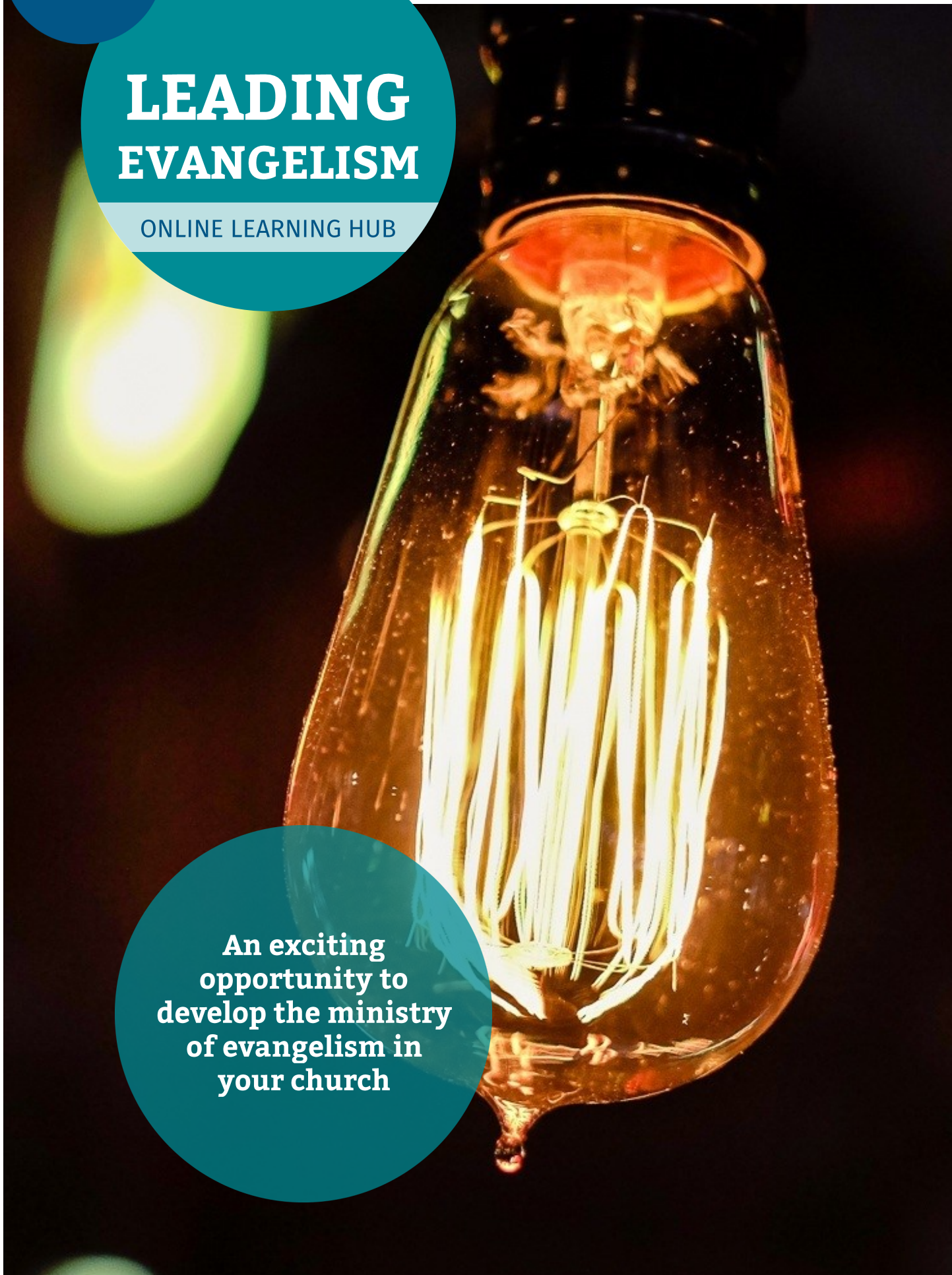


LEADING EVANGELISM

ONLINE 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



‘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.’

REVD DAVID BROWN, VICAR,
COVENTRY DIOCESE

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, through 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 perfect time to reflect on how we might continue to engage with people and share good news.



RECENT 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 onsite, are aged under 35.
- 33% (up from 20% in 2015) of non Christians who had a conversation about faith wanted to know more about Jesus Christ, and 36% were open to an encounter or experience of Jesus for themselves.
- 53% of non Christians know a practising Christian.

Stats taken from Talking Jesus 2022, Savanta ComRes study 29 Jan to 7 Feb 2021; Youthscape unpublished research.

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 is asked 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). External research on the first three Hubs shows this is a critical factor in the effectiveness of the Hub.

Learning is also best **embedded through habits**, and throughout the hub we will introduce four evangelism 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.

'The investment of time has more than paid off. It's been a delight to see how much people have enjoyed themselves along the way.'

REVD JAMES HALSTEAD, PRINCIPAL OF
SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP, SOUTHWELL AND
NOTTINGHAM 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 £275 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

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

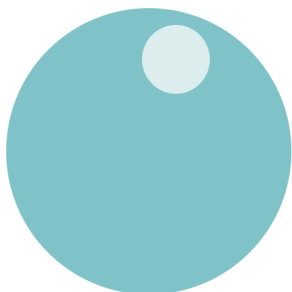
- You want to develop the ministry of evangelism.
- You are open to learning, and ready to apply it to your context.
- You can commit to meeting with your group at least every six weeks.
- You are each able to attend all eight sessions.

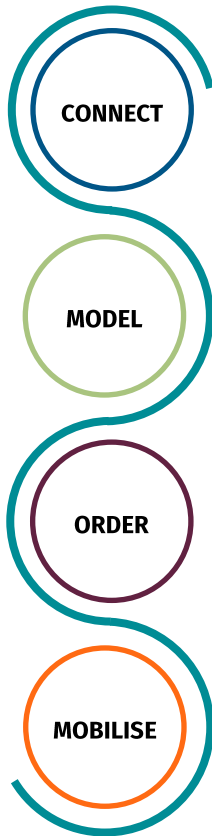
Please do **not** embark on the hub if:

- You as incumbent are thinking of moving on or taking a sabbatical 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.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

We are measuring the impact of the learning hubs which means we will invite participants to fill out a survey at the beginning and end of the programme.





Overview



DESIRED OUTCOMES

Churches will have:

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

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

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>SESSION 1 30 Sep 2023 9.45am-4pm</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>SESSION 2 28 Nov 2023 7.30-9.30pm</p> | <p>An opportunity to further explore our theme for the term, connect, and review your progress, and revise future plans.</p> |
| <p>SESSION 3 27 Jan 2024 9.45am-4pm</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>SESSION 4 19 Mar 2024 7.30-9.30pm</p> | <p>An opportunity to further explore our theme for the term, model, and review your progress, and revise future plans.</p> |
| <p>SESSION 5 27 Apr 2024 9.45am-4pm</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>SESSION 6 18 Jun 2024 7.30-9.30pm</p> | <p>An opportunity to further explore our theme for the term, order, and review your progress, and revise future plans.</p> |
| <p>SESSION 7 28 Sep 2024 9.45am-4pm</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>SESSION 8 26 Nov 2024 7.30-9.30pm</p> | <p>An opportunity to further explore our theme for the term, mobilise, and review your progress, revise future plans and bring the hub to a close.</p> |



What Next?

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

TO SIGN UP

You can book your place at www.cpas.org.uk/hub and the closing date is **30th July 2023**. You will need to identify those who are going to be part of your group after your booking is confirmed and **by 31 August** (see appendix), and commit to all the dates for the sessions.

PRAY

Please pray for this online hub 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.

'I am incredibly pleased to have been invited by the Diocese 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





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 **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 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.