

Some Resources for Local Training

These resources have been identified from three main sources:

- 1) An email was sent to clergy and LLMs in the diocese, asking for recommendations. Most of those who recommended something have been happy for me to include their email address so anyone interested can contact them to find out more;
- 2) The Church of England National Adviser in Adult Education and Lay Development publicises resources she thinks might be found useful;
- 3) Some have come from the websites of reputable organisations.

The aim is to provide a pointer to things that you might find useful – that at least might be a good starting point for developing a local course in some contexts. Obviously you will need to think about whether any resource is appropriate for your context, and whether it can be used as it stands or needs adaptation. The descriptions below are generally taken from publicity for the material, rather than being an objective evaluation of it.

If a resource is not included, that may simply be because I don't know of it. So please let me know of anything that you think should be added.

Those in a rural context will find some excellent material to help them think about local training on the website of the Arthur Rank Centre. See <http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications-and-resources/local-training-for-lay-people>.

Weblinks are correct as at October 2013

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Bible and Theology

Bible Society H+ Making Good Sense of the Bible 'is Bible Society's ground-breaking 10-session programme to help you interpret the Scriptures. Incorporating discipleship material, practical exercises, expert advice, facilitator input and audiovisual features... to help you to make good sense of the Bible' (see <http://www.hplus.org.uk/>; note that course leaders need to attend a training day)

Bible studies relating to interfaith issues are freely available to download at <http://www.presenceandengagement.org.uk/resources.php?1>

'Test of Faith: Science and Christianity Unpacked' is produced by the Faraday Institute – see <http://www.testoffaith.com/course/>. Recommended by Revd Jennifer Sistig, jsistig@stgeorges-ascot.co.uk

A six-session course on science and faith can be freely downloaded from <http://www.lindisfarnertp.org/media/editor/file/Course%20materials/Science%20and%20Faith%20handbook.pdf>

A six session course on the topic of suffering can be found at <http://www.lindisfarnertp.org/media/editor/file/Course%20materials/Struggling%20with%20Suffering.pdf>

Worship

'How to Lead the Prayers: A Training Course' by Anna de Lange and Liz Simpson (£3.95 from Grove Books - <http://www.grovebooks.co.uk>)

Worship4Today a course for training those who lead worship which has been running in the Diocese of Sheffield for several years; cost £120 for the course materials – see http://www.praxisworship.org.uk/uploads/9/6/4/6/9646039/w4t_information.pdf

This is now being published in three volumes each costing £24.99 – see <http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/worship-4-today>

Christian living

'Life on the Frontline' from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity is a six-session DVD resource for small groups to inspire and equip Christians to make a difference in the places where they spend most of their time (workplace, home, college etc.). Cost £8 – available from www.licc.org.uk

'Christian Life and Work' from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity – recommended by Revd David Salter (david.w.salter@btinternet.com) who writes that it is 'a six-session course for a small group, using DVD input, helping people to think through what it means to be a Christian in the workplace. It's not specifically about sharing faith, more about valuing our work as a gift from God and how to stay true to our faith as we carry it out.' See <http://www.licc.org.uk/resources/2011/01/31/christian-life-work/>

'Supporting Christians at Work' – Hereford Diocese offers downloadable learning material, designed as a 4 session introductory course with learning activities, discussion topics, and some suggestions for practical planning that could be used in a parish. Available at <http://www.hereford.anglican.org/Content/Documents/Supporting%20Christians%20at%20Work.pdf>

'Being a Disciple at Work' - Peterborough Diocese offers a 3 session course designed for use in parishes. It is freely available to download and copy. Resources include leaders' and participants' handouts, worship, Bible studies and practical exercises that can help people relate their Christian faith to their working life. The website also includes further links and reading suggestions <http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/cme-for-clergy/discipleship-at-work>

Material for seven sessions on 'God and Work' can be found at <http://www.aftersunday.org.uk/main-resources/god-and-work>

Bible study resources designed primarily for use in deprived urban areas can be found at http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources_projects.php

Spirituality

'All for Christ – Anglican Monks and Nuns Today' – 'This DVD introduces the life of Anglican monastic community life in the Church of England. Themes like calling, community and spiritual growth is shown and reflected from different perspectives. The DVD is produced by the network RooT - Religious of orthodox Tradition, which is affiliated with Community of the Resurrection [Mirfield]' – available from <http://www.monastery-stay.co.uk/shop/anglican-religious-life-c-120.html> for £12 (DVD) and £2.50 (study guide). Used for Lent course by Revd Paul Mansell, vicar@forestedgebenefice.co.uk

'Lyfe' is a series of six sessions for small groups which 'is about helping people to explore and discover a richer, deeper relationship with God through the Bible and experiencing spiritual challenges. Lyfe introduces a wealth of material developed by Renovaré and others around spiritual practices to help us discover a life with God, a sustainable spirituality and a faith integrated with everyday life.' Available at <http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/lyfe/>

A six session course on prayer can be freely downloaded from <http://www.lindisfarnertp.org/media/editor/file/Course%20materials/Lord%20Teach%20Us%20to%20Pray%20handbook.pdf>

Ministry

Pastoral Care courses have been created by Amersham and Chipping Norton Deaneries and All Saints Wokingham. For further details contact ****

'How do deal with bereavement' course created by Susan Small for Aylesbury Deanery – susan_small21@yahoo.co.uk

'The Recovery from Divorce and Separation Course (RDS course) supports and empowers people to move and separation to live a full life, free from past issues. The RDS course has helped thousands of people over 20 years and has been developed by divorcees and professionals at Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB). Whatever your situation, background or belief, it gives you emotional and practical support to recover from divorce or separation in a safe, non-judgemental environment' - see <http://rdscourse.org.uk/>. Recommended by Revd Will Pearson-Gee (rector@buckinghambenefice.org.uk)

The Marriage Course is a seven session course originating from Holy Trinity Brompton 'for any couple who wants to invest in their relationship, whether you have been together 1 or 61 years and whether you have a strong relationship or are struggling.... You will be served with a candlelit meal and/or coffee, tea and dessert at a romantic table for two while listening to practical talks that are informative and fun, either given live or played on DVD. There is never any group work and you will

never be asked to share anything about your relationship with anyone other than your partner.’ – see www.relationshipcentral.org. Recommended by Revd Morey Andrews (moreyandrews@btinternet.com)

St Albans Diocese Understanding Groups is a ‘study course in five sessions (2 hours) to help people deepen their understanding of what goes on in groups, so that they can become more effective group leaders and group members.’ (available for free at <http://www.churchofengland.org/education/adult-education-lay-discipleship-and-shared-ministry/lay-and-collaborative-ministry/resources/understandinggroups.aspx>)

Carlisle Diocese Shape course – ‘designed to help lay Christians discern their gifts and vocations for God’s service within their own congregations’ (available for free at <http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/rural-discipleship-a-nurture/item/9066-your-shape-for-god's-service>). John Baker (baker1066@btinternet.com) writes ‘I deliberately started with a very select group (Vicar + 2 church wardens) with the instructions to critically evaluate it as we went. Not only did it help us identify our own particular gifts ... and produced some excellent ideas for modifying it, we also found ourselves growing closer together as we shared with each other and began to more fully appreciate each other’s gifts.... I have now taken 2 more groups through it and all participants have found it to be very helpful. We are now planning to roll it out throughout the church.’

Small group resources designed for promoting vocations (in the broadest sense) from the Diocese of Manchester can be found at <http://www.manchester.anglican.org/vocations/sowing/small-group>

Links to other resources relating to vocation can be found on the Church of England website at <http://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/ministry/vocation/vocations-sunday/small-group-study-material.aspx>

Just Listen! is a lively and practical way of beginning to develop the Listening attitudes and skills that we need. Produced by Acorn Christian Foundation, the course offers foundational teaching on the value of listening to others, to God and to ourselves. The course is available on video/DVD, with an accompanying course book. It is ideally suited for use within a small group setting spread across two 2-hour sessions, and it can equally be used by an individual following it on their own. Each participant needs their own course book. See <http://www.acornchristian.org/listening/just-listen>. DVD costs £18.50; course book £4.50. Recommended by Revd Sally Robertson, sally.robertson27@btinternet.com

‘Reaching Out’ is a DVD produced by the diocesan Pastoral Care Forum. It contains three acted-out pastoral encounters with questions to guide group discussion of these. Cost £6. <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/pastoral-care/reaching-out-dvd/>

"Crying in the Wilderness", subtitled 'Giving Voice to Older People in the Church' is a series of stories / case studies plus reflection, and ends each chapter with a section on developing a 'pastoral action strategy', which offer thought provoking yet practical material for those involved in ministry. These offer ways into empathetic reflection on the case studies, ideas for learning more from older people, approaches to further work in parishes etc. Excellent training material - though not labelled as such. Available for £4 via <http://www.mha.org.uk/Publications.aspx> (it is included in the publication list)

'A Mission-Shaped Church for Older People? Practical Suggestions for Local Churches' contains 'awareness raising / empathy developing' training material'. Available to download for £8 from <http://www.encountersontheedge.org.uk/further-publications/a-mission-shaped-church-for-older-people.html>

Growing Leaders focuses on the characteristics and skills of Christian leadership that are part of all leadership roles – the foundational issues of character and call are central to the course. It's our hope that *Growing Leaders* will help equip leaders at every level of church life to be led more by Jesus, to lead more like Jesus and to lead more to Jesus.' It is a ten month course, with a session each month. See <http://www.cpas.org.uk/church-resources/growing-leaders-suite>. The course pack costs £69. Recommended by Revd Catharine Morris, catharine.morris@oxford.anglican.org and Revd Morey Andrews (moreyandrews@btinternet.com)

CPAS *Mentoring Matters* is 'An easy-to-use pack with everything you need to start a church-based mentoring network: identifying, equipping and resourcing mentors' - <http://www.cpas.org.uk/church-resources/mentoring-matters/>. Cost £24. Recommended by Revd Morey Andrews (moreyandrews@btinternet.com)

Revd Luke Taylor (lukethevicar@gmail.com) recommends Rick Warren's "Lessons in Leadership" - a series of talks based on Nehemiah. Available from <http://www.saddlebackresources.com/>

'Hope for Rural Churches' was produced by the Diocese of Bath and Wells as 'a training resource for their rural churches, especially those that are relatively isolated and with poor access to services and facilities. This is currently delivered as a course spread over two half-days, generally involving all the Christian communities from a multi-parish benefice. However, it is appropriate for other types of groups or teams, and even single parishes. It is specifically designed to encourage participation by numerous lay members from each Christian community, alongside their clergy. The overall purpose is to enhance the witness & ministry of each Christian congregation in their villages and wider communities.' See <http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/regional-rural-training/item/9101-hope-for-rural-churches>

Nurture

'Pilgrim' 'is a major new teaching and discipleship resource from the Church of England. It aims to help every local church create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived out each day. Pilgrim takes a different approach to other Christian programmes. It approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers. Pilgrim is comprised of two stages: the Follow stage for those very new to faith, and the Grow stage for those who want to go further. Each stage contains four short six-session courses which focus on a major theme of Christian life.' Bishop John writes 'Please have a look and consider whether this might be a really valuable course for your parish/benefice. We work in a society with a serious problem of Christian illiteracy and because of the way this course is devised, it could enable us to start rolling that back if we use it widely enough.' See <http://www.pilgrimcourse.org/>

Foundations 21, produced by BRF is an excellent free online resource for Christian lifelong learning and discipleship. It can be used by individuals or by groups. See www.foundations21.net

Frustrated that so many Christians fail to reach their potential? Looking for a great way to help new 'Christians get off to a flying start? Want a course to follow Alpha or Christianity Explored? The... Freedom In Christ Discipleship Course is a proven and effective way for churches to help Christians become fruitful disciples. It's been used by around 200,000 people in the UK.' – see http://www.ficm.org.uk/the_fic_course. Recommended by Revd Will Pearson-Gee (rector@buckinghambenefice.org.uk)

'The Grace Course is a tool for churches to help Christians recover their first love for God so that they go on to love others and make a great impact on the world. Its objective is to enable Christians to experience God's grace in such a deep and real way that love for Him becomes the main motivator in their lives. It teaches the wonderful truths of grace but has an emphasis on helping people **experience** that grace. There are practical exercises, times of listening to God and a gentle ministry component, The Steps To Experiencing God's Grace.' See http://www.ficm.org.uk/the_grace_course. Recommended by Kirstie Dolphin (kirstie.dolphin@st-matts.org.uk) who writes that 'I was very encouraged that it appealed to a group of about 12 women who have different church backgrounds'.

Revd Morey Andrews (moreyandrews@btinternet.com) recommends Christianity Explored and The Start course.

'The Way Forward: Nurturing New Believers', written by Michael Green, is a six week course for new believers. See http://www.midpointtrade.com/book_detail.php?book_id=56650

Mission

CPAS Lost for Words – ‘A resource to help people of every age share their faith naturally. It includes three separate courses (children, youth and adult) with leaders notes, a CD-ROM with Powerpoint presentations, handouts, activities and publicity material’ (£40 - <http://www.cpas.org.uk/shop/category/20/view/30>). Further information from Revd Richard Zair (r_zair@yahoo.co.uk). Also recommended by Revd Claire Alcock (claire_alcock@hotmail.com)

Mission Shaped Intro is a six session course which ‘helps people to reconnect with the communities they are called to serve and to re-imagine the forms of church that are needed for the 21st century. It takes you on a creative and reflective journey looking at the need for new ways of being church.’ Available free from <http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/missionshapedintro>

‘Multiply’ is a course to develop disciples who help others grow in discipleship too. See <http://www.multiplymovement.com/>. Recommended by Revd Will Pearson-Gee (rector@buckinghambenefice.org.uk) who writes ‘This has a great book [all available to download too] plus free to download on-line video resources’.

‘The Possible World: Practical Ways to Join in Jesus’ Mission’ is a seven session course produced by CMS. According to Rt Revd Tim Dakin, Bishop of Winchester, it is ‘a really relevant and practical course that helps followers of Jesus live as agents of social transformation within our culture’. The course guide and DVD costs £19.99. See <http://www.cms-shop.org.uk/mall/productpage.cfm/CMS/W.PACK065a/-/The%20Possible%20World%20Course%20Guide%20with%20DVD>.

‘Good to Go’ is a small group video course addressing conversational evangelism. Available from <http://becauseapproach.com/good-to-go/index.html>

‘How can we be English *and* Christian?’ is ‘an imaginative and reflective course integrating Englishness and Christian faith’ with six sessions. Available at <http://www.spckpublishing.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Faith-of-the-English-course.pdf>

Safeguarding

Local Safeguarding Children Boards and Local Safeguarding Adult Boards offer training packages suitable for the voluntary sector, including elearning packages. These Boards are hosted by their respective local authorities and can be found through the council website.

Safe Network offers useful materials for training in work with children. Go to <http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx>.

The Diocese has a team of voluntary trainers in work with children who will come to parishes to provide a session. Parishes who want to take this up should contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Other organisations offering training to lay people

The Diocese of Oxford offers a range of opportunities for learning, including a termly brochure of courses which (over a two year period) will include Bible, pastoral care, mission, worship, preaching, Christian living, church history, doctrine, ethics. See <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/our-faith/lifelong-learning/>

Christian Rural and Environmental Studies offers a two-year Certificate course which provides 'provides an opportunity to study rural and environmental issues from a Christian viewpoint. It will be of interest to all with a personal or professional concern for the environment and countryside, rural communities and churches. There are no entry requirements.' It is largely studied by distance-learning, with two residential weekends. See www.cres.org.uk

CMS offer 'Resource' weekends 'which give an opportunity to experience pioneering mission and fresh expressions of church in diverse contexts.... There is always a great mix of conversation, inspiring stories and learning from other people's practice. You can do individual weekends or all 4 and it is a great introduction to pioneer ministry' – see <http://www.resourcemotion.com/>

CMS also offer Pioneer Mission Leadership training, based in Oxford – see <http://pioneer.cms-uk.org>. Participants can take individual modules or sign up for an academic award.

Hope UK has a Christian foundation and 'works with communities throughout the UK to prevent drug and alcohol-related harm to children and young people'. It offers training sessions suitable for a range of church groups. See www.hopeuk.org

Restored 'is an international Christian alliance working to transform relationships and end violence against women'. It offers a church pack for download with resources which can be used, and is also willing to offer training to churches. See <http://www.restoredrelationships.org/>

Ripon College Cuddesdon offers the 'Cuddesdon School of Theology and Ministry' – offers a three year rolling programme of introductory courses to a range of topics in theology and ministry (with five Thursday evenings and one Saturday study day each

term). See <http://www.rcc.ac.uk/courses-programme/cuddesdon-school-of-theology-and-ministry>

Courses in Jerusalem are offered by St George's College – see <http://sgcjerusalem.org/>. Their rep in the Diocese of Oxford is Revd Diana Glover (diana.glover@btinternet.com)

St Johns College Nottingham offers a range of distance learning courses. See <http://www.stjohns-nottm.ac.uk/extension-studies>

Sobell House offers a wide range of study days and courses on all aspects of palliative and bereavement care, including an annual day on 'spiritual distress at the end of life'. See <http://www.sobell-house.org.uk/Education%20and%20Training.aspx>

The South Central Ministry Training Course is a one year course with an option of a second. One day per week – Tuesdays 10:15am-3:45pm. Three 10 week terms starting end of September. Based in central Oxford at St Ebbe's Church Centre. Only £125 per term. Open to men and women with evangelical convictions of all ages who want to be equipped to teach the Bible in a variety of contexts. Ideal for church workers and 'apprentices'. More information available from www.southcentralmtc.org

Training on spiritual direction offered by the ecumenical SpiDir network covering Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire - <http://www.soulfriend.org.uk/>

Wycliffe Hall offers 'a part-time course for those who work in professional contexts, have a real desire to improve their theological knowledge, and want to study at an academically respected institution committed to the Christian faith.' This can lead to an Oxford University Diploma in Theological and Pastoral Studies. See <http://www.wycliffehall.org.uk>

Wycliffe Hall also offers 'mixed mode' training for those engaged in Christian ministry but able to attend college on Mondays and Tuesdays in term-time.

Yale University offer for free online material from their introductory Old Testament and New Testament courses – see <http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies>

Other

'Everybody welcome' is a five session course reviewing how welcoming your church is - <http://www.everybodywelcome.org.uk/>. Recommended by Revd Pads Dolphin (pads.dolphin@st-matts.org.uk) since it 'helped us to identify key areas where we needed to improve how our church welcomes people from coming through the doors right through to integrating new people into the church.'