair of the diocesan Climate Crisis Task Group.</p> <p>(The second session in this series will be on Thursday 13th March)</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/fAdT3xS4d5 </p>
Ministry and Leadership	<p>Holy Communion in the Home Tues 11 March, 19.00 – 20:30</p> <p>Many lay ministers in the diocese (LLMs, ALMs and Eucharistic Ministers) are involved in taking the already consecrated Sacrament to people who are sick or housebound. Some times this is in the person's own home, sometimes in residential care homes.</p> <p>This workshop is an opportunity to look at the liturgy we use, and the different practical issues that crop up in different contexts. It is an opportunity to share good practice, ask questions and reflect on how we do it, and whether we can do it better.</p> <p>It doesn't matter whether you've been doing it a long time (you will have a lot to share), or whether you've just started (you will have a lot of good questions). It may even be that you haven't done this before, but have been asked if you can think about it.</p> <p>Doug Chaplin will lead this workshop on Zoom, and offer some suggestions from his own parish experience, as well as facilitating us sharing one another's wisdom.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/GgpQDL9uGA </p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Enrichment</p>	<p>Lunchtime Learning - Praying with Classic Prayers Praying with the General Thanksgiving</p> <p>Leader: Bishop Martin</p> <p>This term we are exploring the spirituality of classic prayers, and how they might help us pray today. In the last of this series, Bishop Martin will explore one of the classic prayers of the Book of Common Prayer, the General Thanksgiving.</p> <p>This was a late addition to the Prayer Book, being added in 1662 by the man who became Bishop of Norwich at the Restoration. It used to be a staple of prayers at traditional Mattins and Evensong, and is still valued by many as a prayer that helps us “lift up our hearts”. Bishop Martin will explore what the prayer has to teach us about being thankful in our own prayers. A copy of the prayer will be sent out with the Zoom link.</p> <p>Martin Gorick is the Bishop of Dudley, and Acting Bishop of Worcester.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/w60iUtYbwu</p>	<p>Wed 12 March, 12:30 – 13:30</p> 
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Enrichment</p>	<p>ECO CHURCH Registration and beyond.</p> <p>An online workshop to take you through the registration process for Eco church. The Revd. Sue Adeney (Diocesan Eco Church lead) and James Atkinson (Diocesan Comms) will lead participants on each step and endeavour to show how to progress to achieving an award. To stay on track with the Net Zero Carbon roadmap, we need at least 60% of our churches registered with Eco Church by 2026. Join us to see how simple it can be to get involved!</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/OXsPngpVUP</p> <p>This session is also on 13th January and 18th February</p>	<p>Wed 12 March, 19:00 – 20:00</p> 
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Finance and Administration</p>	<p>Why should I give through the Parish Giving Scheme</p> <p>A lunchtime session to discover the benefits to giving to your church through the Parish Giving Scheme. We will look at what is PGS, how does it work and the benefits to both yourself and your church. We will also think about the spirituality of giving and how this plays into our lives as Christians.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/1yynaKara1</p>	<p>Wed 13 March, 12:30 – 13:30</p> 

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Enrichment</p>	<p>Climate and Environmental Crises – Part 2 Hope in the Face of Despair Thurs 13 March, 19.00 – 20.00</p> <p>In a time of global environmental destruction and catastrophic climate changes, humankind is on course to destroy life as we know it on this planet, and the signs are that too little is happening to change this course. Is this part of a divine plan and if not what do we mean by divine providence? What is Christian hope and can this be a hope for the world when the future looks so bleak? These two sessions will explore in turn the profound questions of Providence and Hope. They will provide both input and plenty of time to talk together. There will be a short piece of reading to do in preparation for each session.</p> <p>Led by David Hewlett, David has been a lifelong theological educator, most recently as Principal of the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, and is chair of the diocesan Climate Crisis Task Group.</p> <p>(The first session in this series will be on Thursday 6th March)</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/rLvSe7ZZdM</p> 
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Ministry and Leadership</p>	<p>Engaging the Bible in Ministry Mon 17 March, 10:00 – 12:30 In Person OR: 19:00 – 20:30pm Online</p> <p>Leader: Doug Chaplin, Discipleship and Lay Training Officer</p> <p>This is especially for ALMs, but is open to anyone. Those who've recently completed their specialist ALM training as Pastoral Workers or Worship Leaders are particularly encouraged to attend, but anyone who is interested is welcome.</p> <p>The Bible is a significant resource for ministry, and growing in familiarity with it strengthens our understanding of ministry, our ability to minister, and the ways in which we can be supported and challenged by listening to God.</p> <p>In this session, we will reflect on overall narrative of the Bible, and some stories of how it came into being. We will conclude by looking at some of the things the scriptures say about ministry.</p> <p>Location for in person training: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/x1s3VQR2uv</p> 

Education	Nurturing relationships between churches and schools: Part 2	Tues 18 March, 10:00 – 12:30
	<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.</p> <p>In the second part of this course we look at practical ways in which Church and School can build effective relationship and work together. We will embed the principals of the 5 Marks of Mission and look at case-studies to support a growing understanding. We will also look at incentives for effective collaboration such as the Diocesan Church and School Partnership Award. As part of this second day, we will also give Clergy and Headteachers time to work together on an action plan for the building effective relationships.</p> <p>This is a 2 part course designed to help school and church work closely together. Part 1 to be held on Tuesday 11th February 2025.</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>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester To book: https://forms.office.com/e/ivaSB8xc9G</p> 	
Finance and Administration	Copywriting Crash Course: Captivate Your Audience	Thurs 20 March, 14:00 – 15:00
<p>Discover the art of persuasive writing and learn how to craft compelling messages that resonate with your audience. This session will cover writing for different platforms, crafting strong calls to action, and using storytelling techniques and formulas.</p> <p>This training is being run by external agency Nexus in association with the diocesan communications team. Contact annika@nexuscl.com for more information and to book.</p> 		



Overview of SIAMS

Tues 8 April, 18:00 – 20:00

This course is particularly suitable for governors, school leaders and clergy. The session provides delegates with an overview of the SIAMS Framework for Inspection. It outlines the importance for each school in determining a distinctive Christian vision and gives a summary of the 7 questions which make up the Framework.

To book: <https://forms.office.com/e/8V2gXr2xtz>



<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Finance and Administration</p>	<p>Instagram for Churches: Boost Your Online Presence Thurs 15 May, 14:00 – 15:00</p> <p>Unleash the potential of Instagram to reach and engage with your community. This session will cover creating visually appealing content, using Instagram Stories and Reels, and building a strong following.</p> <p>This training is being run by external agency Nexus in association with the diocesan communications team. Contact annika@nexuscl.com for more information and to book.</p> 
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Ministry and Leadership</p>	<p>Ministering in a Church with Creeds Mon 12 May, 10:00 – 12:30 In person OR 19:00 – 20:30 Online</p> <p>Leader: Doug Chaplin, Discipleship and Lay Training Officer</p> <p>This is especially for ALMs, but is open to anyone. Those who’ve recently completed their specialist ALM training as Pastoral Workers or Worship Leaders are particularly encouraged to attend, but anyone who is interested is welcome.</p> <p>The Church of England shares two main creeds with the wider Christian Church. The Apostles’ Creed is the basic creed of our common baptism. The Nicene Creed comes out of the resolution of a major disagreement in the early church and has become the fullest shared statement of faith we use regularly at the Eucharist.</p> <p>These creeds together form the bedrock of our understanding of the Christian faith, and the framework within which we carry out our Christian life, witness and ministry. In this session, we will reflect on how we got the creeds, explore why the Church continues to think doctrine matters, and finish by looking at how the doctrine of God as Holy Trinity and Jesus as fully God and fully human inform our ministry in God’s name.</p> <p>Location for in person training: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester To book: https://forms.office.com/e/xcXn8e0NNg</p> 

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 are also welcome, although no longer required to attend unless the parish is in vacancy. 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](#).



Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse

Required learning for all Clergy, PTOs and Licensed Lay Ministers, but available to everyone via the [Safeguarding Training Portal](#). We recognise the sensitive nature of the material and would encourage anyone who requires support to contact the [Safeguarding Team](#).



Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

Optional learning for anyone interested, available via the [Safeguarding Training Portal](#).



What Do We Do When Church Stops Working? A Day With Dr Andrew Root

A study day with Andrew Root, the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Youth & Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

When: Monday 3rd March 2025, 10am - 4:15pm

Where: St Helen's Church, Fish Street Worcester WR1 2HN

To find out more about this event and to book your place please click here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-do-we-do-when-church-stops-working-a-day-with-dr-andrew-root-tickets-1109223139269>

Thanks to Mike Edwards, James Williams and Tim O'Leary, three of our curate colleagues, for organising this inspiring event.

WHAT DO WE DO WHEN CHURCH STOPS WORKING?



Andrew Root (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary) is the Carrie Olson Baalson professor of youth and family ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.



£12^{pp}
Early Bird Price

Tickets increase to £15pp after the Early Bird ends on January 31st 2025

**3rd
March
2025**
10am-4pm

St Helen's Church
Worcester

