

Learning Together

Opportunities for learning and development
for lay people, ministry teams and authorised
ministers

Welcome to the latest edition of Learning Together. As you'll see it contains the usual wide range of material, to resource us as individuals and parish groups. Much of what you'll find here relates directly to one or more of the four strands of the Diocesan Vision for Growth: Growing Deeper, Growing in Influence, Growing in Number and Growing Younger. Look particularly at the material for Poverty Sunday (21 June, which is also Father's Day), which brings these different strands together around our calling to make a difference to the world in the name of Christ.

Thank you for your positive responses to previous issues of Learning Together. If you would like us to include anything in future issues, please send details to Lesley Steed at the MET Office.

With all good wishes,



John Parr (Director of Ministry, Education and Training)



Conferences and Day Events

Growing in God - The Next Step

Implementing the Diocesan Vision for Growth in the Parish

Organisers	Dave Gardner and John Parr
When	16 June, 10.30am–1.30pm, St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich or 17 June, 7.00 – 9.30 pm, St Edmundsbury Cathedral or 18 June 7.00pm for 7.30pm, St Mary's, Halesworth
Cost	Free
Description	Training events for clergy and lay leaders to assist the Celebration, Reflection and Planning of <i>Growing in God</i> so as to apply the priorities of Growing in Depth, Number, Influence and Younger in your context
Information	Please phone Dave Gardner on 01473 298521 or email dave.gardner@cofesuffolk.org

Engaging Luke

Stories, symbols, actions and prayer

- Thursday 24 September at the St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich
- Saturday 17 October at the Hyndeman Centre, Bury St Edmunds

Engaging Luke is designed to help clergy, lay ministers and anyone else who is interested to make the most of the Year of Luke, which starts on Advent Sunday 2015. It will include the familiar mix of worship, presentations and workshops, and is designed to appeal to a wide range of learning and spiritual styles. And because Luke is the only Evangelist who wrote a sequel to his Gospel, one session will be devoted to exploring the connections between Luke and Acts.

Resources available on the days will include material written especially for Living Faith in Suffolk.

Storytelling Conference

Organiser	The Discovery Centre
When	8 – 10 October 2015
Where	Assington Hall, Sudbury
Cost	£80 (non-residential but meals included)
Description	Using Godly Play and Reflective Storytelling techniques Bible stories, liturgy and Pilgrim's Progress will be explored

through hands-on work. Thursday 1pm-8pm, Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am-2pm
Information Please book your place with the Discovery Centre on 01284 748731 or admin.dc@stedscathedral.org

soul[food]

Making the most of your occasional contacts

Organiser The Revd Dave Gardner
When 7.00pm for 7.30pm on Thursday 8 October 2015
Where The St Nicholas Centre, 4 Cutler Street, Ipswich IP1 1UQ
Description A training event for all with the Revd John Kiddle, Director of Mission at the Diocese of St Albans and co-founder of soul[food]. Our festival services and occasional offices attract many people over the year and one way of making the most of these opportunities is to offer each person who attends a link so they can explore the Christian faith via bite sized thoughts. These thoughts are relevant to the service they have attended and are sent straight to their phone or in-box with the option to explore further after a week's worth.
Information Book places with Dave Gardner at dave.gardner@cofesuffolk.org or 01473 298521

John's Gospel

- Tuesday 8 March 2016 at the St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich
- Saturday 19 March 2016 at the Hyndman Centre, Bury St Edmunds

More information on this event will be available in the next issue of Learning Together

Courses

Religion and Spirituality in Pre-Raphaelite Art

Organiser	Sarum College
When	5 – 7 June 2015
Where	Sarum College, Salisbury SP1 2EE
Cost	£140 non-residential; £199 residential
Description	This weekend course will examine the work of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood of painters and their circle, including Holman Hunt, Everett Millais, Rossetti, and Burne-Jones. The course will begin with an overview of the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood and the artists associated with the group, and an examination of their early doctrines. Influenced by the Oxford movement and the Victorian restoration of Christian traditions, the Pre-Raphaelites believed medieval art to possess a spiritual and creative integrity, and many of their artworks contain religious subject-matter which communicated a message of moral reform. The course will examine a number of key Pre-Raphaelite works, with a view to unravelling their religious symbolism and iconography. We will consider the purpose of the artworks
Information	Contact Alison Ogden for all booking enquiries at aogden@sarum.ac.uk or 01722 424826

Courses at the Anglican Centre in Rome

Receptive Ecumenism

15 – 20 June 2015: An introduction to the practice of a novel and transformative approach to ecumenism as commended by the Third Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission, ARCIC III. Course fee €700

Women's Leadership in Christian Ministry

19 – 25 July 2015: An intensive experience of sharing past and present models of Christian women's leadership in the Church. Course fee €450

Christian Leaders

7 – 13 September 2015: This unique course will develop you as an inspiring and influential leader with a servant's heart. The course will strengthen your ability to lead and to make a positive difference in the world, doing God's work most effectively, and believing you can have a positive impact. Course fee €720

The Francis Effect Then and Now: A close walk with Pope Francis and his inspiration, Francis of Assisi

19 – 23 October 2015: Come to Rome and Assisi and share in two of the most remarkably transformative events of Christian history: the way St Francis of Assisi with St Clare transformed the Church and world of their day by the way they lived and spoke, and the way in which the renewal and re-orientation of Christian living and mission is being changed by Pope Francis. Course fee €450

Information To book, email Jan Hague pa-courses@anglicancentre.it
See www.anglicancentreinrome.org for more information.

Summer Biblical Study in Cambridge 2015: Exclusive offer for Lay Readers

Organiser Vacation Term for Biblical Study (VTBS)
When Two weeks of study: 2 - 7 August and 9 - 14 August. Book for one or both weeks
Where Robinson College, Grange Road, Cambridge CB3 9AN
Cost Lay Readers who have not attended this event in the last three years and who book to participate as residents are offered a 50% discount on the weekly £100 Lecture Fee. Accommodation: £510 for five nights full board, the total cost is £560 for a residential programme containing 19 one hour sessions of Lectures and Readings. There are charges for car parking and Language Classes.) This offer is limited to five places in Week 1 and ten places in Week 2, and the final deadline for booking is 1 June. Readers wishing to take up this offer should contact Richard Garner on 01923 229306 or jrmgarner@btinternet.com asap.
Description The Vacation Term for Biblical Study runs *Summer Biblical Study in Cambridge*, an annual summer school for all who wish to develop their understanding of the Bible through academic study. It is known for the academic quality of its courses, and has been addressed by many biblical scholars of national and international repute. From its earliest days, VTBS has enabled teachers, students, ministers and laity to deepen their understanding of the biblical literature and to keep abreast of current scholarship.
Information See www.vtbs.org.uk or email Mrs Samantha Heeson (Secretary) at secvtbs@gmail.com

Mission Shaped Ministry

Organiser	Fresh Expressions
When	Saturdays in 2015: 19 Sept and 21 Nov. In 2016: 6 Feb and 7 May. Tuesdays in 2015: 13 Oct, 3 Nov, 1 Dec. In 2016: 12 Jan; 1 and 15 Mar, 19 Apr, 7 June • Saturdays run from 10 am to 4 pm, Tuesdays from 7.30 - 9.30 pm.
Where	Saturdays: Christ Church, Moreton Hall, Lawson Place, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 7EW. Weekdays: St Mary's church, St Mary's Street, Ely CB7 4HF
Cost	£170 which covers all materials and refreshments
Description	You are invited to share a one-year learning journey in a supportive community to be equipped for a lifetime of good practice and learning in growing fresh expressions of church. Individuals are most welcome, but we particularly hope that small groups from a church or fresh expression will come as this will deepen the impact of the course. Who is it for? Those exploring ideas for fresh expressions of church • Experienced pioneers who want to reflect on what they are doing • Christians who want their churches to be more effective in mission • All denominations, traditions and ages • Urban, suburban and rural contexts. What will you learn? How to begin, sustain and grow a fresh expression of church • Qualities of Christian ministry • Listening to God in your context
Information	Dave Gardner on dave.gardner@cofesuffolk or 01473 298521

CSK-L2 Certificate in Counselling Skills

Organiser	Inspire Counselling and Training
When	One Saturday/month from 3 October 2015 to 16 July 2016
Where	Greenfinch Church, Greenfinch Avenue, Ipswich IP2 0SQ
Cost	£1050. The course can be paid in instalments with an initial deposit of £300 and the remainder by monthly standing order
Description	This course is for those who wish to learn counselling skills so that they can help people in a voluntary or an employed situation, or for those who wish to begin training as a counsellor. No previous training is required before starting this course. Topics include the difference between caring, helping and counselling, communication, listening skills,

structures and frameworks for counselling and models of counselling. Ample opportunity is given to practise skills and there is some coursework to complete

Information Please contact the office if you have any questions, on Tuesdays 9 - 5 and Thursdays 9am - 9pm. Tel: 01473 217694 or email contact@inspirecounselling.org.uk

Visiting the Holy Land

The Holy Land

A relaxed Suffolk Coastlands Pilgrimage

Organiser Lightline Pilgrimages
When 12 – 20 October 2015
Where Israel and the West Bank
Cost £1695 inclusive cost
Description Come on a relaxed pilgrimage to the Holy Land and explore some of the places that Jesus knew; walk in his steps. A pilgrimage to Israel (and the West Bank) turns the black and white text of the Bible into a colourful, personal experience. We will explore together the beauty of Galilee's lake shore and the drama of multicultural Jerusalem as we follow the story of Christ from the announcement of his birth to his resurrection! The pilgrimage will be led by the Revd Jane Hall, who has been on a number of pilgrimages to the Holy Land and always returned enriched.

Bookings Lightline Pilgrimages: see www.lightline.org.uk for more information and booking details, or phone 01992 576065 or email info@lightline.org.uk

The Nazareth Trust: 2015 Jesus Trail

For over 150 years the Nazareth Trust has been 'healing in the name of Jesus' in Nazareth. What started as a clinic with 4 beds has grown to become Nazareth's General Hospital high on the Nazarene hillside. For 90 years our School of Nursing has offered an open doorway to all young people from the Nazareth area, preparing them for a life of service and care for others.

SERVE Nazareth and The Nazareth Trust is offering an exciting opportunity, and what promises to be an unforgettable experience, to travel to the Holy Land and walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Hikers will be able to meander through fabulous scenery starting out from Nazareth on 16 November 2015 and finishing in Nazareth on 21 November 2015.

The 40 mile sponsored walk will journey through the Zippori National Park, Cana, Ilaniya, Kibbutz Lavi, the Horns of Hattin, Nebu Shu'eib, the Arbel National Park, Migdal, Ginosar, Tabgha, the Mount of Beatitudes and Capernaum itself.

The Walk is being held to help raise additional funds for SERVE Nazareth, which is our International Volunteer Ministry. The sponsorship raised will be used to further develop our SERVE Nazareth programme, which creates opportunities for individuals and groups to work alongside local people in Jesus' hometown, supporting Christian ministries in these difficult times in the Middle East.

SERVE participants learn about other cultures and Christian expressions of faith, breaking down barriers built up by culture and the media. The local community is enriched and encouraged through this spirit of giving to serve others, while SERVE participants grow in Christ, leaving Nazareth with new vision, passion and vitality to serve the Lord wherever their path leads them.

To register your interest and receive further information please contact Shaun Newton, Head of Resource Development, on 0191 520 80 30 or email shaun@nazarethtrust.org. To create your own Jesus Trail Fundraising Page with Give.net click: www.give.net/pages/for-fundraiser

Spirituality

Exploring Prayer Saturday 18 July 2015, 10.00am - 4.00pm St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A time to try out prayer in different ways

- A day to grow more confident in prayer and to explore it further
- A time to pray, not to talk about praying!
- No experience necessary – and lots of experience welcome!
- Workshops led by people from their own experience

- Prayer spaces in the Cathedral developed by children and young people for everyone to use
- Midday and final prayers all together

Book your place and choose your workshops in advance via Jayne Whiteman: deanspa@stedscathedral.org | 01284 748722

Details and Booking form available from the diocesan website / life and faith / spirituality page or click [here](#)

Spirituality Advisor

Anne Spalding offers encouragement and support in developing prayer and spirituality at the heart of all we do as individuals (lay and clergy) and as churches. She leads groups in prayer and in noticing and responding to God's grace. She also edits the *Growing Roots* newsletters (see the Spirituality page of the diocesan website, www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=landf.content&cmid=299 or direct to your inbox if you ask Anne).

The Spirituality pages of the diocesan website also include:

- Links to websites for daily prayer
- Information on places for quiet and for retreat
- Information on Cursillo in Suffolk – an approach to deepening relationship with God through Jesus Christ
- Some recommended books

Daily Prayers (Common Worship and Book of Common Prayer) can be found via www.cofesuffolk.org/index.cfm?page=landf.content&cmid=356

Anne is always pleased to hear from anyone wanting to explore spirituality further, and to know if you have knowledge and experience to offer. She can be contacted on anne.spalding@cofesuffolk.org or 01394 610065.

In particular Anne would welcome enquiries from people wanting to explore the possibility of becoming a spiritual director/ companion.

If you want help in finding a spiritual director/ companion for yourself, please contact [Canon Sylvia Chapman](#) or telephone 01473 462109.

Training Day: 'Forgiveness'

Organiser	Diocesan Spirituality Group
When	Saturday 10 October 2015

Where	St Andrew's Church Hall, Rushmere St Andrew, Ipswich, IP5 1DH
Description	Marian Partington from the Forgiveness Project will lead the day. Marian's sister, Lucy, was one of Fred and Rosemary West's victims. Since that trauma Marian has been 'lining myself up with forgiveness', a journey that began with rage (http://theforgivenessproject.com/stories/marian-partington-england/). These training days are particularly for those involved or interested in the ministry of spiritual accompaniment but are open to anyone.
Cost	£20. The whole fee is due in advance. It is non-refundable.
Bookings	Caroline Redman, The Cottage, Great Livermere, IP31 1JG or caroline@theredmans.co.uk by 28 September, please. Please either respond by email and make an electronic payment to the St Edmundsbury & Ipswich DBF, Sort Code 16-22-17, Acc No 12190090 or send a cheque made payable to 'St Edmundsbury & Ipswich DBF' together with your details. Clergy and lay ministers including Elders may be able to use their CMD allowance to pay for this event. Please confirm with Lesley Steed at the Diocesan Office (lesley.steed@cofesuffolk.org or 01473 298510) and then let Caroline know.
Bookstall	On the day: copies of relevant books and of other books on spirituality and spiritual accompaniment

Retreats

Otley Hall Retreat Day

Organiser	Otley Hall
When	Monday 22 June, 10am - 4pm
Where	Otley Hall, Otley IP6 9PA
Cost	£22, includes refreshments and lunch
Description	Andrew Dotchin <i>Love, Lament, Laughter and Light</i> . Andrew will explore the importance of all these qualities within ourselves
Information	To book a place or for further information please contact Karen on 01473 890264 or email events@otleyhall.co.uk . See also www.otleyhall.co.uk for more information.

Resources

Living Faith in Suffolk (LFiS)

Latest resources from Living Faith in Suffolk

With many churches having trialled the Living Faith in Suffolk (LFiS) Lent courses, this April saw the launch of four new courses suitable for use by individuals, small groups, or as part of Sunday services.

Living Confirmation provides teaching, activities and discussion opportunities around some of the basics of the Christian faith and is ideal for anyone wanting to gain a good grounding, including those seeking confirmation. Areas covered include God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Bible, prayer, Church, baptism, communion and putting faith into practice.

Living Word 1 and 2 give a way in to understanding and studying the Bible. Living Word 1 contains sessions on the different types of biblical literature – narrative, law, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic – with a wide range of teaching related to each, a study on a passage from each genre and a collection of discussion questions aimed at understanding how each genre can be relevant for today. Living Word 2 looks at one take on the Big Story of the Bible, focusing on the nature of God as the loving creator who desires a loving relationship with his precious creation, and the lengths he goes to in order to make this possible.

Living Advent 1 contains daily reflections for 1 - 25 December, each day looking at one from a collection of nativity scenes, with a reflection on some of the messages conveyed and some questions to stimulate personal thought. These aim to enable the reader to think widely around a range of aspects of the Christmas story and to make links between this and the wider story of Jesus and of our faith journey. Each day concludes with a Bible reading for further reflection. Also provided are resources for those wishing to meet each week to discuss their reflections.

These courses are available on the LFiS page of the diocesan website (www.cofesuffolk.org) along with Living Mark 1, Living Prayer 1, Living Vocation, Living Lent 1 and Living Lent with Mark.

In September new LFiS courses will be added: watch out in September for a new Lent course and Living Luke.

For the resources to be useful we need your feedback. Let us know what you think of the material that we are producing and, if there are resources you would like to see created, we need to know that too!

Ruth Dennigan, Discipleship and Ministry Development Officer
Tel 01473 298503 or ruth.dennigan@cofesuffolk.org

ROOTS resources

ROOTS resources are published in two magazines – ‘Adult & All Age’ and ‘Children & Young People’, plus a supporting website. These activities are normally only available to ROOTS subscribers but ROOTS has provided them free for you to try.

Ways of presenting the Bible reading

The Bible reading is at the heart of the ROOTS weekly resources. Each week we explore the Gospel reading and consider how it can resonate with our own lives.

Every week in Adult & All Age there are suggestions on how to present both the Gospel and Old Testament reading, using drama sketches, monologues, actions and media resources.

Every week in Children & Young People there are two suggestions for how to present the story, aimed at younger and older children, plus a mini bible story with actions for very young children. The new retelling of the story stays as close as possible to the Bible text so that children become familiar with the gospel writer's 'voice'.

You can see all these presentations in both magazines in a sample week, 26 April, which focuses on John's image of Jesus as the good shepherd.

If you'd like a free sample magazine, phone 0845 680 5317, or email rootssales@rootsontheweb.com to request a copy.

Workshops for your events

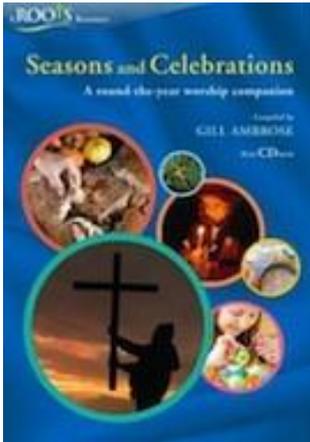
ROOTS can provide a speaker to lead a workshop at your events. We continue to spread the word about 'spiritual styles' and have two new workshops for this year.

Making good connections In this workshop we will explore how an understanding of 'spiritual styles' can help us to plan engaging and inclusive worship and learning.

The fascinating Bible A workshop to discover ways of reading, unpacking and engaging with this web of writings that contain our 'big story'.

Tending tiny disciples Finding opportunities for nurturing the faith of pre-schoolers.

If you're interested in any of these workshops for your forthcoming events, please contact Allison Ward, 020 7901 4879; rootspromo@rootsontheweb.com



Seasons and Celebrations **A round-the-year worship companion**

Following the success of ROOTS Prayer and Prayer Activities this new book offers you versatile ideas for all-age worship. It includes complete service outlines and imaginative worship ideas for every season and holy day from Advent Sunday to Christ the King with many extras in between including Pancake Day, Mothering Sunday and Father's Day, Harvest and Christingle. All the texts can be downloaded or projected from the accompanying CD-ROM. Available from Canterbury Press for £24.99

Poverty Sunday

Poverty Sunday: Help transform lives with a Frugal Lunch

Poverty Sunday is a national initiative encouraging local churches and community groups to reflect, raise funds and respond to issues of poverty affecting communities in England.

We are inviting you to take part in a Poverty Sunday Service followed by a Frugal Lunch on Sunday 21 June, or a day or time that suits you. The Frugal Lunch is a great way to encourage people to share, identify and pray together about issues affecting deprived local communities. It is also a way to encourage and motivate others in your community to respond in a practical way to the issues of poverty in England by donating the cost of their normal Sunday lunch to the work of the Together Network and Church Urban Fund. The programme of activities and resources is available to download for free on the Church Urban Fund website at www.cuf.org.uk/povertysunday and includes:

- **Church Resources:** we have produced sermon notes, worship reflections and prayers
- **Frugal Lunch Resources:** Poverty Sunday placemat and poster
- **Video Resources:** Mel's animation story, explaining the work of the Together Network and CUF, and Dave's story of healing through a church project in Southwark Diocese
- **General CUF Presentation:** briefly outlining the work of CUF and the Together Network

- **Children's Resources:** Placemat for Frugal lunch and KS1, 2 and 3 Lesson Plans, Youth Group Session and Form Reflections that concentrate on explaining the Web of Poverty to different age groups.

Spread the word! We are excited about the potential that Poverty Sunday has to get Christians around England reflecting on and acting to tackle issues of poverty in our country. To find out more visit www.povertysunday.org.uk and register to download your FREE resource pack, or email hello@cuf.org.uk to request a resource pack.

When I need a neighbour, are you there?

Free biblical resources to explore aspects of poverty in the UK

With poverty in the spotlight in the run-up to the general election, ROOTS for Churches has teamed up with Church Action on Poverty and The Consultative Group on Ministry among Children to produce biblically-based materials to help Christians reflect on and respond to this issue. As well as providing awareness-raising facts about poverty in the UK, the pack helps us to explore themes of generosity, justice, disadvantage and judgement through three Bible passages.

These resources can be used in churches, youth groups, and schools - to help Christians respond to Jesus' call to speak up for the most disadvantaged in our society. Please could you share these free resources as widely as possible within your denomination's or organisation's networks?

You can download the pack at:
www.rootsontheweb.com/WhenIneedaneighbour



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