



Training Courses for those in Children's Ministry



Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry

A one year course of three modules designed to provide those involved in a ministry with children with a clear understanding of the issues surrounding the growth and development of the whole child and how this will affect their practice. Each module consists of 8 taught sessions and requires the student to complete two assignments of 2,500 words. For more detailed information please contact Susan Witts who is the course leader. Upon completion a Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry will be awarded.

Module 1 Understanding Children

Module 2 Children and Worship

Module 3 Children and the Bible



Inspire

This is a four week course to **inspire** those volunteering week by week in their church children's work. There will be lots of practical examples to take away and use. The aim is to have fun and learn about new resources, crafts and activities. We will be offering it to parishes and deaneries as an alternative to our previous CORE skills training course.

1. Sharing the story. Finding different ways to engage children with the Bible.
2. Make a joyful sound. To establish music and worship as part of the children's session.
3. Let's get crafty. Use crafts to reinforce a Bible story
4. Something different. Looking at new forms of family and children's groups.

For more information;

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Under 5's

This session gives an opportunity to look at some of the resources available for working with pre-school children and explore ways of developing materials. It will offer the opportunity to hear of different ways of supporting under 5's and their families. We will consider ways in which we can offer a good welcome to our young families looking at Toddler groups and Praise and Play sessions.

Holiday clubs

A well run holiday club can be an important element of the church's activities in the community. Lots of resources and planning ideas will be shared. How do you ensure everything runs smoothly? Issues such as safeguarding, funding and finding volunteers will be considered.

Resources Roadshows

Over the last two years we have offered Resource Roadshows to the Deaneries and these are going from strength to strength with Debbie Johnson our Resources Officer bringing a selection of books and games along as well as any books people have requested. We are adding to the Roadshows by developing the Networks for Youth and Children and having them meet with Kat and Susan at the same time in the deaneries. We also intend to flag up a new resource such as 'Open the Book' or 'Fischy Songs' on those evenings so keep an eye out for the mailings or contact Debbie Johnson.



Growing a Messy Church

How to start a Messy Church and also how to reflect on what has happened to those who have run events for a couple of years now. To look at reasons for considering Messy Church and the impact it may have on the church community positive and negative. How can the initial momentum be maintained and what needs to be considered for developing discipleship and growing church.

Inspiring family worship

All-age worship is worship that happens because adults and children are together and the needs of each considered. This session will look at how this can be done so that all are able to engage with worship for the youngest to the oldest. We will explore examples of worship in a variety of contexts. Resources including liturgy and music will be provided for discussion with examples to take away.

Becoming a Child Friendly Church

Are you a Child Friendly Church? How do you evaluate your answer to that question? This session will help a church to look at the ten criteria used to help them understand how child friendly they are. How can this friendliness be maintained in future planning and resourcing for children and families work? The self-assessment form will allow the church to further reflect and apply for the Diocesan Child Friendly Church Award.

Admission to Communion before Confirmation

Blackburn Diocese has an Admission to Holy Communion before Confirmation policy. This session helps a church to look at their present provision for children in light of this policy. We will discuss the background to the regulations and the history of Holy Communion and the reasons why this initiative has been welcomed by many parishes. The session will allow consideration of the implications for the parish in how it offers Confirmation.

Child Protection Training for Children's Workers

Courses on Child Protection are regularly offered by the Diocese and it is recommended that those who work with children in church attend training for basic safeguarding. The session covers the parish policy and its procedures for reporting disclosures or signs of abuse. Parishes may request their own training session at any time for those who are new to children's work or new to PCC and need to know the role and responsibility of the PCC regarding Safeguarding in the parish.

Family Time and Parenting Teenagers

These two courses are very popular with parishes that have begun to grow families and are wondering how to help them grow in their faith together. Family Time, a six week course, has been warmly received by parents who have young children and babies, as they start to find their way through the maze of advice the world offers. Those parents who have older children who are going to High School have found the 6 week parenting teenagers a good introduction to the next stage of development. Both courses offer very practical tips and ideas on growing as a Christian family.

Working with schools

By working with your local schools you open up lots of opportunities to contribute to the life of the community but also to be involved in the lives and families of children who do not necessarily attend church. This session looks at what your church currently has in terms of resources to offer the schools and also relevant resources available to help with establishing good relationships with the schools and staff.

Baptism

What better opportunity is there of building relationships with young families than when they arrive for the first time to discuss baptising their child. This session helps to look at ways of welcoming, supporting and celebrating with them. Resources will be available for use with Baptism preparation, Family and parenting courses. We will explore ways in which we can support parents to help their children 'take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church.



PowerPoint

With technology becoming more common place in our worship and teaching in church we offer an opportunity to bring your laptop and learn how to prepare PowerPoint slides for worship and children's session. For those who have basic knowledge there is the option of looking at attaching films and music as well as an opportunity to view Prezi presentation and Easy Worship projection software. Each participant will be given a set of simple step 'how to' slides to take home to help with practice.

Listening to God

How can we help our children to pray? This session looks at practical ways of engaging children in prayer activities allowing them the opportunity for reflection as they learn. There will also be an opportunity to look at a method of helping children to pray independently before they are 5 years old. Resources will also include books, websites, PowerPoint's and well-known prayers that children should know.

Listening to children talk

A pack has been developed to help teachers and children's workers listen to children. The pack looks at five areas; the world, God, school, my life and church. Each area has questions to ask and an activity to do with the children. There is no conclusion to the exercise just that it offers the opportunity for adults to listen to what children are saying. What you do with the information is up to you? The session is to look at the pack beforehand and consider how it could be used and for what benefit in your church.

Godly Play

If you have never experienced a Godly Play session then here is the opportunity. It is a distinctive approach to children's nurture which aims to integrate teaching and worship. It invites listeners to enter into the biblical narrative through the use of sensory materials and a process of wondering and response; and it seeks to create 'sacred space' for a children's group. This session will be an opportunity to see Godly play in action and consider the ethos it promotes.