

# Training MATTERS

## Diocesan Certificate in Christian Discipleship

- opportunities to grow in your understanding of Christian faith and how it relates to daily life

There are places available at St Matthew at the Elephant (Thursday evenings) and St Mark Wimbledon and St Nicholas Sutton (Wednesday evenings). Sessions start in mid-September and the cost is £10 per five-session module. Among the topics are: understanding and using the bible; the significance of prophecy; exploring prayer and spirituality; the origin and significance of the Gospels; making moral choices in today's world; and the link

between faith and caring for others.

## Diocesan Certificate in Biblical and Theological Study – for “thinking Christians who want to understand their faith better”

There are still a few places left at Croydon Parish Church (Wednesday evenings) and St Mary's Church Putney (Thursday evenings). Sessions start during the third week in September and the cost is £30 per 10-session term. The course comprises modules on: the bible; doctrine; ethics; and worship and spirituality.

## Reader Training

If you would like to find out more about Reader ministry,

there will be an Open Evening at Trinity House on Tuesday 16 November from 6.30-8.00pm. It will be a very informal evening, with plenty of opportunities to talk to experienced Readers about their ministry, and to people who are on the training course at the moment. Drinks and light snacks will be provided. Register, by contacting Sue Maree or turn up on the night.

## Could you be a SPA?

Find out at the next Information Evening on Wednesday 12 November from 7-8.30pm at Trinity House.

SPAs (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries) are lay men and women who are authorised by the Diocese to help develop caring and pastoral work on

behalf of the church and are involved as volunteers in a wide variety of pastoral roles. The evening will look at the different forms SPA ministry can take and explain the selection and training process. The evening is open to anyone possibly interested in SPA ministry, incumbents and PCC representatives.

Applications from minority ethnic people and from men are particularly welcomed since they are currently under-represented in SPA ministry.

**For further information on any of the above, please contact Sue Maree, the Diocesan Training Administrator, 020 7939 9475, email: sue.maree@dswark.org.uk.**

## Resource Exchange opens October



“There are so many useful resources out there. It's been fascinating to discover loads of new ideas and practical suggestions and innovative materials - all sorts of ways for parishes to expand their ministry and their horizons.”

So says Hilary Brand (above), who has been busy for the last few months setting up the new Resource Exchange run by the Woolwich Episcopal Area. The Exchange opens for business next month and materials available include books, booklets, packs, videos, CDs, posters etc; in subject areas such as: children, youth, worship, congregational development, parish management, community and pastoral issues, group study, Christian basics etc, etc - anything in fact that is of practical use to parishes. A catalogue will be available in booklet form or on the website [www.dswark.org.uk](http://www.dswark.org.uk) from mid-September.

Designed primarily as a free loan service for Woolwich and other urban parishes (and with a focus on anything of particular relevance to urban situations), materials will also be available on a subscription basis to all Southwark parishes.

The Exchange is located in the Ann Stricklen Room in Trinity House and will be open for business from October onwards. Official 'drop-in' times will be every Tuesday, 10.30am - 6.30pm and the first Saturday of each month (November onwards), 10.30am - 4.30pm, but it will also be open during other office hours by arrangement. Items can be collected, sent by post or, where appropriate, copied pages can be sent by email. There are around 500 items currently available but many more materials will be added in the next few months. Also coming soon will be a comprehensive list of other sources of materials, advice or expertise.

For more information, or to offer suggestions, contact Hilary on [hilary.brand@dswark.org.uk](mailto:hilary.brand@dswark.org.uk) or 020 7939 9419.

## Resources for working with children

**Saturday 6 November 10am at Trinity House**

This workshop led by Alison Seaman and Diane Craven will focus on Godly Play and children's spirituality. Godly Play is an imaginative new way of engaging children in scripture stories and learning about faith. The workshop will also feature other ways of developing children's spirituality and look at the

variety of materials on offer.

Alison Seaman is an educational consultant Diane Craven is Southwark Diocesan Children's Adviser. Because Alison is a freelance professional, there will be a small charge for this workshop.

## Change without Tears

**Saturday 13 November 10am -3pm at Trinity House**

Change can be exciting and motivating, unsettling and unsafe - and that's just for the leader! This free workshop, led

by the Rev. John Ackland, is suitable for clergy and laity involved in making change happen. It will:

- \* look at the role of the leader and the key players
- \* review experiences of change and what was learnt;
- \* explore key priorities to enable change;

- \* help you to clarify your 'critical path' for the change you are seeking .

John Ackland, now Vicar of a new parish uniting two churches, both undergoing major rebuilding, previously worked for British Airways managing global changes involving over 10,000 staff!

**Both workshops are offered by the Woolwich Area Parish Development Network primarily for the Woolwich Area, but some places are available to the Diocese as a whole. Contact Hilary Brand on 020 7939 9419 or [hilary.brand@dswark.org.uk](mailto:hilary.brand@dswark.org.uk)**



‘...Let your **light** shine before all people ...’

Matthew 5:16

Shine a light into young lives with Christingle – the fun family service everyone wants to be part of.

Your service will make a vital contribution to our work, helping us to give the 100,000 children who run away from home each year somewhere safe to go and someone sound to talk to.

For more information, register for your free resource pack online at

**[www.christingle.org](http://www.christingle.org) or call 0845 300 1128**