



# **AUTHORISED Lay Ministry**

**Course Prospectus 2026/2027**



**Diocese of Chichester**

# **Living the *Mystery* of Faith**



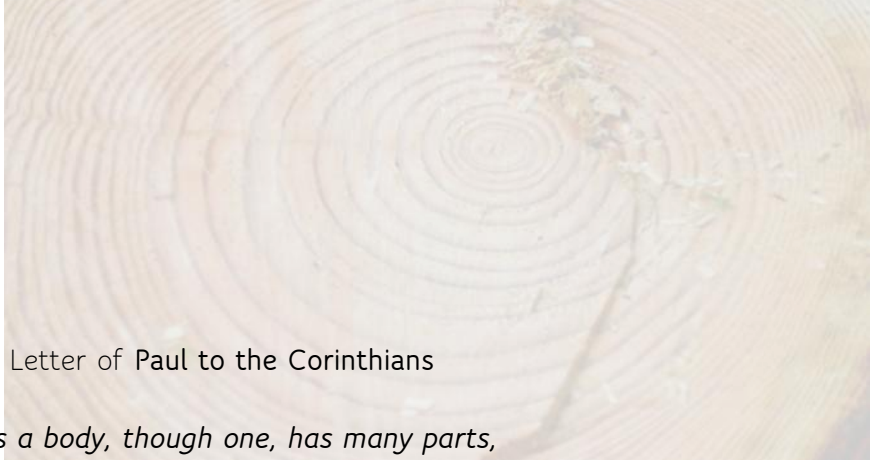
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First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

*'Just as a body, though one, has many parts,  
but all its many parts form one body,  
so it is with Christ.*

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body -  
Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many'.*



# Welcome

Welcome to the ALM Prospectus for 2026–2027.

We're delighted to share this year's refreshed programme—a vibrant blend of returning favourites, newly developed courses, and wider availability across several deaneries. Elective modules will run from September 2026 to April 2027, offering a flexible pathway that supports a wide range of learning journeys.

Lay involvement in the life of the Church is not a new idea – it's woven into the very fabric of Christian history. From the earliest days, lay believers have been central to the Church's mission, especially in the work of evangelism, sharing the Gospel through both what they say and how they live. Scripture reminds us in 1 Peter 2:9 that all God's people are called into a royal priesthood. It is a powerful affirmation that ministry is not reserved for the ordained alone; it is a shared vocation rooted in baptism and lived out in community.

The Church thrives when each person recognises and embraces their God-given calling. Imagine the possibilities—how might our communities be transformed if every Christian confidently stepped into the ministry God has entrusted to them?

## **Why Lay Ministry Matters**

Empowering lay people to serve, lead, and minister is essential for a healthy and flourishing Church. When the gifts of the laity are recognised, encouraged, and released, everyone benefits – and the mission of God gains new energy and momentum.

As you explore this prospectus, we invite you to pray, reflect, and have conversations with your incumbent, fellow parishioners, or the lay ministry team at Church House. The Bible is filled with stories of ordinary people called to extraordinary service. Perhaps God is inviting you into something new as well.

# General Information

ALM training equips lay people with practical ministry skills to serve in their local parish. **Candidates must be baptised, confirmed and communicant members of the Church of England.** ALMs serve publicly in their parish, often leading or supporting ministry teams and encouraging others in their faith and service.

## What is an Authorised Lay Minister (ALM)?

ALMs are authorised by the Bishop to serve in a specific ministry within their parish. This authorisation:

- Is **local** (not transferable between dioceses).
- May extend across a Team Ministry with PCC and Team Rector agreement
- **Does not equate to a Bishop's license.**
- **Length of time – 3 years**, although this can be renewed.

Authorisation (ALM)	vs Licencing
Authorisation.	Licence.
Bishop-authorized, local scope.	Canonical, nationally recognised.
For supervised ministry in parish/community.	For leadership roles in Word, worship, mission.
Local supervision, diocesan training/support.	Diocesan training, annual review.
Safeguarding training required.	Safeguarding training required.



### Eligibility & Application

- Must be 18+ at commissioning.
- Must be baptised, confirmed and communicant members of the Church of England.
- Nominated by PCC.
- Meet the criteria of the particular elective.

### Deadlines:

- For Sept 2026 start: 12 Aug 2026
- For Jan 2027 start: 24 Nov 2026

ALM Commissioning date      8 May 2027, 11am,  
Chichester Cathedral

# General Information

## Parish & Incumbent Responsibilities

- The incumbent and PCC are to nominate and support the candidate.
- Discuss ministry expectations with the PCC.
- Assist with training costs and agree the role profile with the candidate.
- In vacancies, Churchwardens and sequestrators lead discernment.

## During a Vacancy

- Nominations: PCC may nominate with Rural Dean/Archdeacon approval and sequestrators' input.
- ALM Ministry: Continues under Churchwardens and PCC, with Rural Dean support.

## Transferring from Another Diocese

- Must be settled in the new parish for 6 months.
- Requires reference, DBS check if necessary according to elective, all necessary Safeguarding training up to leadership Level and parish support, see pp 38-39.
- Bishop's approval and attendance at a Commissioning Service follow.

## Selection Process

- Led by the incumbent (or Churchwardens/Rural Dean in vacancy).
- Involves confidential discussion with PCC.
- PCC minutes should record:
  - Decision to support nomination
  - Elective area selected.



## Training Details

- Duration: September–April (varies by elective).
- Format: In-person, online, or hybrid; some deanery-based.
- Sessions: 4–10, including some evenings/Saturdays.
- Attendance: Minimum 80% required for commissioning.
- Assignments: Light written/practical work (not graded).
- Cost: £50 (free for unwaged, retired, or students; parishes encouraged to cover costs).

## Electives Offered

Chaplaincy, Care for Creation, Catechists, Mission, Music, Pastoral, Preaching, Rural Ministry, Worship & Liturgy, Youth Ministry. More courses can be offered subject to demand.

## After Training

- Commissioned, 8 May 2027, Chichester Cathedral.
- Complete DBS check if necessary, all necessary Safeguarding training up to Leadership Level by Mar 2027, and have a signed Role Description. see detail pp 38–39,
- Authorisation lasts 3 years, renewable with review.

## Applying for ALM Training

To apply, candidates must:

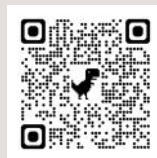
- **Complete the Candidate’s Application Form.**
- **Ask their incumbent to complete the Incumbent’s Reference along with the PCC motion.**

Application forms are available at:

**Authorised Lay Ministry, Diocese of Chichester**

Contact: [greg.moore@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:greg.moore@chichester.anglican.org)

[layministry@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:layministry@chichester.anglican.org)



# Catechists

## Aim

A catechist is simply someone who teaches others about the Christian faith. If you are passionate about teaching new believers about what it means to follow Jesus, then this course is for you.

Based on our new diocesan resource 'Inspiring Faith' you will learn about the most effective ways to help new believers engage with the Christian faith, including helpful strategies and tips to ensure that you pass on the faith effectively. 'Inspiring Faith' was created collaboratively across the breadth of theological traditions in our diocese. We are confident that this elective will suit ALM candidates, whatever their church background. This elective is designed for those looking to support people preparing for confirmation and those who are new to faith.

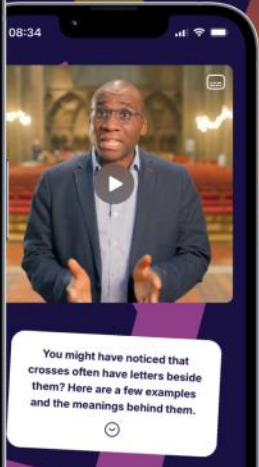
Venue      Zoom

## Contents

- Session 1: Tue, 29 Sep 2026 19.30–21.00.  
'Why catechesis?': Go, and make disciples.
- Session 2: Wed 14 Oct 2026, 19.30–21.00.  
'Heresies and how to avoid them':  
Handing on the faith we have received.
- Session 3: Wed 28 Oct 2026, 19.30–21.00.  
'How we catechise':  
Teaching methods and supporting learners.
- Session 4: Wed 11 Nov 2026, 19.30–21.00.  
'Where do I start?':  
Catechesis materials and how to use them.
- Session 5: Wed 18 Nov 2026, 19.30–21.00.  
'Inspiring Faith': The diocesan approach to catechesis.
- Session 6: Wed 25 Nov 2026, 19.30–21.00.  
'Catechesis in action': Planning and reflecting.



Inspiring  
Faith



Inspiring  
Faith

VISIT:

[WWW.INSPIRING-FAITH.COM](http://WWW.INSPIRING-FAITH.COM)

Tutors: Revd Richard Keeble



# Chaplaincy

## Aim

This elective is an introduction to volunteer ministry in educational, health care and workplace settings. It is suitable for those who are interested in exploring the possibility of chaplaincy and sector ministry and who have already identified a possible context for this ministry. The course will look at the attitudes, skills, tasks, opportunities and theology of chaplaincy and hear from professionals working in the field.

## Contents

**Study Day 1:** Sat, 19 Sep 2026 10.00-15.00

### Introduction to Chaplaincy

This day will explore the nature and principles of chaplaincy in a variety of institutions.

**Study Day 2:** Sat, 3 Oct 2026, 10.00-15.00

### Chaplaincy in Context

What does chaplaincy look like in different contexts?

**Study Day 3:** Sat, 31 Oct 2026, 10.00-15.30

### The Craft of Chaplaincy 1

**Study Day 4:** Sat, 14 Nov 2026, 10.00-15.30

### The Craft of Chaplaincy 2

What are the tools most needed to be truly present, pastoral and prophetic in this role?

## Venue:

Church House Hove, BN3 4ED

## Tutor:

Revd Steve Gurr

# Children's Ministry

## Aim

In lay ministry, supporting children, young people, and their families begins with understanding their spiritual and developmental needs while creating genuinely inclusive spaces where every child can participate meaningfully, especially those with additional needs. As churches and groups nurture this rising generation, our efforts must go far beyond tokenism, offering thoughtful and compassionate pastoral care that is nurturing, faith-building, and responsive to each family's unique experiences and challenges.

## Contents

### 1: The developing world of Children and Young people.

The physical and faith development of children and young people, including Westerhoff's Faith development theory and the development of the teenage brain.

### 2: Inclusion and Participation.

Creating space for children and young people in our church/groups and making our services more accessible to those with Additional needs. Assuring that our work is not tokenistic.

### 3: Pastoral care for Children and Families.

How do we best look after our families and reach them in a way that is helpful, faith developing and nurturing.



**Dates**

Sat, 13 Feb 2027, 10.00-15.30.

Sat, 6 Mar 2027, 10.00-15.30.

Sat, 3 Apr 2027, 10.00-15.30.

**Venue**

Church House Hove BN3 4ED

**Tutor**

Miss Belinda Ramsay

Children and Families Advisor



# Care for Creation and Eco-Church

## Aim

What is God really saying to our world today, and why is there hope for Creation? This course will provide scientific background, a theology of Creation care, and lots of practical guidance on being an Eco Church and on moving your church closer towards the Church of England's target of Net Zero Carbon by 2030. All this will be placed in the context of the Five Marks of Mission, the fifth Mark being 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'

We will examine what the Bible has to say about our role within Creation and our relationship with the natural world. We will ask where Jesus 'fits in': what's gone wrong in Creation, and how can we reconnect? We will consider what God's plans are for the future of Creation and how this shapes our actions now. We will explore how in Jesus Creation, worship and salvation all come together.

On each of the four study days we will be visiting a different church, so we can learn from their individual journeys towards becoming more environmentally sustainable parishes.



## Contents

- Study Day 1:** Sat, 10 Oct 2026, 9.30 for 10.00-15.30.  
**Climate & Energy.**  
St Edward's Church, Royal George Road,  
Burgess Hill RH15 9TD.
- Study Day 2:** Sat, 14 Nov 2026, 9.30 for 10.00-15.30.  
**Biodiversity & Land.**  
St John's Church, Southover High St,  
Lewes BN7 1JH.
- Study Day 3:** Sat, 6 Feb 2027, 9.30 for 10.00-15.30  
**Jesus and Creation**  
St Mark's Church, Holbrook,  
Horsham RH12 5PU
- Study Day 4:** Sat, 13 Mar 2027, 9.30 for 10.00-16.00  
**Creation and God's Mission.**  
Wivelsfield Parish Church, Church Lane,  
Wivelsfield RH17 7RD.

**Tutors:** Revd Dr Nigel Dilkes & Revd Debbie Beer



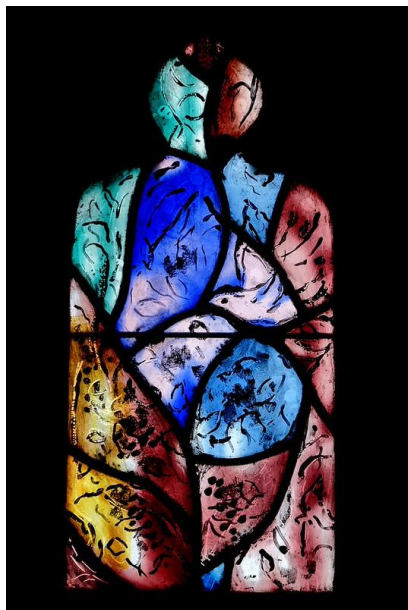
# Leading Intercessions

## Aim

What Leading Intercessions is a four-session course which is suitable for anyone who leads intercessions in public worship, and for all who train or support others in offering this ministry in parishes and chaplaincies. The sessions will each be online for one hour, and will include teaching about each topic, as well as some group work and discussion. Attendees may also be asked to prepare some material for sharing at the next session.

The aim of the course is to increase the confidence of those who lead intercessions, give a deeper theological and historical understanding of the place of intercessions in worship, and enable intercessors to draw on a range of resources available for this ministry.

The course will cover intercessions at the Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer (in both the Common Worship and Prayer Book rites) and other Liturgies of the Word.



Contents

- Study Day 1: Wed, 7 Oct 2026, 19.00-20.00  
The history of intercessions in Christian worship.
- Study Day 2: Wed, 14 Oct 2026, 19.00.  
The theology of intercessory prayer.
- Study Day 3: Wed, 21 Oct 2026, 19.00.  
Leading intercessions at the Eucharist.
- Study Day 4: Wed, 28 Oct 2026, 19.00.  
Leading intercessions in public worship outside of the Eucharist.

Venue: Via Zoom.

Tutors: Revd Canon Dominic Keech.



# Mission Enabler

## Who is it for?

The mission elective is for those who want to support the mission work of their local church. You will learn about how the church understands mission and how to communicate the gospel in your particular setting, whether you are new to the work of mission or have years of experience.

The course is designed to help you reflect on your particular setting and experience, so is relevant to anyone who wants to share in the work of mission, regardless of church tradition, age and setting.

## Contents

### Part 1

Session 1: Wed, 30 Sep 2026, 19.30-21.00

**Mission: God's vision, God's call.**

Session 2: Wed, 7 Oct 2026, 19.30-21.00

**Word and Sacrament: What is the church?**

Session 3: Wed, 21 Oct 2026, 19.30-21.00

**Discernment: joining in with God's work.**

### Between Part 1 and 2

Time will be given for students to observe and reflect in their own setting, including time for practical experience of ministry.

### Part 2

Session 4: Wed, 3 Feb 2027, 19.30-21.00

**Gospel and culture: Speaking God's truth.**

Session 5: Wed, 10 Feb 2027, 19.30-21.00

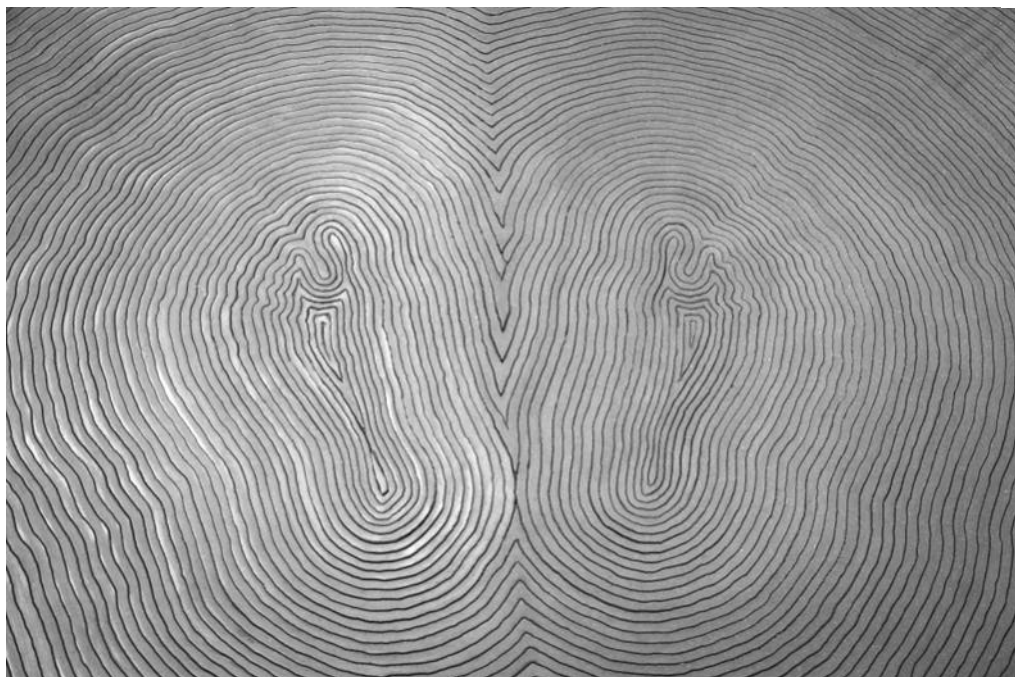
**Life in Ministry: Team work and godly leadership.**

Session 6: Wed, 24 Feb 2027, 19.30-21.00

**Growing to maturity: Reflection and the spiritual life.**

Venue  
Via Zoom.

Tutor  
Revd Felix Smith.



# Pastoral Ministry

## Aim

To prepare lay people to exercise a ministry of pastoral care in a parish setting by exploration of the theological basis of pastoral care and by developing a variety of practical skills.

## Assessment

All participants will be required to complete a weekly reflective practise journal. This is assessed but not graded. Participants are also strongly encouraged to read at least one book on the reading list in the course handbook.

## Locations, dates and venues:

**Worthing:** St Laurence Church, Goring, BN12 4BY .  
Sat, 10-14.30.  
19 Sep & 3, 17, 31 Oct & 7 Nov 2026.

**Petworth:** Tillington Village Hall, Petworth GU28 9AF  
Wed, 19.00-21.00,  
15, 22, 29 Sep & 6, 13, 20 Oct  
& 3, 10, 17 Nov 2026..  
Plus, one Sat morn, 17 Oct 10-14.30  
for communion training.

**Hove:** Church House, 211 New Church Road, Hove BN3 4ED.  
Sat, 10-15.00,  
12, 26 Sep & 17 Oct & 7, 21 Nov 2026.

**Eastbourne** St Mary's Church, Decoy Drive, Eastbourne BN22 9PP  
Sat, 10-15.00.  
9, 23 Jan & 13 & 27 Feb, 13 Mar & 10 Apr 2026.

**Horsham:** St Johns, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham RH12 3LD  
Sat, 10-15.30.  
16, 30 Jan & 6, 27 Feb & 13 Mar 2027.

## Contents

### Study Day One

- Session 1: Reflecting God's life and Jesus' ministry.
- Session 2: Understanding communication.

### Study Day Two

- Session 3: Listening attentively.
- Session 4: Interpersonal skills.

### Study Day Three

- Session 5: Being Trustworthy.
- Session 6: Boundaries, self-awareness and self-care.

### Study Day Four

- Session 7: Praying with and for people.
- Session 8: Home communions.

### Study Day Five

- Session 9: Making pastoral visits.
- Session 10: Pastoral care teams.

### Study Day Six

- Session 11: Grief and loss.



# Preaching

## Aim

The preaching elective aims to provide a practical introduction to preaching and is suitable for ALM candidates, those who have the Bishop's permission to preach and Readers wanting to refresh their preaching practise. Those who complete this elective will be authorised to preach on 6 occasions in a year. Check the link: <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/documents/criteria-alm-preaching/>

ALM candidates will be assessed by means of a sermon submitted to the course tutor. This sermon will be preached to the home congregation who will be asked to supply feedback.

## Contents

**Study Day 1:** Sat, 16 Jan 2027, 10.00-16.00

Session 1 **Why preach?**

Session 2 **Using the bible in preaching.**

**Study Day 2:** Sat, 30 Jan 2027, 10.00-16.00

Session 3 **Troubling texts.**

Session 4 **Preaching in context.**

**Study Day 3:** Sat, 27 Feb 2027, 10.00-16.00

Session 5 **A recipe for preaching.**

Session 6 **Narrative preaching.**

**Study Day 4:** Sat, 17 Apr 2027, 10.00-16.00

Session 7 **Writing the sermon.**

Session 8 **First steps in preaching the sermon.**

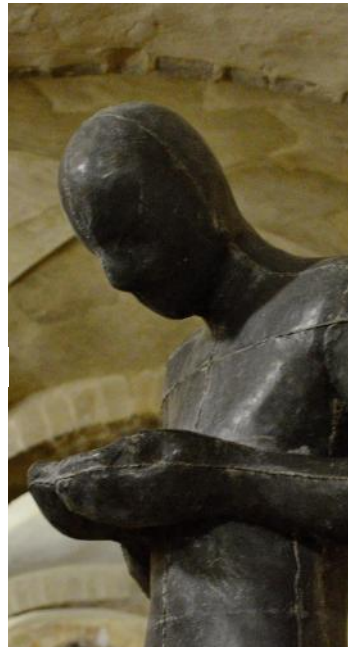


## Venue

Church House Hove, BN3 4ED

## Tutor

Revd Canon Robert Norbury.



# Renewing Hope in Rural Mission and Ministry

## Aim

For hundreds of years village churches have been at the centre of their rural communities. A significant percentage of the rural population still see the village church as their spiritual home. These holy places provide a means of hope in an uncertain world and speak of God's unchanging love. If rural churches are to survive, they need to recover their role as hubs of community life. These churches need to recover their confidence in the transformative power of the Gospel to change hearts and lives.





## Contents

Sessions 1 & 2: Sat, 23 Jan 2027, 9.30-13.00

Context: 'What is 'rural'?' and  
'Knowing your context'.

Sessions 3 & 4: Sat, 27 Feb 2027, 9.30-13.00

Communication: looking at  
welcome and communication.

Sessions 5 & 6: 20 Mar 2027, 9.30-13.00

Connection: creative liturgy for rural contexts,  
making the most of seasonal services.

Sessions 7 & 8: 17 Apr 2027, 9.30-13.00

Confidence: In mission & ministry –  
using the Churchyard for mission,  
identifying and accessing resources  
when numbers of 'workers' are limited...

## Venue

The Barn Centre, Newick, BN8 3JU.

## Tutor

Revd Gary Cregeen.



# Traditional Church Music in Worship

## Aim

This course is designed for individuals interested in exploring, leading, and engaging with more traditional church music, in a context where there may be few people to contribute. How to choose and use hymns, chants, simple anthems and motets.

The course will also cover how to make the most of available resources - whether recordings, local talent, or community assets - and how to design meaningful and inspiring music choices and fully engage with your congregation and community.



By Orazio Gentileschi / Giovanni Lanfranco - This file was donated to Wikimedia Commons as part of a project by the National Gallery of Art. Please see the Gallery's Open Access Policy, CCO, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=81329849>



## Contents

**Session 1:** Mon, 12 Oct 2026, 18.30 - 20.30

### **Church music foundations.**

Overview of church music history, focusing on Gregorian chant, Taizé, and early polyphony. How to use chant.

**Session 2:** Mon, 19 Oct 2026, 18.30 - 20.30

### **Selecting music for worship.**

How to choose hymns suited to your congregation, explore hymn texts and plan music without accompaniment.

**Session 3:** Mon, 9 Nov 2026, 18.30 - 20.30

### **Tools & participation.**

Using recordings legally, identifying parish talent, and introducing simple anthems to encourage involvement.

**Session 4:** Mon, 16 Nov 2026, 18.30 - 20.30

### **Festival service planning**

Designing Advent and Christmas services with attention to structure, flow, readings and musical impact.

## Venue

Church House Hove, BN3 4ED

## Tutor

Mr Gregory Moore



# Worship and Liturgy

## Aim

This course aims to give a practical and theoretical grounding in the different aspects of leading and constructing worship and liturgy.

## Can a Worship ALM lead a full service?

Yes, but only non-Eucharistic services (e.g. Morning/Evening Prayer, Service of the Word), and always under the incumbent's supervision. In a vacancy, wardens oversee services, and may agree for a Worship ALM to lead. Best practice encourages shared leadership. Worship ALMS are locally authorised to assist or lead non-Eucharistic worship, but not to preach (unless trained via the Preaching elective).

## Assessment

The course assesses competency by completion of an assessed service plan.



## Contents

- September start** in person and zoom.
- Session 1: **Understanding worship &**
  - Session 2: **Traditions of Christian worship.**  
Sat, 19 Sep 2026, 10.00-16.00. Church of St Peter and St Paul, Parkstone Road, Hastings TN34 2NT.
  - Session 3: **The Christian year.**  
Wed, 23 Sep 2026, 19.00-20.30, ZOOM.
  - Session 4: **The worship leader.**  
Wed, 30 Sep 2026, 19.00-20.30, ZOOM.
  - Session 5: **The Daily Office.**  
Wed, 7 Oct 2026, 19.00-20.30, ZOOM.
  - Session 6: **Breaking open the Word in worship.**  
Wed, 14 Oct 2026, 19.00-20.30, ZOOM.
  - Session 7: **Prayer and intercession in worship.**  
Wed, 21 Oct 2026, 19.00-20.30, ZOOM.
  - Session 8: **Including music in worship.**  
Wed, 28 Oct 2026, 19.00-20.30, ZOOM.
  - Session 9: **Multi generational and all age worship &**
  - Session 10: **Worship and mission.**  
Sat, 7 Nov 2026, 10.00-16.00, Church of St Peter and St Paul, Parkstone Road, Hastings TN34 2NT.
- 
- January start** Church House, Hove BN3 4ED in person.
- Study Day One** Sessions 1 & 2: Sat, 23 Jan 2027, 10.00-16.00.
  - Study Day Two** Sessions 3 & 4: Sat, 13 Feb 2027, 10.00-16.00.
  - Study Day Three** Sessions 5 & 6: Sat, 13 Mar 2027, 10.00-16.00.
  - Study Day Four** Sessions 7 & 8: Sat, 20 Mar 2027, 10.00-16.00.
  - Study Day Five** Sessions 9 & 10: Sat, 17 Apr 2027, 10.00-16.00.

# ‘Youthscape Essentials’ - Training for Youth

## Aim

This elective is based around the ‘Youthscape Essentials’ Course. More and more churches are reaching families as a whole. This training will help equip you in all areas to help support the work in your church or community.

## Contents

‘Youthscape Essentials’ is ten sessions covering 30 topics. The topics are divided into Insights into Young People, Skills for Youth Work and Developing Character. The course is accessible to those starting out as volunteers, but deep enough to stretch those who have been working alongside young people for longer.

## Insights and Skills

Ten interactive seminars exploring what life is like for young people today. Hear from young people as they share their experience of family, school, church and social media. Ten key skills which are essential for every volunteer leader, whatever your role. Practical and applicable to every kind of youth activity. Learn new skills and develop existing ones. Grow in confidence about what you can do.



**Dates**

Sat, 13 Feb 2027, 10.00-16.00.

Sat, 6 Mar 2027, 10.00-16.00.

Sat, 3 Apr 2027, 10.00-16.00.

**Venue**

Church House Hove BN3 4ED

**Tutor**

Mr Dan Jenkins.





## Safeguarding requirements

**Training specifically for ALMs** It is your responsibility to ensure the completion of the necessary safeguarding training; Basic Awareness, Foundation, Leadership and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. All (except for Leadership) can be taken in your own time via the Safeguarding Training Portal.

**These need to be completed by March 2027.**

- Sat, 3 Oct 2026 – Church House, Hove 10:00 -14:30
- Sat 21 Nov 2026 – Church House, Hove 10:00 -14:30
- Thu, 14 Jan 2027 – Church House, Hove 10:00 -14:30
- Tue, 9 Feb 2027 – Church House, Hove 10:00 -14:30

Online

- Tue, 22 and 29 Sep 2026, 10.00 -11:30
- Wed 2 and 9 Dec 2026 13:00- 14:30  
via the Safeguarding Training Portal.

Please look at the diocese webpage:

**Training-Diocese of Chichester Safeguarding**



DBS eligibility - DBS checks performed by the parish if necessary.

Elective	DBS Level	Rationale (Summary)
Catechists	Enhanced-Plus	Regular teaching of children = Regulated Activity.
Chaplaincy	Enhanced-Plus	Volunteer ministry in healthcare/ education settings (other checks may also apply).
Children's Ministry	Enhanced-Plus	Teaching/supervising children at Regulated Activity frequency.
Care for Creation / Eco-Church	None	No work with children or vulnerable adults.
Leading Intercessions	None	No work with children or vulnerable adults.
Mission Enabler	Enhanced-Plus	Likely church-wide leadership with Regulated Activity involvement.
Pastoral Ministry	Enhanced (adults only) /Enhanced-Plus (if children)	Adult pastoral work does not meet Regulated Activity threshold; inclusion of children does.
Preaching	None	Public speaking alone does not meet DBS eligibility criteria.
Renewal Hope in Rural Mission & Ministry	None	No direct ministry with children or vulnerable adults.
Traditional Church Music in Worship	None*	DBS required only if leading choir/ group involving children.
Worship and Liturgy	None*	DBS required only if leading choir/ group involving children.
Youthscape Essentials (Youth Training)	Enhanced-Plus	Teaching/supervising children at Regulated Activity frequency.

\* Music / all-age worship note:

- Services alone (from the front, in view of all) do not usually require a DBS.
- Rehearsals or practice sessions with children may create eligibility.
- Weekly (or 4+ days/month): Enhanced-Plus
- Less frequent: Enhanced.

# Bishop's Certificate 2027

## Aim

The Bishop's Certificate is a significant and inspiring opportunity for lay people across the Diocese of Chichester to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, explore their sense of calling, and grow in confidence and effectiveness in ministry.

Whether you are preparing for a particular area of lay ministry or seeking to strengthen your discipleship and theological foundations, this course offers a rich and supportive learning environment. Through teaching, discussion, and practical engagement, participants are encouraged to connect faith with daily life and the mission of the Church in their own communities.

Designed to be accessible, flexible, and rooted in the lived experience of the Church, the Bishop's Certificate welcomes learners from a wide range of backgrounds. First launched in January 2026, it now has more than ninety participants across the diocese, reflecting its growing value and appeal.



By the end of the course, participants will have:

- a clearer overview of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments
- a deeper understanding of key scriptural themes
- a greater appreciation of the breadth and richness of Christian experience and expression
- increased awareness of the Church's shared life in worship and its calling to serve the world
- a deeper appreciation of the ways—such as prayer and the sacraments—through which God strengthens disciples
- more confidence to live out their faith in everyday life and share it naturally with others
- a renewed recognition that all Christians are called to participate in Christ's mission
- an improved ability to discern personal gifts (and the gifts of others) for ministry and service

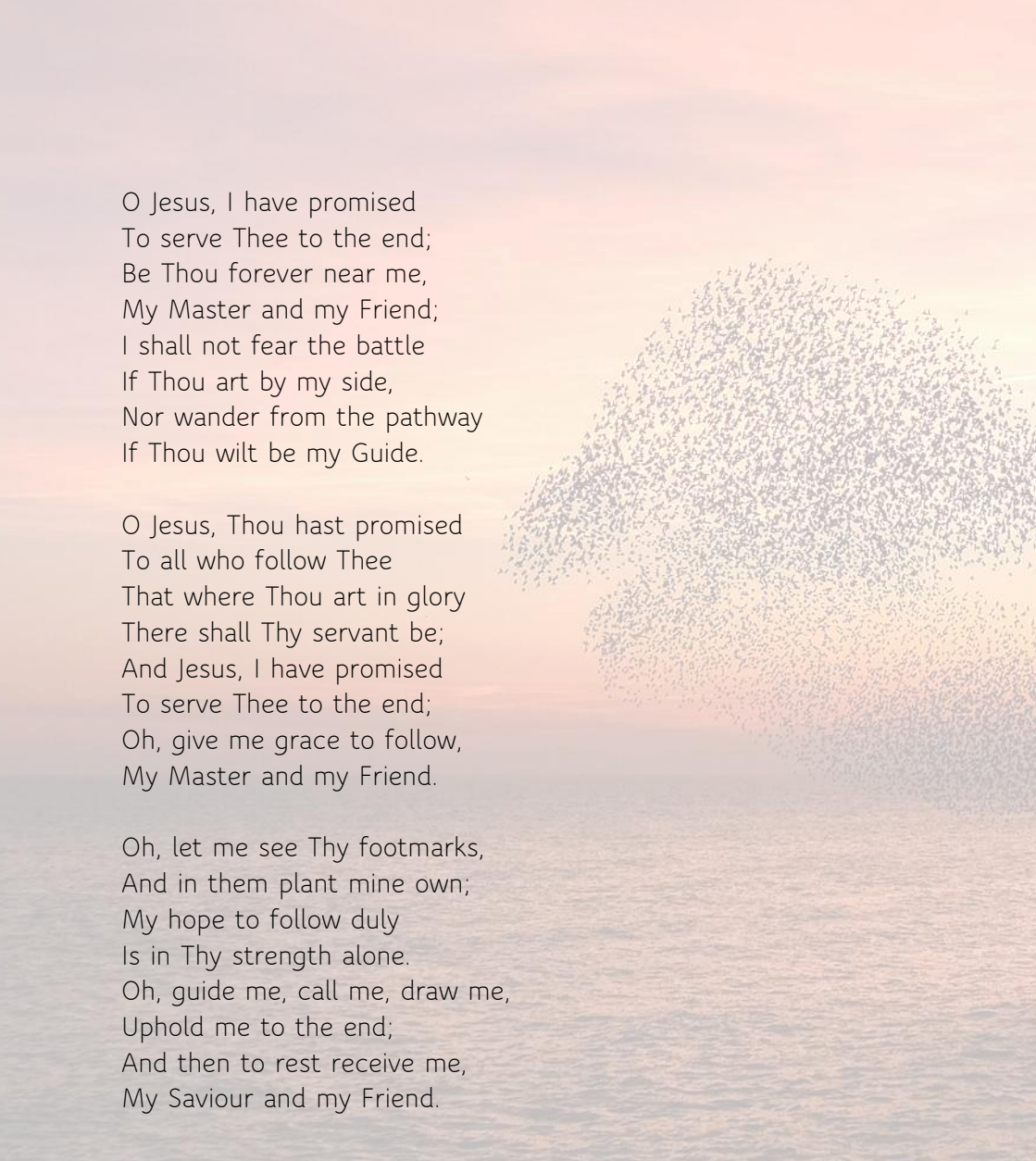
## Course Details

Duration:

**20 weeks**, delivered across three terms, starting in January 2027.

**Additional study days:** Three Saturday sessions for deeper learning, fellowship and reflection.

This programme offers a strong foundation for anyone wishing to serve, grow, and respond more deeply to God's call within the Diocese of Chichester. Full details on locations and dates will be available on the diocesan website from July 2026.



O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

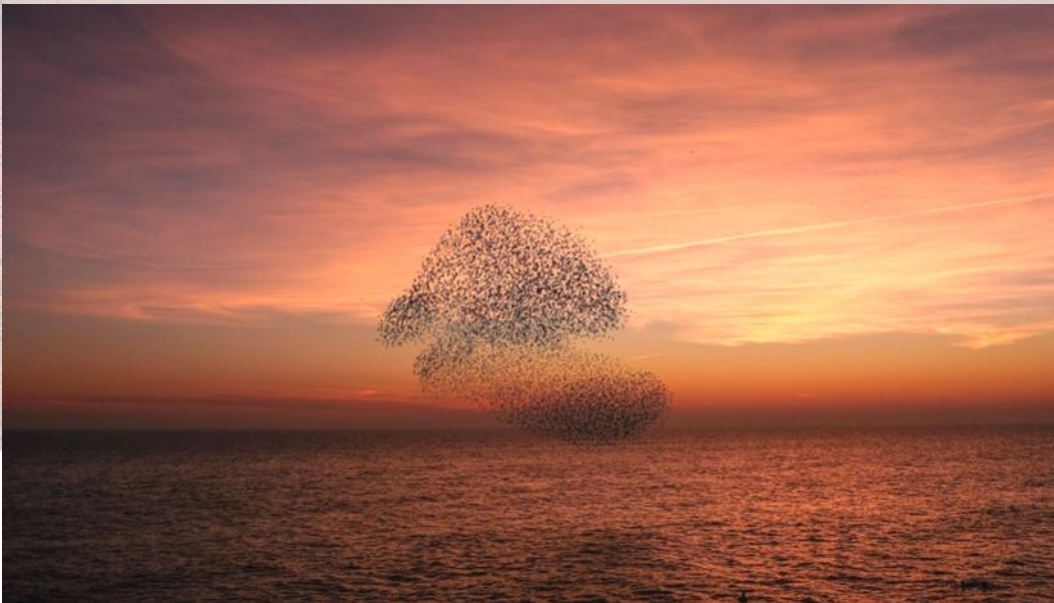
O Jesus, Thou hast promised  
To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory  
There shall Thy servant be;  
And Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Oh, give me grace to follow,  
My Master and my Friend.

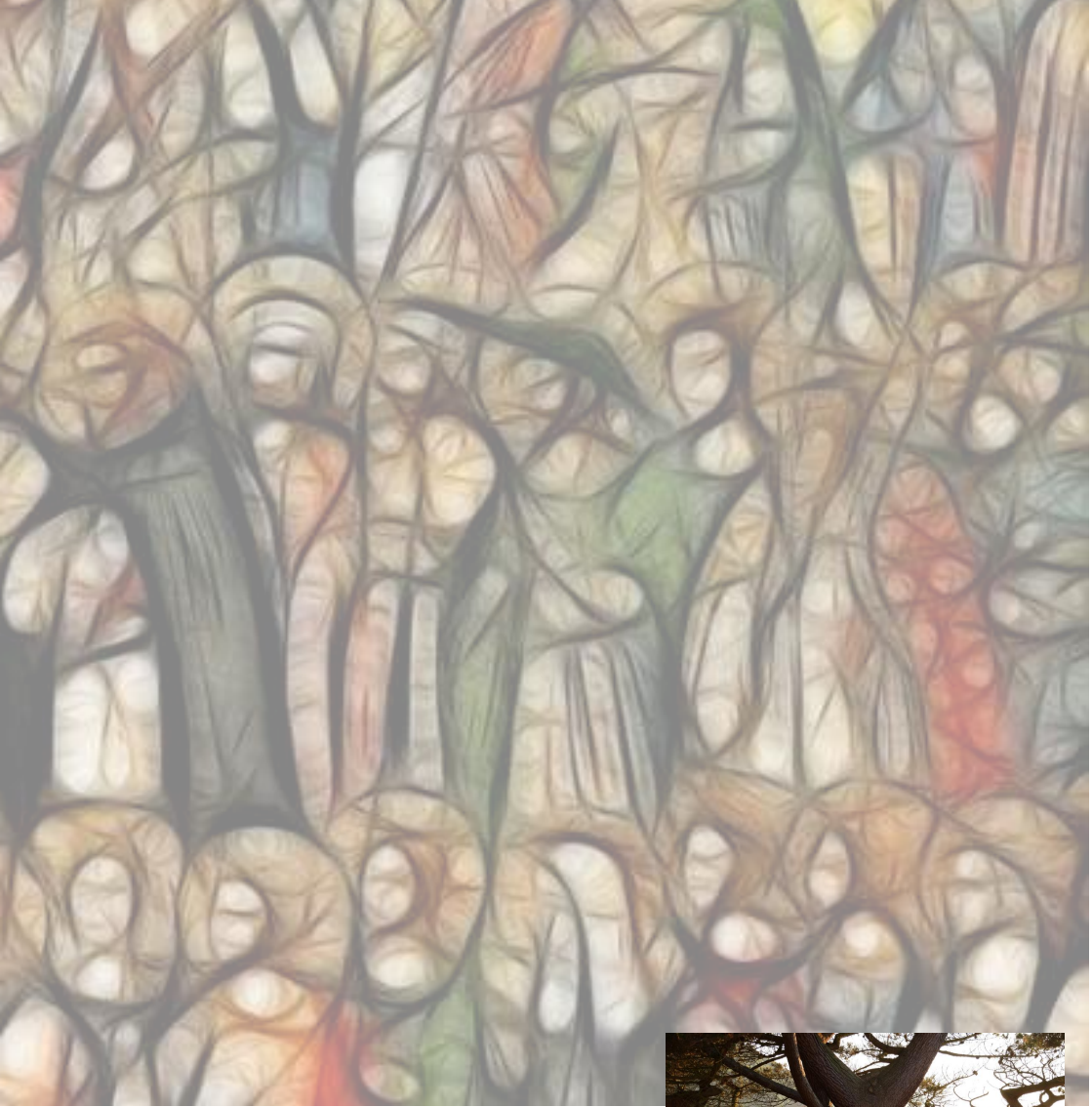
Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,  
And in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly  
Is in Thy strength alone.  
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,  
Uphold me to the end;  
And then to rest receive me,  
My Saviour and my Friend.

*by English clergyman John Ernest Bode (1816-1874) in 1866*

**GO forth** into the world in peace; be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and  
the Holy Ghost, be upon you, and remain with you for ever.  
Amen.

*Book of Common Prayer, 1892, 1928, modified.*





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