



LEADING EVANGELISM

LEARNING HUB

AN EXCITING
OPPORTUNITY TO
DEVELOP THE MINISTRY
OF EVANGELISM IN
YOUR CHURCH



Good News for a Change

GOOD NEWS Daily people become disciples of Jesus across the UK and Republic of Ireland.

GOOD NEWS The majority of people who come to faith in Christ do so because someone they know shows and shares their faith with them, however falteringly.

GOOD NEWS Churches come in many forms, and whether it is a fresh expression led by a lay person, a congregation led by a focal minister, or a church led by a clergy person, it is possible to order the life of a community around the ministry of evangelism.

GOOD NEWS God's grace abounds, his love is constant, and his desire for all people to flourish through his Son is unwavering.

GOOD NEWS Here is an exciting opportunity to explore how to further develop the ministry of evangelism in your context.



Unexpected Opportunities



In a post Christendom 'missionary' context 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 churches in the Church of England have no one under 16 on a Sunday...

... we have a great opportunity to proclaim afresh the gospel to this generation, and we will need every form of church to play its part.

Alongside this, during the pandemic we have seen an increase in openness to spiritual conversations, new people 'attending' online church, and a desire for connection among the 18-35s.

It is a great time to reflect on how we might continue to engage with people and share good news.



COVID STATS

- 4% of those who previously had never attended church (both Christian/ no religion) did attend online church regularly during lockdown.
- 23% of adults in England say they have engaged with online church regularly.
- 52% of those who didn't previously attend regularly, but did during lockdown and hope to continue in person, are aged under 35.
- During the pandemic 85% of open access youth community activities have stopped and 50% of youth have not engaged.
- Most people agreed that the Church should definitely offer: indoor and outdoor spaces for reflection (63% and 64%); a place to light candles (57%); a listening ear about death (61%); guidance or preparation for someone's death (55%); and private services to remember or celebrate people who had died (53% and 51%).

Stats taken from Savanta ComRes study 29 Jan to 7 Feb 2021; Youthscape unpublished research; Church of England survey of 2008 adults about grief and COVID.

Learning Together

A learning hub is an opportunity for incumbents to gather with some key leaders from their churches to explore how we might help our churches develop in the ministry of evangelism.

We know that deep, long-lasting change in church(es) is more likely to happen when more than one person is involved in the leadership of that change. So, each incumbent will need to identify 2-5 other people to join them on the learning hub, and we've produced a guide for who to look for (see the appendix on page 8).

Learning is also best embedded through habits, and throughout the hub we will practise four evangelism spiritual practices, and look at how to embed these in the life of our congregations.

Finally learning happens best when there is a 'hunger' to learn from those involved, a 'just in time' approach rather than 'just in case', and a desire to apply learning immediately to their context.

'All participants enthuse about the training they receive. They see real outcomes in their parishes, both in terms of personal growth and in the development of their mission and ministry.'

**THE REV CHRYS TREMTHANMOR, CMD
OFFICER, PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE**



What it Involves

Every church
a pathway
to faith



Every leader
a catalyst for
evangelism



Every Christian
a courageous
witness



Every child
the chance to
explore Jesus



The hub is for churches that long to develop their ministry of evangelism.

CPAS longs to see every church a pathway to faith, every leader a catalyst for evangelism, every Christian a courageous witness (although this probably doesn't mean what you think it means!), and every child a chance to explore Jesus. This hub is designed to help this become a reality.

We of course recognise the importance of the wider work of mission in the life of churches, and we will make connections with this, but the focus of the hub is on evangelism.

People are busy, so we gather for just one online Saturday and one online evening a term for four terms. Each group will then need to meet at least once every six weeks for an evening to work on embedding what they are learning into their context.

Each day explores a key theme identified through our work with churches over the last few years: connect, model, order, mobilise.

THE COST

The cost of the hub is £180 per group, irrespective of numbers. This includes facilitation of all the gathered aspects and materials. If cost is an issue, please let us know, as subsidies may be available.

THE COMMITMENT

Attendance at all elements will be essential for the effectiveness of the process. Please embark on the hub if:

- You want to develop the ministry of evangelism.
- You are open to learning, and ready to apply it to your context.
- You can commit to meeting with your group at least every six weeks.

Please do **not** embark on the hub 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 a major project 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(es) at this time.

Overview

DESIRED OUTCOMES

Churches will have:

- Embedded four evangelism spiritual practices into their communal life.
- Created several pathways for people to come to faith.
- Increased time and money spent on evangelism by PCCs, vestries and equivalent bodies.
- 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.

The next hub will start in early 2022, dates to be confirmed.

Between each of the following eight sessions you will meet in your group.

SESSION 1 9.45am-4pm	CONNECT Evangelism involves connecting with God and what he is doing, connecting with the vocation of the Church, connecting with people and where they are at, and connecting the gospel to contemporary culture.
SESSION 2 7.30-9.30pm	An opportunity to review your progress, and revise future plans.
SESSION 3 9.45am-4pm	MODEL We can't ask others to do what we are not doing ourselves, so in this session we explore our own faith sharing, and particularly look at the responsibilities of those in leadership when it comes to evangelism.
SESSION 4 7.30-9.30pm	An opportunity to review your progress, and revise future plans.
SESSION 5 9.45am-4pm	ORDER Church leadership is about ordering a community around the person of Jesus and the priorities of his kingdom. We'll explore how to shape an evangelistic culture and discern an appropriate way forward for the ministry of evangelism in your context.
SESSION 6 7.30-9.30pm	An opportunity to review your progress, and revise future plans.
SESSION 7 9.45am-4pm	MOBILISE Evangelism is a body ministry in which everyone has a part to play and we need everyone to play their part. Those in leadership enable this to happen by equipping people to share their faith in their everyday lives, and identifying, equipping and releasing evangelists and pioneers.
SESSION 8 7.30-9.30pm	An opportunity to review your progress, revise future plans and bring the hub to a close.

What Next?

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have further questions, or you'd like to have a conversation about whether the Leading Evangelism Learning Hub is right for your church, please contact James Lawrence, CPAS Leadership Principal at jlawrence@cpas.org.uk.

TO SIGN UP

You can register your interest at www.cpas.org.uk/hub. There are a limited number of places, and those registered with us will receive a booking option ahead of a general release. Before booking you will need to identify those who are going to be part of your group (see appendix), and be able commit to all the dates for the sessions.

PRAY

Please pray for the hub as it develops, and for all those who are going to be a part of it. Pray for your own churches, for eyes to see where God might be leading and courage to follow. And finally, pray that through this process we may accompany children, young people, women and men of all ages on their journey to faith in Christ.





Appendix: 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 as many as possible, but we want to be realistic about the realities of finding suitable people, so if you are only able to identify one person 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 evening 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.