

cpas

Making Mission Possible

LEADING EVANGELISM

LEARNING HUB



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

**An exciting
opportunity to
develop the ministry
of evangelism in
your church(es)**

An Exciting Opportunity...

What is it?

An opportunity to learn together with other churches how to develop evangelism in your church(es).

It draws on the experience and research of CPAS over many years, but is applicable across the theological traditions.

It will not tell you the 'right' way of doing evangelism – it will be up to you to work out what that means in your own context.

It will be delivered by CPAS and the diocese in partnership.

Why do it?

We are living in a post-Christian, post-Covid world, where:

- The majority of our nation are either non-churched or de-churched.
- Most young people are fourth generation non-church going.
- The erosion of the Christian story in public life is extensive.
- 40% of our churches have no one under 16 on a Sunday...

But where:

- We have a great opportunity to proclaim afresh the gospel to this generation.
- The pandemic has seen an increase in openness to spiritual conversations, and a desire for connection, especially among the 18-35s.
- We are all reflecting on exactly how we minister in our new context.

Who is it for?

- Every church that wants to develop its ministry of evangelism.
- This is for **all** churches, across the churchmanship and theological spectrum – it is **you** who will work out what it looks like in your context;

What is the cost?

Nothing, except time and commitment, and your own travel costs to the day sessions. The diocese is covering the training costs, including a free lunch on days we meet together.

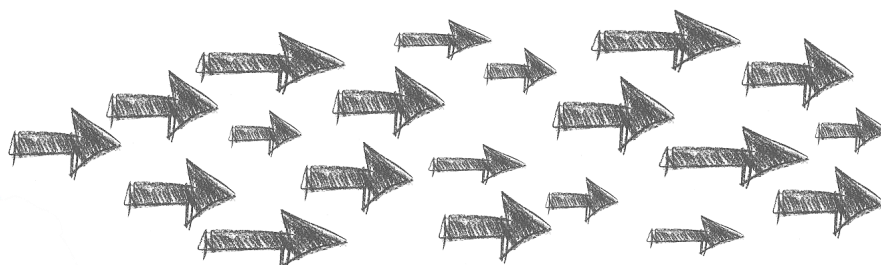
What is the commitment?

You would be committing to:

- Gathering a small team (clergy plus 2-5 others).
- Meeting as a hub onsite once a term (Saturdays, 9.45am-4pm).
- Meeting as a hub online one evening per term (7.30-9.30pm).
- Meeting as your core group roughly once every six weeks in between.
- Being willing to learn and apply that learning in your own context.

Good News

- God's grace abounds, his love is constant, and his desire for all people to flourish through his Son is unwavering.
- People are coming to faith daily across the UK.
- The majority of people who come to faith do so because someone they know shows and shares their faith with them, however falteringly.
- This is an exciting opportunity to explore how to further develop the ministry of evangelism in your context.





What difference will it make?

The aim is for churches to have:

- Embedded four spiritual practices relevant to evangelism into their communal life.
- Created several pathways for people to come to faith.
- Increased PCC time and money spent on evangelism.
- Constructed and led worship and other activities in a way that encourages evangelism.
- Stories of people of all ages who have come to faith in Christ.
- Experienced collegiality amongst other churches and congregations.

Is there any reason why I shouldn't do it?

It is probably not appropriate to begin the journey at the moment if:

- You as incumbent are thinking of moving on in the next two years.
- You can't identify 2-5 other people to join.
- You have another major project already on the go that is taking all the time, energy and attention of yourself and other key leaders.
- You have major conflict within your church at this time.

When is it?

Session 1	Saturday	13 May 2023	9.45am – 4pm	onsite
Session 2	Thursday	29 June 2023	7.30 – 9.30pm	online
Session 3	Saturday	16 September 2023	9.45am – 4pm	onsite
Session 4	Tuesday	5 December 2023	7.30 – 9.30pm	online
Session 5	Saturday	13 January 2024	9.45am – 4pm	onsite
Session 6	Tuesday	12 March 2024	7.30 – 9.30pm	online
Session 7	Saturday	20 April 2024	9.45am – 4pm	onsite
Session 8	Tuesday	18 June 2024	7.30 – 9.30pm	online

The venue for onsite meetings is:

Foxhill House, Tarvin Road, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 6XB

What should I do now?

- Pray about whether it's right for you to join this exciting journey now.
- Talk with other key leaders in your church about the possibilities.
- Talk with the Outreach Team if you have any questions or just want to talk it through with someone.

Sign up (via the Outreach Team)

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Gathering Your Group



WHY A GROUP

The Leading Evangelism Learning Hub is designed for an incumbent and 2-5 other people from their churches or congregations to attend. Deep and lasting change is more likely to occur in the life of a congregation or church when several leaders share a learning experience together.

We would encourage you to gather five others if at all possible, but we want to be realistic about the realities of finding suitable people, so if you are only able to identify two people that is fine. Be prayerful as you ponder who to invite. Often there are some unsuspecting people who it is easy to overlook. Please also think young people as well as adults.

If you are in a context where you have staff, it is often best if the group is a mix of staff and lay leaders.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO INVITE THEM

In our experience, a thoughtful conversation with one or two other key leaders (for example churchwardens) to identify potential people to approach is a good starting point. Do think about the composition of the group as well. Ideally it will be a mix of male and female, and if possible, young and old.

Then ask to meet with each person to talk through what the Leading Evangelism Learning Hub involves. Encourage them to pray about it, and arrange to meet with them again in a few days time to pick up on any further questions they might have, and for them to let you know their decision.

This approach does take some time, but it is worth it. It helps the right people get on board, ensures they know what they are signing up for, and increases the likelihood of the group working well together.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Whilst it is ideal to find people who meet all the following criteria, you may well find people who only meet some of them. Be wise though about accepting anyone. If you are really struggling to find the right people, this may not be the right time to join this learning hub. Look for people:

- Committed to the life of faith, and the churches in your area.
- Well regarded by other congregation members, who are trusted, and therefore are able to exercise influence.
- Who desire to see the ministry of evangelism grow in your context (even if they wouldn't use that language).
- With time *and* energy to give.
- Who bring creativity and innovation.
- With capacity to attend all the hub gatherings and commit to a six weekly meeting with you.
- Open to learning, in particular to grow in their own sharing of the faith.
- Likely to be around for two years or more (as much as anyone can tell).

WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK FOR

- Someone who is an evangelist. Sometimes evangelists don't make the best people to encourage others to discover their part in evangelism.
- Representation across your congregations. It is better to have the right people, rather than a group representing each church/congregation.
- The already overcommitted.
- The normal 'committee people'. This isn't a committee, it is more akin to a team of people working together for a common purpose.
- Those with academic qualifications.

