LEADING EVANGELISM
LEARNING HUB

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 nurture the ministry of evangelism in your church(es).

It draws on the experience and research of CPAS over many years, and 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 in partnership with the diocese.

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?
The diocese is subsidising the Hub, so the cost per group is £200, which includes all materials and facilitation as well as refreshments for the onsite days.

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 faltering.
- 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 we shouldn’t do it?
It is probably not appropriate to begin the journey at the moment if:
- Your incumbent is moving on or taking a sabbatical 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Saturday 16 September 2023</td>
<td>9.45am – 4pm</td>
<td>onsite</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tuesday 21 November 2023</td>
<td>7.30 – 9.30pm</td>
<td>online</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Saturday 13 January 2024</td>
<td>9.45am – 4pm</td>
<td>onsite</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 March 2024</td>
<td>7.30 – 9.30pm</td>
<td>online</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Saturday 20 April 2024</td>
<td>9.45am – 4pm</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tuesday 25 June 2024</td>
<td>7.30 – 9.30pm</td>
<td>online</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Saturday 14 September 2024</td>
<td>9.45am – 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tuesday 19 November 2024</td>
<td>7.30 – 9.30pm</td>
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The venue for onsite sessions is St Mary Bredin, Canterbury.

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 Gareth Dickinson, Hub coordinator, or Steve Coneys, Mission and Growth Advisor, if you have any questions or just want to talk it through with someone.

Sign up

**Gareth Dickinson**
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**Steve Coneys**
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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.

**What others have said**

‘Getting involved in the Hub has been brilliant, because its given us tools that people can put into practise in their daily lives. We’re beginning to see the fruit in the patterns and lifestyle of the people of St Michael’s.’

Rvd David Brown, Vicar, Coventry Diocese

‘It’s been so enlightening to have support and structures to help me learn how to be courageous and bold in speaking about my faith.’

Lou Thomas, Operations Assistant, St Michael’s Church

‘I am incredibly pleased to be involved in the Hub, and can already see the practical implications having a real impact on how people at St John’s are growing in confidence when it comes to sharing their faith.’

Father Stephen Parker, Vicar, Coventry Diocese