

**Courses and resources
for you, your church
and your community**

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**Adult Education and Training from the
Diocese of Peterborough**



Passion For God

Courses and resources for you,
your church and your community

Welcome to *Passion for God*, a series of courses for any person, parish or deanery in the diocese wanting to live more for God but desiring an injection of excitement, know-how, theology or spirituality. The courses are designed to enthuse, educate and equip people to live God's passion for the world.

Passion for God has been created to help anyone who wants to grow in three vital areas:

- **Spirituality - worship and prayer**
- **Study - the Bible and its relevance to life today**
- **Action - practical action in the church and in the world**

We hope that you find something in the programme to capture your imagination and intensify your own and your church's passion for God. Many of the courses have been inspired by people in parishes saying, "I wish there was a course on x". Well, now there is!

The programme, which is a brand new replacement for *Journeying with God*, consists of short, accessible courses grouped into four areas of interest. These are:

- A: Passion for Worship**
- B: Passion for Mission**
- C: Passion for the Church**
- D: Passion for the World**

For those that know or mind about such things, these four areas correspond exactly with priorities outlined in the *Diocesan Strategy*. While all the courses are designed to benefit local communities, they do so within the over-arching priority areas for the diocese as a whole.

Simply choose a course that inspires you. You can do as many or as few as you like. The real beauty of this programme is that if you can gather a group together in your parish, benefice or deanery, then we will come to you at a time and a place that suits you (tutor availability permitting).

So have a good look at the courses outlined in this brochure. Pass it on for others to see. Discuss the programme with your PCC and ministry team. We hope that you find it inspiring and that we will be hearing from you soon.

With best wishes from the Adult Education Team

Chris, Andrew, Liz, Alison, Lulu and Sarah

Chris Peck is Adult Education and Training Co-Ordinator • Andrew Rayment is Continuing Ministerial Education Officer and Co-Ministry Partnership Development Officer • Liz Holdsworth is Co-Ministry Partnership Development Officer • Alison White is Curates' Training Co-Ordinator • Lulu Pelly and Sarah Brown are administrators

A: Passion for WORSHIP

“Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you” Psalm 67:3



These courses are designed to help you glorify God more through your worship in church and everyday life, whatever your tradition. They are about making more of what is already happening in your services and elevating the worship so that it more than ever proclaims glory to God, builds up his Kingdom and fortifies the passion and faith of worshipping congregations.

The courses also consider prayer, Bible reading and worship in its broader sense, as a way of life, every day of the week and in everything we do. As a worshipping people we are called to be joyful and attractive people. So read on to discover how we can help you and your church to connect more with God.

A1. BEST POSSIBLE WORSHIP

This course aims to impart the skills and understanding needed to improve our worship, to the greater glory of God, and for the enjoyment and spiritual benefit of our church congregations.

The course can help people from churches of all sizes and traditions to work towards improving the standard of their regular worship. Each session is dedicated to one of the four key worship activities: praise, intercession, ministry of the word and the celebration of the Eucharist.

An ideal course to equip lay people with the practical knowledge they need to take part in leading worship.

A2. IGNITING GOD'S WORD

This course considers the whole Bible as the revelation of the word and deeds of God throughout the history of his people. It will help to connect the words of people writing thousands of years ago with our own fast-changing culture.

The course will show how God elected the people of Israel exclusively in order, ultimately, to include us all as his people. It will suggest that the themes running like golden threads through the scriptures are the same themes that preoccupy us today. It will bring God's word alive as an extraordinarily relevant and living resource for us.

If reading the Bible sometimes seems more of a duty than a pleasure then this could be the course for you. It could ignite a passion for God's word that may never be satisfied!

A3. HOW TO PRAY

This course will explore some of the reasons why many of us find prayer difficult, look at some ways round the difficulties, and suggest some inspiring ways to pray.

Seize this opportunity to ask all those questions about prayer that everyone else seems to know the answer to. (Should you follow set patterns? Does it help to use holy language? Should you pray for a parking space? Why doesn't God always seem to answer? What if I can't pray in tongues? Am I the only person who thinks about what is for lunch?). In four sessions the course will help to remove some obstacles to prayer, enable you to grow in confidence, and look at some different ways to pray.

Enjoy your time with God and approach your prayer life with new confidence.

A4. EVERY MINUTE WORSHIP

This course will enable us to respond to the challenge that God has created us for worship - in all that we are and do.

In our frantic lives how can we possibly find time to worship God just a little bit more, let alone give over our whole lives to worship? This four-part course will use a selection of hymns and praise songs as inspiration and discover some of the many ways of worshipping God in all the things that we do.

If you want to be more than just a Sunday worshipper and offer everything you do to God then this course may be just the impetus you need.

A5. STREAMS OF SPIRITUALITY

This course is designed for those who are already exploring aspects of their spiritual life with a prayer partner or spiritual director.

Based on Richard Foster's book "Streams of Living Water", this six session course will explore aspects of spirituality. These include the contemplative, charismatic, evangelical, social justice, incarnational and holiness traditions. It will offer the opportunity to see how each of them are already playing a part in your life, and the life of your church, and how they might play a bigger part.

If you are consciously a pilgrim on your own spiritual journey, then this course could enrich your life with God and challenge your church.

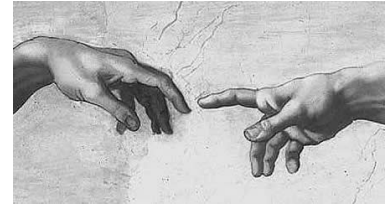
A6. MISSION-SHAPED WORSHIP

This course is to equip churches with practical ideas for making worship attractive to those with no knowledge of church, or those who are hovering on the fringe.

It is not unusual for large numbers of "unchurched" people to find themselves in church. This may be to celebrate rites of passage such as baptisms, weddings and funerals, or it may be for specific missionary services. Whatever the reason, this course will offer lots of workable ideas for how to communicate successfully on these occasions.

Encourage those "outside" to come "in" through attractive worship.

B: Passion for MISSION



“God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son” John 3:16

For many people the idea of being involved in mission is rather alarming, conjuring up mental images of door knocking, embarrassing monologues and aggressive rebuttal. We think of mission as something we are meant to do for God. Whereas in reality God is already engaged in mission and calls us to join in. These courses provide a springboard for effective mission and will help us to understand what God is up to, and our part in it. They will increase our confidence in sharing our faith.

While investigating some new ways of being church, the emphasis of these courses is on seeing what we already do through the lens of mission, and making opportunities for evangelism in what is already happening in parishes.

B1. MANDATE FOR MISSION

This course will look at why mission is important, what it means and what your church can do about it.

In four sessions the course will grapple with the issue of what mission is all about and discover how the church's view of mission corresponds with God's mission for creation. By studying scripture from both Old and New Testaments, we will discover a common mandate for mission and how the very nature of God is revealed in that mandate.

Examine the practical implications of mission for your church and learn to articulate the unchanging good news of the gospel in a changing culture.

B2. SHARING OUR FAITH

This course combines teaching, practical work and reflection on how to share faith. It will provide support and guidance for those taking their first wobbly steps in talking about God outside the comfort of church.

The four sessions will explore ways of telling what God is doing in your life as a story, by following the examples of Hannah, Moses, Miriam and others in Scripture. It will cover some simple techniques for provoking conversation, listening for hints of faith in others, using discernment and responding with integrity.

Learn to articulate your faith and what it means to you in a safe environment.

B3. PRAYER VISITING and COMMUNITY LISTENING

This course will offer the skills and encouragement needed for churches to develop their role as a proactive Christian presence in the local community.

The course will explore the scriptural mandate for prayer visiting in the community by looking at the Gospels and the book of Acts. It will evaluate the power of prayer and prayer groups in mission. It will also offer the opportunity to meet experienced prayer visitors and hear about their tried and trusted techniques. Through role-play you can face the worst in a sheltered environment then take the course challenge if you dare! You may wish to agree a local project to work on in advance of the course.

Learn to engage prayerfully with your local community and take the opportunity to try out a project in your area as part of the course.

B4. THE FAITH WE SEE

This course will help you to see how art, music, poetry and the senses can enrich your spiritual life and be integral to your church's mission.

This creative course will show how to use imagery and music in evangelism and prayer, and make a direct link between a personal spiritual response and the practical use of that response in mission. Let your imagination be released by a range of images of Christ and plan your church's summer events with a new sensory purpose.

Timed to co-incide with planning for summer flower festivals, concerts and special church events, this course will help you use the creative arts to enrich these occasions and turn them into opportunities for evangelism.

B5. SETTING UP A NURTURE GROUP

A "how to do it" course based on the practicalities of evangelism. It will help you to decide which is the right "nurture course" for your church and to explore what you might achieve by running such a course.

Nurture courses can be a springboard for growth among existing congregations and people "on the fringe", as well as for those new to Christianity. One in four parishes in the diocese has run such a course. This is an opportunity to learn from their experiences and look at some of the practicalities: gaining the support of the PCC, building a team to run the course, venues, timings, away-days and follow up.

Practical advice for those considering setting up a nurture group .

C: Passion for THE CHURCH



“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” | Cor 12:7

God chooses to work in large part through the church – an organisation with an agenda for building his kingdom. Part of our role as church is to release people to become all that God has created them to be, and to equip them to be channels of his love and purpose.

This group of courses offers opportunities for individuals to recognise their personal gifts and vocation and to grow in confidence in the love of God. It also offers some pragmatic courses to assist with essential back-room matters such as administration, team-building and the use of technology.

C1. GO FOR GROWTH

Do I trust God enough to follow his calling? Can he really be calling me? How do I step out in ministry and service? This course will help you to answer these questions.

The course will help you to build your confidence that God has a purpose for you and to hear and respond to that purpose. In four parts it will offer new possibilities for ministry and service in God’s world. It will help you to learn to see yourself as uniquely precious to God and to recognise and dismantle some of the barriers that prevent you growing in his service.

See how God is already at work in your life, discover new possibilities and gain the confidence to follow them up.

C2. LOVED AND GIFTED

One of the most difficult Christian concepts to take in is the fact that Jesus died for each one of us, however awful we might be, and that in so doing he made us right with God, who loves us and requires merely our belief and love in return.

By exploring your perceptions of God, together with scriptural evidence and theological discussion of the Trinity, you will begin to get to grips with the magnitude and reality of God’s love and learn to live with the wild, staggering generosity and grace of God.

Begin to discover your part in the body of Christ’s church, your special gifts and what you are going to do with them in response to God’s love.

C3. DISCOVER YOUR CALLING

A one day event for those feeling called to some kind of formal ministry.

Do you feel that God is nudging you in some particular direction? Are you feeling impelled towards some kind of formal ministry in the church or in the workplace? If so, come to an "All Are Called" day where you will meet people who have responded to God's call, learn about a variety of opportunities and have a chance to talk with others in the same position as you.

Explore your calling alongside others.

C4. TEAM BUILDING for CHURCH GROWTH

This is a two part practical course for those trying to build a working body out of what looks like a loose assemblage of spare parts!

You will learn how to discover the strengths and weaknesses of your group and how to allocate tasks accordingly. Discover how to turn a ragbag of individuals into a cooperative team (with time and prayer) and how to focus the efforts of the group on achievable objectives. This course draws on a breadth of wisdom to help your church grow as the body of Christ.

Practical wisdom and effective people skills for church communities.

C5. TECHNO DAYS

A one day course offering technical know-how for churches to use in worship and at other events.

Learn how to use PowerPoint, data projection and video. Gather a wealth of creative ideas and guidance on the sort of equipment you need and its cost.

This course will benefit complete beginners as well as those who would like to develop existing audio-visual skills in more creative ways.

C6. OILING THE WHEELS - CHURCH ADMINISTRATION MADE EASIER

A new course on the practical matters of parish administration.

By and large most church administrative work is learned on the job through trial and error, done by people prepared to try to keep the show on the road. This course will look at a wide range of legal, procedural and day to day administrative issues that affect all churches.

If you have newcomers on the PCC, struggle to get to grips with data protection or canon law, if your posters are lack lustre and your records in a mess then this is the course for you!

D: Passion for THE WORLD



“And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God” Micah 6:8

God has such a passion for the world that he created, and for each of us, that he entered into the world to reconcile everything in heaven and earth to himself through Christ and teach us how to live and flourish. Our passion for God involves sharing his passion for the world.

This group of courses concentrates on the world and how we should engage with its ethics, its politics, its injustices, its culture and its challenge of peaceful coexistence with other faiths. These courses will help us to live out the command in Micah 6:8 in relation to local communities and global issues. If you are concerned about our world and care passionately about the future for our children then read on.

D1. CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES ON BIG ISSUES

This course seeks to enable church members to develop an informed Christian response to some of the big moral and ethical issues of our day.

This is an opportunity to be with other Christians in a safe environment, with an experienced facilitator, to debate and discuss topical issues such as euthanasia, cloning, GM foods, identity cards and the Middle East crisis, and to determine an appropriate response in the light of Micah 6:8.

Topics may vary depending on the political situation at the time of the course. Local groups who request this course may specify key topics that they would like to explore.

D2. RESPONDING TO ISLAM

This course will help you to gain a greater understanding of Islam and engage with one of the major issues facing the church today.

Islam is a growing influence in our world and in our county. Some Christians see this as a threat; others see it as an opportunity. This course will you enable

you to meet Muslims with the opportunity for real engagement, dialogue and understanding. It will cover such questions as: How should we as Christians live together with Muslims? How should we respond to Islam? What do Muslims believe? What does the Koran teach? What sort of world do Muslims look for? How can we build a cohesive community?

Improve your knowledge of Muslim faith, life and belief and discover ways of responding to Islam.

D3. WHAT ABOUT OUR CHILDREN?

This course is to help churches and individuals to address worries about the fate of our children and grandchildren in today's society.

Ours is a frightening society in which to bring children up. With the influence of the media, mobility and the worldwide web our children are arguably subjected to more temptations, dangers and perverse cultural influences than ever before. By looking at the experience of the Israelites in exile, the course will suggest some ways in which we can equip our children to live as Christians in today's world.

Face your fears, examine scripture and come away with workable solutions.

D4. BEING CHURCH IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

This course is designed to help churches to engage with their local community.

As Christians we are called to be the salt of the world. How do we do that in practice? How do we make sure that the doors of our Church open outwards? How can we be more effective as a church in engaging with the issues faced by the community around us? This course is about taking social action. It will look at the God of community revealed in the Old Testament and in the early church and offer some practical ways of being alongside people in our local community.

Gain confidence to be the salt of the world in your local community.

Further Information

For more information about the dates on which courses are running, the cost of courses (around £10 per person, per course), or to discuss running a course in your local area, please contact the Adult Education and Training Team. They will help you to choose the right course and manage your booking.

Contact: Lulu Pelly or Sarah Brown
Tel: 01604 887049
Email: lulu.pelly@peterborough-diocese.org.uk
Address: Bouverie Court, 6 The Lakes, Bedford Road,
Northampton NN4 7YD

**Current dates of courses, and a booking form,
are also available on our website:**

www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk