

 **emba**

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**In God...in Scripture...in theology...in good practice**

## **Creating Healthy Christian Cultures: Understanding Spiritual Abuse**



**Saturday 11 September 2021**

**10.00am - 3.30pm**

*(9.30am arrival and refreshments)*

**West Bridgford Baptist Church,  
Nottingham NG2 7NF**

*Please bring a packed lunch,  
refreshments provided.*

**A day led by Dr Lisa Oakley**

**Associate Professor in Applied Psychology, University of Chester**

**Rooted for EMBA Ministers, Designated Persons for Safeguarding (DPS)  
and Safeguarding Trustees**

**ESSENTIAL FOR NAMS**

## Overview of the day

Spiritual abuse is an emerging issue and a controversial topic area. However, issues of coercion and control in Christian contexts are being raised. The day will explore the topic of spiritual abuse, its key characteristics and the impact of this experience. It will reflect upon best practice for response to disclosures and consider how to build healthy Christian cultures. During the day there will be space to consider and reflect upon the application of the learning to the Baptist context.

Previous experience of running such events suggests that delegates can arrive feeling concerned about discussing this topic and what it could mean for the Church. However, feedback indicates how helpful the event is, its impact on learning and that delegates leave feeling positive and equipped.

## Speaker

Dr Lisa Oakley is an Associate Professor in Applied Psychology at the University of Chester. She is also the Chair of the National working group for child abuse linked to faith or belief and the Church of England Task and Finish Group on Spiritual Abuse and has been appointed as a core participant to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).



Lisa has conducted research into issues of faith, safeguarding and abuse for the past sixteen years. Her doctorate was on the topic of spiritual abuse and in 2013 she co-authored a book entitled 'Breaking the Silence on Spiritual Abuse.' In 2019, Lisa co-authored a further book entitled 'Escaping the Maze of Spiritual Abuse. Creating Healthy Christian Cultures.' Lisa has presented on these topics nationally and internationally.

Prior to joining the University of Chester, Lisa was programme leader at Manchester Metropolitan University for the only undergraduate course in Abuse Studies in the UK.