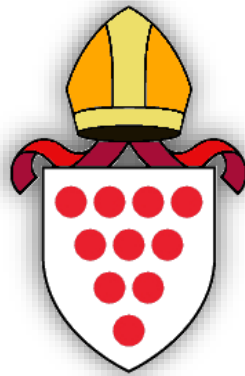


**Training & Events
Programme**

SUMMER 2025

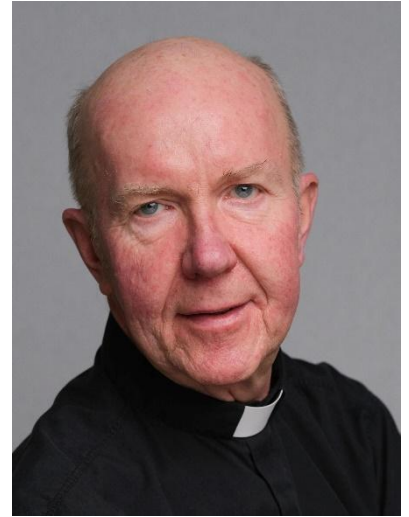
*A range of learning and events from the
Parish Support Team*



Dear colleague,

I'm pleased to be able to introduce next term's training and events programme, put together with colleagues across the learning and support team. I hope you will find things here to help you in what you do in parish, community and school, whether lay or ordained.

Looking back on the past term, I must say I was sometimes surprised by which events were particularly well-attended, when, if I'm honest, I'd only expected a small number! It's an important reminder to me that we don't always know exactly what support people are looking for, whether as disciples or ministers. Please, then, if you do have an event, a topic or a workshop you would like to see in the programme, do contact any of the parish support team to ask for it. We want our programme to be responsive to the needs of people and parishes across the breadth of the diocese.






Over the following pages there are new events and fresh training, alongside some regular reappearances. One I will particularly draw attention to here is that Sam Setchell and I are repeating the "Everything you want to know about the Church of England ..." workshop. This may be particularly useful to those newly elected to PCCs after the APCM, and you might want to point them towards it. And do encourage them, if they don't already get it, to sign up to the diocesan mailing, and get all the latest news as well as reminders of events and training coming up.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Doug Chaplin
Discipleship and Lay Training Officer



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
Stations of the Cross (a meditation for Holy Week)	Wed 16 th April	Online
Worcester Diocesan Spirituality Gathering Hope, Holiness and Silence: A Spiritual Path for a Dangerous World	Thurs 1 st May	In Person
Finances for PCC Members	Thurs 1 st May	Online
SIAMS Framework: Day 1 Vision and Leadership	Thurs 1 st May	In Person
Bishop's Teaching Morning	Tues 6 th May	In Person
Parent with Confidence	Tues 6 th May	In Person
Joint Councils Workshop	Wed 7 th May	In Person
Overview of Governance in a Church School	Wed 7 th May	Online
An Introduction to Digital Giving	Thurs 8 th May	Online
Ministering in a Church with Creeds	Mon 12 th May	In Person OR Online
Introduction to the Buildings Management Portal	Mon 12 th May	In Person
Governors' and Governance Professionals' (Clerks') Briefings	Mon 12 th May Thurs 15 th May	Online
Celebration of Smaller Churches	Tues 13 th May	In Person
Lunchtime Learning - on three Marys of the Bible. Miriam: poet and prophet	Wed 14 th May	Online
Instagram for Churches: Boost Your Online Presence	Thurs 15 th May	Online
Gospel of Life	Mon 19 th May	In Person OR Online
Being an Ex-Officio or Bishop's Representative	Wed 21 st May	Online
SIAMS Framework: Day 2 The Impact of Collective Worship	Thurs 22 nd May	In Person
Joint Councils Workshop	Tues 27 th May	In Person
An Introduction to Easyfundraising	Thurs 29 th May	Online
Introduction to the Buildings Management Portal	Wed 4 th June	In Person
SIAMS Framework: Day 3 The Effectiveness of Religious Education	Thurs 5 th June	In Person
Everything you ever wanted to know about the Church of England (but were afraid to ask)	Mon 9 th June	In Person
Lunchtime Learning - on three Marys of the Bible. Mary Magdalene	Wed 11 th June	Online
How to have a Generous Summer	Thurs 12 th June	Online
Celebrating Diversity through Collective Worship	Thurs 12 th June	In Person
Enabling governors, foundation governors and Ex-Officios to monitor the impact of the school's Christian Vision	Tues 17 th June	Online
Introduction to the Buildings Management Portal	Wed 18 th June	Online
New Treasurers' Training	Thurs 19 th June	In Person
Healing Prayer – central to the work of the Kingdom or niche ministry?	Sat 21 st June	In Person
Finances for PCC Members	Thurs 3 rd July	Online
Employment Essentials for PCC's: what you really need to know	Mon 7 th July	Online
Employment Essentials for PCC's: what you really need to know	Wed 9 th July	In Person

Lunchtime Learning - on three Marys of the Bible. Mary, mother of the Lord	Wed 9 th July	Online
Caring for Your Church: A Church Building Maintenance Workshop	Wed 23 rd July	In Person
Find Your Church's Story: An Interactive Workshop	Thurs 18 th Sept	In Person
Financial Planning for Clergy – During your Ministry and Beyond	Wed 1 st Oct	In Person
Short-Form Video Magic: Engage Your Community	Thurs 9 th Oct	Online
Canva Design for Churches: Create Stunning Visuals	Thurs 27 th Nov	Online

Education	<p>Overview of SIAMS Tues 8 April, 18:00 – 20:00</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/8V2gXr2xtz </p>
Enrichment	<p>Stations of the Cross (a meditation for Holy Week) Wed 16 April, 12:00 – 13:00</p> <p>The Stations of the Cross is a traditional devotion following in the imagination (and often around a church building) the last journey of Jesus’s earthly life through the streets of Jerusalem, with fourteen stations or stopping points. It is often used particularly on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent. Last Lent, our discipleship and lay training officer Doug Chaplin, wrote a sonnet series based on the Stations of the Cross, which he has been revising.</p> <p>Doug is offering an hour’s mediation on these stations on the Wednesday in Holy Week, using his poems, and illustrated by frescoes from the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Magdeburg (with which we have shared in ecumenical relationship through our partners in the EKM).</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/nWCSq8pHRr </p>

**Hope, Holiness and Silence:
A Spiritual Path for a Dangerous World**

Thurs 1 May, 10:00 – 12:30

A morning of reflection and sharing facilitated by the Rev'd Canon Wyn Beynon.

Our speaker: Rev'd Canon Wyn Beynon. Wyn has been a parish priest in Wales and England – including his most recent appointments in Worcester Diocese – for 43 years but is now retired with permission to officiate in the diocese. He lives in Bewdley where Melissa, his wife, is now Rector, so he still hasn't quite got away from the 'firm'! He is also a spiritual director and clergy mentor. Wyn chairs the diocesan Spirituality Connexions Steering Group and served on General Synod until 2021. Wyn is the author of 'For This I Came', published in 2023. <https://www.amazon.co.uk/This-Came-Spiritualpriesthood-ministry/dp/1786224666>. In it he offers seventy reflections on the spirituality of priesthood to encourage and sustain all in ministry. Wyn Beynon brings a depth of wisdom and tools for reflection in the form of short poetic and prayerful aphorisms. Memorable, profound, challenging and assuring, his writing is a rich source for meditation and for growth in character and ministry.

The Purpose of the Gathering

Wyn writes: 'Hope' became a popular catchword during Covid. 'Holiness' has never been much of a popular catchword! 'Silence'? - well, it depends who you ask. To the suffering silence is an injustice. To those busy changing the world silence is a luxury we can't afford. But to others silence is the way to holiness, and holiness is where the rubber of hope meets the road of life. 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 in a ministry of walking alongside others.

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 simple ploughman's lunch for those who wish to do so – please book in beforehand (by Monday 28th April) to order yours and indicate any dietary requirements.

Location: [St. George's Church, Kidderminster DY10 2ES](#)

To book: <https://forms.office.com/e/BVwZvz21gN>



**SIAMS Framework:
Day 1 Vision and Leadership**

Thurs 1 May 10:00 – 15:30

This course is run in conjunction with *SIAMS Framework Day 2: The Impact of Collective Worship* and *SIAMS Framework Day 3 The Effectiveness of Religious Education*.



This course focuses on question 1 Vision and Leadership, helping schools to interpret the requirement of adopting a vision rooted in theology.



Questions 2,4 and 5 will also be explored in detail, as well as systems for self-evaluation.





Location: [Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester](#)



To book: <https://forms.office.com/e/WBySWvfVd5>








Finance and Administration	<p>Finances for PCC Members Thurs 1 May, 14:00 – 16:00</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 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/izgyKr6JCK</p> 
Ministry and Leadership	<p>Bishop’s Teaching Morning Tues 6 May, 09:30 – 12:30</p> <p>The next Bishop’s Teaching Morning, for licenced clergy, will take place at the Old Palace, Deansway, on Tuesday 6 May.</p> <p>Our speaker will be The Rev’d Prebendary Chris Thorpe and will be on the theme: <i>The Life and Work of a Parish Priest - Affirming Parish Ministry Today</i>. Chris is Vicar of, Shifnal (St Andrew), Sheriffhales and Tong in the Diocese of Lichfield, and is the author of several books, including <i>Ploughshares and First Fruits: A Year of Festivals for the Rural Church</i>, and a series of <i>Creative Liturgies for Incarnational Worship</i>.</p> <p>Registration will be at 9:30 for a 10am start and the morning will end with a bring-your-own lunch at 12:30.</p> <p>Location: The Old Palace, Deansway To book: Email Fleur Fisher, ffisher@cofe-worcester.org.uk</p> 




Enrichment	<p style="text-align: right;">Parent with Confidence Wed 6 May, 19:30 – 21:30</p> <p>Discover grace-filled parenting wisdom with Jim and Lynne Jackson, founders of Connected Families. Gain practical insights and encouragement to guide your family with love and purpose.</p> <p>We are incredibly fortunate to have Jim and Lynne Jackson speaking at this event. They are the founders of Connected Families, a ministry based in Minneapolis that has grown tremendously under God’s blessing. Today, there are 88 Connected Families coaches across 17 countries, and their podcast reaches over 2 million listeners worldwide, placing them as a premier parenting podcast!</p> <p>This is a wonderful opportunity to explore a biblical, gospel-centred, and science-backed approach to parenting. You’ll walk away with practical guidance on how to parent in a way that truly brings faith alive in your home.</p> <p>If you’d like to learn more about the Connected Families framework, you can visit www.connectedfamilies.org or listen to their podcast on iTunes or Spotify. Their resources aren’t just for parents, they’ve also developed material for Connected Families in the classroom, making this relevant in a school setting as well as at home.</p> <p>It’s also a chance to consider whether you might want to bring this seminar to the families in your network</p> <p>Location: St Andrews Church Malvern, WR14 3JX To book: https://chaseteam.org/parenting/</p> 
Governance and Compliance	<p style="text-align: right;">Joint Councils Workshop Wed 7 May, 10:00 – 13:00</p> <p>If you are part of a multi parish benefice it is important that you are giving consideration to the benefits of forming a Joint Council to reduce the burden of governance and administration and lighten the workload of parish officers and incumbents. Even if you think this is not for you, you are warmly encouraged to come along and explore with others if your feeling is right. There is the potential to reduce the number of PCCs operating in the diocese by up to 100. Just imagine the time, energy and resources that could be saved, all without the loss of a single church. This workshop is for anyone interested in learning more or looking for help to move towards implementing a Joint Council.</p> <p><i>"I came convinced only a full scheme would deliver the benefits but aware of one or two potential deal breakers. I left comforted that the Diocese had solutions to overcome those."</i></p> <p><i>"I thought it was a brilliant session, and I will do all I can to promote the May sessions in the Benefice"</i></p> <p>The Workshop will be run by Alison Maddocks, Dean of Smaller Churches and Chris Boden, Parishes Resources Officer.</p> <p>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester To book: https://forms.office.com/e/TPgE9ityPm</p> 



Education	<p>Overview of Governance in a Church School Wed 7 May, 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>
Finance and Administration	<p>An Introduction to Digital Giving Thurs 8 May 12:30 – 13:30</p> <p>Learn more about the options for digital giving and how to make the most of them. From contactless machines to QR codes and everything in between. This lunchtime session will look at what options are available and the mechanisms you can use as well as hints and tips on the best ways to make the most of digital giving.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/VtRnKtQ7CF </p>
Ministry and Leadership	<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>



Buildings and Churchyards	<p>Introduction to the Buildings Management Portal</p> <p>If you have responsibility for your Church building or are a key lead for fabric projects, then you'll want to join us for this introduction to the new Buildings Management Portal. In October 2025 we're anticipating the release by the National Church team of a new online system for the submission of Faculties. This system will replace the current Online Faculty System (OFS) and will be set up slightly differently from what we have become used to since the Faculty system was introduced in Worcester c.2018.</p> <p>The training will address everything you need to know to log List A works, make a successful application for List B (Archdeacon's) permission or a full Faculty online using the new system. We'll be able to show you all the steps, from registration, to how to submit an application, including how to upload and organise documents to support your proposals. In addition to the practicalities of the system, we'll share tips for making successful applications; such as templates that are available to make certain steps of the process easier, and how to arrange photos to best support your proposals.</p> <p>We will be running two in-person training sessions and one online, though if we have significant demand we may run another later in the year. If you'd like to attend with others from your PCC or Benefice we would welcome this (provided all parties make an individual booking in advance), as we know that it can be valuable to have another person to discuss queries with when you get back to your Church (though we will of course be on-hand when the new system is introduced).</p> <p>Location: St Thomas' Church Hall, Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AG.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/5G0g4vvnvE</p>	<p>Mon 12 May, 10:30 – 12:00</p> 
Education	<p>Governors' and Governance Professionals' (Clerks') Briefings</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>	<p>Mon 12 May, 18:00 – 19:00 Thurs 15 May, 18:00 – 19:00</p> 




Enrichment	<p>Celebration of Smaller Churches in the Diocese of Worcester Tues 13th May, 19:00 – 20:30</p> <p>Bishop Martin and Revd Alison Maddocks, Dean of Smaller Churches are delighted to invite you to a Service of Celebration of the Life of Smaller Churches in Worcester Cathedral on Tuesday 13th May at 7.00pm.</p> <p>Recognising the hugely important part that our Smaller Churches play in our church life in the Diocese of Worcester, this is a chance to come together in worship to celebrate all that smaller churches have to offer. Everyone is welcome!</p> <p>Worship will be led by a scratch choir being formed from many churches, if this is of interest to you, please contact Ian Thompson IThompson@cofe-worcester.org.uk</p> <p>For any other details, please contact AMaddocks@cofe-worcester.org.uk</p> <p>Everyone attending is asked to come with three individual words of celebration (not sentences) to describe what you love about your smaller churches. We will have a tree of celebration to which you will be able to add these.</p> <p>Location: Worcester Cathedral</p> 
Enrichment	<p>Lunchtime Learning - on three Marys of the Bible. Wed 14th May, 12:30 – 13:30 Miriam: poet and prophet</p> <p>Speaker: Dr Rachel Starr</p> <p>Miriam is mentioned by name in more books of the Bible than any other woman. (Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, 1 Chronicles and Micah.) In at least some traditions, she seems to have been rather more important than the texts we now have describe after all Micah goes so far as to say “I brought you up from the land of Egypt ... I sent before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam.” She is remembered as both the poet and prophet who proclaims the great song of the Exodus, and the woman who is punished for criticising her brother Moses.</p>  <p>In this session we will explore a character who deserves more attention than Christians usually give her, and what we can learn from her story.</p> <p>Rachel Starr teaches biblical studies and contextual theologies at Queen’s, Birmingham. Publications include with Robert Beckford, <i>Behold the Men. An introduction to critical theologies of masculinities</i> (2025); and with David Holgate, <i>SCM Studyguide: Biblical Hermeneutics 2nd edition</i> (2019).</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/DB8fXELFs6</p>



Finance and Administration	<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> 
Ministry and Leadership	<p>Gospel of Life Mon 19 May, 10:00 – 12:00, In person Mon 19 May, 19:00 – 20:30, Online</p> <p>Last autumn we completed a series on the gospel of the year, with a session on St Luke’s gospel. Since then, people have asked for a follow-up session on the gospel according to St John. John’s account of Jesus doesn’t get a year to itself in the lectionary, but we read it, especially at festivals, in all three years.</p> <p>It’s fairly obvious that John is different in lots of ways from our first three gospels. Instead of speaking in short memorable sayings, Jesus often delivers lengthy speeches. There are no exorcisms. Jesus regularly speaks of the relationship between the Father and himself as Son. Positively, the gospel has powerfully shaped Christian doctrine of the Trinity. Negatively, John’s statements about the group he calls “the Jews”, has fed the long history of anti-Semitism.</p> <p>How do we read this different gospel? What are its key themes? How does it help us think about, and relate to Jesus? Doug Chaplin will explore these and other questions, as he completes his series on the gospels. While everyone who is interested in this book and these questions is welcome, as in the annual sessions on Matthew, Mark and Luke, this will be of particular relevance to those of us who preach.</p> <p>This session is offered both onsite in the morning, and repeated in a slightly shorter form online in the evening, exploring John’s Gospel.</p> <p>Location for in person training: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester To book: https://forms.office.com/e/9h5kJCBLE0</p> 
Education	<p>Being an Ex-Officio or Bishop’s Representative Wed 21 May, 18:00 – 19:30</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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To include an overview of the Church and School Partnership Award.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/gQeMt7f9d9</p> 

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Education</p>	<p>SIAMS Framework: Thurs 22 May, 10:00 – 15:30 Day 2 The Impact of Collective Worship</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. 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>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester To book: https://forms.office.com/e/VNU5GCKeNs</p> 
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Governance and Compliance</p>	<p>Joint Councils Workshop Tues 27 May, 18:00 – 20:30</p> <p>If you are part of a multi parish benefice it is important that you are giving consideration to the benefits of forming a Joint Council to reduce the burden of governance and administration and lighten the workload of parish officers and incumbents. Even if you think this is not for you, you are warmly encouraged to come along and explore with others if your feeling is right. There is the potential to reduce the number of PCCs operating in the diocese by up to 100. Just imagine the time, energy and resources that could be saved, all without the loss of a single church. This workshop is for anyone interested in learning more or looking for help to move towards implementing a Joint Council.</p> <p><i>"I came convinced only a full scheme would deliver the benefits but aware of one or two potential deal breakers. I left comforted that the Diocese had solutions to overcome those."</i></p> <p><i>"I thought it was a brilliant session, and I will do all I can to promote the May sessions in the Benefice"</i></p> <p>The Workshop will be run by Alison Maddocks, Dean of Smaller Churches and Chris Boden, Parishes Resources Officer.</p> <p>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester To book: https://forms.office.com/e/Pc8KUjecJV</p> 
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Finance and Administration</p>	<p>An Introduction to Easyfundraising Thurs 29 May, 12:30 – 13:30</p> <p>Does your church need an easy and effective way to raise money?</p> <p>If the answer is yes, come along to a free online session in association with Diocese of Worcester to find out how your church community can easily raise money for you through free funding website easyfundraising.</p> <p>Church Fundraising Manager Becky Coleman will deliver this friendly informal session to help you access unrestricted funding for your church in 2025 and beyond.</p> <p>What to expect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A live demonstration of how easyfundraising works • A run through of the free fundraising tools provided by easyfundraising • Top tips from other churches who are using easyfundraising • The opportunity to ask questions <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/tC5C3fRetE</p> 

Buildings and Churchyards	<p>Introduction to the Buildings Management Portal Wed 4 June, 10:30 – 12:00</p> <p>If you have responsibility for your Church building or are a key lead for fabric projects, then you'll want to join us for this introduction to the new Buildings Management Portal. In October 2025 we're anticipating the release by the National Church team of a new online system for the submission of Faculties. This system will replace the current Online Faculty System (OFS) and will be set up slightly differently from what we have become used to since the Faculty system was introduced in Worcester c.2018.</p> <p>The training will address everything you need to know to log List A works, make a successful application for List B (Archdeacon's) permission or a full Faculty online using the new system. We'll be able to show you all the steps, from registration, to how to submit an application, including how to upload and organise documents to support your proposals. In addition to the practicalities of the system, we'll share tips for making successful applications; such as templates that are available to make certain steps of the process easier, and how to arrange photos to best support your proposals.</p> <p>We will be running two in-person training sessions and one online, though if we have significant demand we may run another later in the year. If you'd like to attend with others from your PCC or Benefice we would welcome this (provided all parties make an individual booking in advance), as we know that it can be valuable to have another person to discuss queries with when you get back to your Church (though we will of course be on-hand when the new system is introduced).</p> <p>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester To book: https://forms.office.com/e/5G0g4vvnvE</p> 
Education	<p>SIAMS Framework: Day 3 The Effectiveness of Religious Education Thurs 5 June, 10:00 – 15:30</p> <p>We will look in detail at RE within the SIAMS Framework, the importance placed on RE, including the requirements for subject leaders, headteachers and governors.</p> <p>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester To book: https://forms.office.com/e/FGL1wJtJZZ</p> 

Ministry and Leadership	<p>Everything you ever wanted to know about the Church of England (but were afraid to ask) Mon 9th June, 19:30 – 21:00</p> <p>In response to requests from parishes and deaneries, Doug Chaplin and Sam Setchell will be running this session again this summer. This will be particularly helpful for people newly elected to PCCs and Deanery Synods, or those new to the Church of England. However, anyone is welcome.</p> <p>The Church of England is a complicated body, and it is dispersed across lots of different structures and contexts. Even just understanding some of the features of your parish organisation can be hard enough. We have our own organisational language: parish, benefice, team ministry, deanery, diocese, synod, to which we've now added oversight ministry, pioneers, new worshipping communities and a whole host of other things. Then there's the alphabet soup: PCC, DCC, BMO, DBF and so on.</p> <p>In this session, Sam and Doug hope to demystify as much of the Church of England as possible, and answer your questions. The booking form for this session will have a box for you to write in your own most burning question, so that we can do our best to 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>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester To book: https://forms.office.com/e/vGtWSDgbDU</p> 
Enrichment	<p>Lunchtime Learning - on three Marys of the Bible. Wed 11 June, 12:30 – 13:30 Mary Magdalene Speaker: Canon Doug Chaplin</p> <p>Mary Magdalene's greatest claim to fame in the gospels is that Jesus appointed her "apostle to the apostles" — that title is not just the result of modern feminist readings of scripture, it was one given her in the Middle Ages by none other than St Thomas Aquinas.</p> <p>The tradition has regularly conflated various female characters in the Bible, often making Mary Magdalene a former prostitute who has amended her ways in response to Jesus, although that is not how the scriptures presents her. In reaction, she has also been the heroine of various heretical and unhistorical retellings of the story both ancient (The Gospel of Mary) and modern (The DaVinci Code).</p> <p>In this session we shall root ourselves in the biblical traditions about Mary Magdalene, but also take a look at some of the ways others have narrated her story, outside as well as inside the church. Doug Chaplin will reflect on her role in the Gospels, and the ways people have co-opted her for their different agendas.</p> <p>Doug Chaplin is Discipleship and Lay Training Officer in the diocese, and an associate member of staff at the Queen's Foundation. He is currently writing a book on connecting the liturgy to daily life.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/KDPUHqDdri</p> 

Education	<p>Celebrating Diversity through Collective Worship</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>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester To book: https://forms.office.com/e/ce2aMKdUES</p>	<p>Thurs 12 June, 10:00 – 12:30</p> 
Finance and Administration	<p>How to have a Generous Summer</p> <p>Join us for a lunchtime session looking at ways we can encourage generosity and giving during the summer months. We will look at the mechanisms and resources that are available and how to access them, community events and summer fairs, and hints and tips to encourage giving and say thank you.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/Sn4XtBSVyf</p>	<p>Thurs 12 June, 12:30 – 13:30</p> 
Education	<p>Enabling governors, foundation governors and Ex-Officios to monitor the impact of the school’s Christian Vision</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>	<p>Tues 17 June, 18:00 – 20:00</p> 

Buildings and Churchyards	<p>Introduction to the Buildings Management Portal Wed 18 June, 18:00 – 19:30</p> <p>If you have responsibility for your Church building or are a key lead for fabric projects, then you'll want to join us for this introduction to the new Buildings Management Portal. In October 2025 we're anticipating the release by the National Church team of a new online system for the submission of Faculties. This system will replace the current Online Faculty System (OFS) and will be set up slightly differently from what we have become used to since the Faculty system was introduced in Worcester c.2018.</p> <p>The training will address everything you need to know to log List A works, make a successful application for List B (Archdeacon's) permission or a full Faculty online using the new system. We'll be able to show you all the steps, from registration, to how to submit an application, including how to upload and organise documents to support your proposals. In addition to the practicalities of the system, we'll share tips for making successful applications; such as templates that are available to make certain steps of the process easier, and how to arrange photos to best support your proposals.</p> <p>We will be running two in-person training sessions and one online, though if we have significant demand we may run another later in the year. If you'd like to attend with others from your PCC or Benefice we would welcome this (provided all parties make an individual booking in advance), as we know that it can be valuable to have another person to discuss queries with when you get back to your Church (though we will of course be on-hand when the new system is introduced).</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/5G0g4vvnvE </p>
Finance and Administration	<p>New Treasurers' Training Thurs 19 June, 14:00 – 16:00</p> <p>An afternoon for new treasurers to look at the peculiarities of church finances within the Diocese of Worcester.</p> <p>Becoming a Church Treasurer can often be daunting, with lots of new things to learn even if you are used to accounting. This afternoon, for treasurers, will provide you with the opportunity to come and meet the Finance team at Lowesmoor, who are always here to help, and your fellow new treasurers. We will cover a lot of the basics of church and charity accountancy, such as Parish Finance Returns, Gift Aid and Stewardship, and allow space for you to discuss and develop ideas within your own setting.</p> <p>Location: Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/d9Hqd1KFLx </p>

Sat 21 June, 09:30 – 12:30

**Healing Prayer –
Central to the work of the Kingdom or niche ministry?**

An introduction to prayer ministry

Christian healing can and often does involve physical healing, but it's **far more** than physical healing. Healing is not just about a cure that tries to repair or restore something or someone to how they used to be. Healing is about change and development into new ways of being to become the people that God wants us to be, made in His image and likeness.

Prayer ministry, offered by clergy and/or trained lay ministers plays an important part in this growing into healing.

This introductory session asks, 'What is Christian healing ministry?' 'What can we learn from the example of Jesus?' And 'How might we equip followers of Jesus to pray with others?' and welcomes all with an interest in finding out more about this ministry and how it can benefit our churches and communities.



There is an option for people to bring a packed lunch and stay until 2.00pm and experience prayer ministry.


Location: [St George's Church, Kidderminster Radford Avenue, Kidderminster, DY10 2ES](#)

To book: <https://forms.office.com/e/TyxbQqx444>



Enrichment

Finance and Administration	<p>Finances for PCC Members Thurs 3 July, 14:00 – 16:00</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 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/izgyKr6JCK</p> 
Governance and Compliance	<p>Employment Essentials for PCC's: What you Really Need to Know Mon 7 July, 19:00 - 21:00 (Online) Wed 9 July, 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/67LHQ15WNe</p> 

Enrichment	<p>Lunchtime Learning - on three Marys of the Bible. Mary, mother of the Lord</p> <p>Speaker: Mother Victoria Barlow</p> <p>Mary, the mother of Jesus, has been a contentious figure through faith history. A shared point of connection between Islam and Christianity, her name has been on lips and hearts through the centuries. She has also been the centre of many controversies, and misunderstandings. We reflect on her place in our lives of faith, what can we learn from the young woman who saw angels, who said a yes that changed the Universe, and who birthed Love into the world.</p> <p>In Luke's gospel she is blessed because she heard the word of God and obeyed it. She waits with the lost and broken at the foot of the cross. She forms part of the community with the disciples after the resurrection, and on the day of Pentecost. She is a woman who is filled with the Spirit at the beginning of both the gospel and the book of Acts.</p> <p>For many Christians, therefore she is also a model of prayer, and a praying companion on the Christian journey; while others, uncomfortable with asking her to pray for and with them, nonetheless value her as a model of faith and obedience, and, as her Magnificat prophesied, rejoice to call her blessed.</p> <p>Come and reflect on Mary's role in the gospel and in the church with Victoria Barlow, Team Vicar in the Halas Team Ministry. Mthr Victoria is a retired musician, now parish priest, lover of words, flowers and motorcycles, formed in the catholic tradition of the Church, with a deep love of the Church of England and its liturgies, saints and central message of a joy and hope that never stops singing.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/j5P73wsg4a</p>	<p>Wed 9 July, 12:30 – 13:30</p> 
	Buildings and Churchyards	<p>Caring for Your Church: A Church Building Maintenance Workshop</p> <p>An in-person maintenance workshop held at St Peter's Church, Droitwich, for attendees to understand the fundamentals of caring and maintaining their church building and churchyard. The session will comprise of presentations by guest speakers and practical demonstrations on how you can complete simple maintenance tasks.</p> <p>This workshop is aimed at congregations and clergy interested in learning about how to care for their church building. The event will explore how a church building typically behaves, what signs you should look out for to identify problems, and how to remedy maintenance issues. It will also discuss how you can encourage people from the wider community to help with church maintenance and become more engaged with your church's unique heritage.</p> <p>If you are interested in attending the workshop, please book your space early as there are limited spaces available for this session. The event will include some hands-on activities, and will take place in all weather conditions, so please dress appropriately. Lunch and refreshments will be provided (please provide dietary requirements when booking).</p> <p>Location: St Peter's Church, Church Lane, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 7AN. Free parking available opposite the church.</p> <p>To book: https://forms.office.com/e/bEBF94yNSP</p>

Find Your Church's Story: An Interactive Workshop

Thurs 18 Sept, 13:00 – 15:00

Discover your church's unique story and learn how to share it with the world. This interactive workshop will guide you through a storytelling process that will help you connect with your audience on a deeper level.

Bring your laptop or another device to this interactive training session.

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.

Location: [Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester](#)



Financial Planning During your Ministry & Beyond

Wed 1 Oct, 09:30 – 13:00

Speakers: Subject experts from The Church of England Pension Board, clergy pension and housing teams; plus independent financial advisers from Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services.

This session is aimed at helping clergy (and their partners if applicable) demystify financial matters and helping you plan for your financial future no matter how far you may be from retirement. The speakers will address personal financial planning issues and questions that in their experience face most clergy at various times in their ministry.



In the financial planning session in addition to a session from the pensions board and housing teams we include:

- The importance of planning ahead
- General financial planning hints and tips (including but not limited to, budgeting, claiming allowances, having an emergency fund, the importance of Wills and powers of attorney (it is important to point out that we cover the key points of wills and POA's but we are not legal advisers so we don't provide will writing or other legal services ourselves and signpost to solicitors, but no particular firm is recommended))
- Housing options including buying property (or remortgaging) during your ministry.
- Options for saving more for retirement and understanding what to do with non-church pensions you might have.
- Protecting the family (depending on the age group, this is usually more relevant to younger age groups)
- Saving & investing hints and tips including tax on pensions & investment and tax efficiency, investment risks and ethical investment options
- Inheritance Tax issues (if there is sufficient time)
- Answering your financial questions (questions from the audience are encouraged)
- short 1:1 meetings with the speakers about Church housing options, pensions and financial advice will be available. If you are interested in a 1:1 conversation please indicate in your response the topics you would like to discuss (Clergy Pension, Church retirement housing and/or financial advice or more than one topic). we usually allow 15/20 minutes per slot if this is something you would like to include or we can just cover off 1:1 conversations at coffee and during lunch)

Location: [Diocese of Worcester Office Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester](#)

To book: <https://forms.office.com/e/mLA1Fxxwqr>



Finance and Administration	<p>Short-Form Video Magic: Engage Your Community Thurs 9 Oct, 14:00 – 15:00</p> <p>Learn how to create captivating short-form videos to share your church's message and connect with your audience. This session will cover tips and tricks for creating engaging content that stands out as well as video filming techniques, storytelling tips, and various platforms' best practices.</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> 
Finance and Administration	<p>Canva Design for Churches: Create Stunning Visuals Thurs 27 Nov, 14:00 – 15:00</p> <p>Back by popular demand! Learn how to create professional-looking designs for your church using Canva. We will cover how to use the platform and tips on creating stunning visuals for your church's social media, website images, posters, magazines, prayer sheets and other print materials. This session is perfect for beginners and experienced designers alike.</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> 

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](#).

