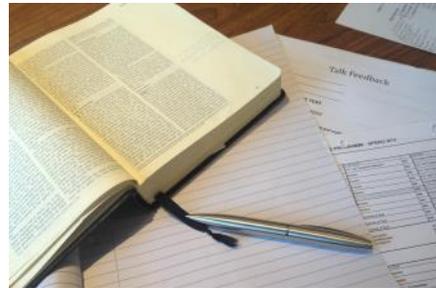


The **Sussex Ministry Training Course** equips Christians for Bible-centred ministry

Each Tuesday, men and women of all ages, from across Sussex and beyond, gather together for a day of Biblical instruction and training, and warm fellowship. Through lectures, group work, class discussions and teaching workshops, students on the course grow in Biblical understanding and confidence, and Christian maturity. The result is that they are equipped to be more effective in living for Christ and serving him in the church and the world.



We believe that when the Bible is taught, God's voice is heard, and so the primary aim of the course is to provide training in understanding the Bible and teaching it to others.

We encourage anyone who desires to 'rightly handle the word of truth' to join us. It is particularly aimed at those who have opportunities to teach the Bible and who want to be better equipped to do so. We welcome men and women of all ages who hold evangelical convictions and desire to serve Christ in their particular context.

The course is ideal for Sunday School Teachers, Youth Group Leaders, Home Group Leaders, One-to-One Bible Readers, Pastoral Workers, Evangelists, Church Leaders, Schools Workers, Ministry Trainees and Church Apprentices, Christian Union Leaders and gap-year students, as well as those considering full-time Christian ministry.



Peter, Consultant

The course is a brilliant way for church apprentices, early/newly retired and working people, who can commit one day a week, to learn more about the Bible, doctrine, and related subjects. The highlight each term is the opportunity to apply your learning in small workshops. Very worthwhile, enjoyable and good fellowship.

Course Timing and Format



The course runs on Tuesdays from September to July in three terms of 11 weeks, each with a half-term break. Students who complete the first year may choose to apply for Year 2. We start at 10:30am and finish at 4:15pm, enabling off-peak travel to and from the course. The day is divided into four 1-hour sessions with breaks for refreshments (provided) and lunch (bring your own).

The format for the training sessions varies, mainly taking the form of lectures given by experienced Bible teachers with time for questions; but also includes discussion periods, small group work and teaching workshops.

The teaching workshops are an important part of the course as they provide an opportunity for students to try out the skills they have been learning in a safe and supportive context. Students are divided into small groups led by a course leader. In each group, one student gives a short talk or leads a Bible study on a set Bible passage. The talk or study can be aimed at adults, young people or children. The leader and group members then give constructive feedback. This provides a very helpful learning experience for everyone from the complete novice to the seasoned Bible teacher.



There is no set homework other than preparing when it is your turn to make a presentation for a teaching workshop and there are no exams. However, course members may well find it useful to do some background reading during the week.

I have been involved as a church leader for many years but needed to get back to the basics of my faith. The lectures are of very high quality and have served that purpose very well and having the time to discuss the material over coffee times has also been a great blessing. As I come to the end of the course I feel refreshed and encouraged by the teaching I have received.

Stephen, Church Leader

Course Content

Bible Overview Travelling from Genesis to Revelation, we get a bird's eye view of the Bible. Students find it very exciting and informative to learn how it all fits together from Creation to New Creation. This provides a vital foundation for a full understanding of each of the individual parts of the Bible.

Christian Doctrine This is where we put all the parts together in a different way by seeing what the Bible teaches about a number of basic themes. We look at a range of topics including the nature of God, the person of Christ, his death and resurrection, the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Principles of Exposition This is a very practical part of the course in which we learn how to understand and teach different parts of the Bible. We look at three sorts of Bible literature: Gospels, Old Testament Narratives and New Testament Letters and then practise what we have learned in the Teaching Workshops.

Bible books We study at least three books in depth as well as taking a briefer look at some other books. This not only grows our understanding of the books we study, but helps to illustrate the Principles of Bible Study and Teaching. In recent years we have covered Matthew, Exodus, and 1 Thessalonians.

Practical Ministry We aim to cover a variety of topics relevant to a wide range of ministry contexts, including running a small group Bible study, explaining the gospel, handling questions people ask, working in a team, men's ministry, women's ministry, youth work and church planting.

New Testament Greek It is not compulsory, but many students enjoy the opportunity to learn a little of the language in which the New Testament was originally written. This option is usually available during the lunch break.



I could not recommend the SMTC highly enough to any who would wish to deepen their understanding of the faith and learn how to proclaim it afresh to others in this generation. The many different speakers give the lectures and subjects a diversity of approach and breadth of understanding and experience which is invaluable. This, coupled with the gentle pastoral relationship fostered, is of great personal benefit.

Benjamin, Self-Employed

Course Leadership

The course is led by Nick McQuaker and Jon Hobbs.



Nick is Director of Training and Development for the Sussex Gospel Partnership. Previously he was a Pastor at Christ Church, Haywards Heath (formerly the Evangelical Free Church) where he had ministered since 1996. For many years, he has been involved in training others to teach the Bible both in the UK and overseas.



Jon is the SGP's Associate Trainer. Following eight years of parish church ministry, first in Lindfield, and then in Maresfield and Nutley, he now leads Grace Church, Haywards Heath, alongside his role with the SGP, teaching on the training courses and speaking at training events.

Many other experienced church leaders from the Sussex Gospel Partnership also speak regularly on the course. These include Andrew Cornes, Julian Milson, Graham Nicholls, Mark Redhouse, Mark Ventham, Philip Wells and Michael Wilcock. Guest lecturers have also included David Jackman and John Stevens.

Year 2

The second year course is offered for those who want to take their training further. In-depth study of Bible books continues and the study of Bible doctrine is extended and deepened. We look at how to approach additional types of Bible literature such as Psalms, Old Testament Law and Prophecy and the skills learnt in these sessions continue to be tested and sharpened in the teaching workshops. As well as looking at further practical ministry and leadership topics, there is also opportunity to grapple with apologetics and difficult ethical issues.



The second year is particularly suitable for those regularly involved in leading Bible studies or giving talks or sermons. It also provides an opportunity for those in the second year of a ministry training scheme to continue their biblical and theological studies.

To have God's word opened up in such a structured and inter-related way has been thrilling on every level. Always one to love the challenge of understanding (with my mind) the gospel of Christ, it has been wonderful (and unexpected) for me to experience also a corresponding and tangible response of my emotion, as my knowledge of God's amazing love, grace, holiness and sovereignty has grown.

Phil, Parish Worker

Sussex Gospel Partnership

A partnership of Bible-centred churches in Sussex working together to train leaders, strengthen and plant churches and advance the gospel

One of the most important ingredients in Christian growth and maturity is learning how to read, understand and apply the Bible. SGP courses provide an in-depth and clear introduction to theology and biblical studies, not only for your own walk with God but also to help you teach God's word to others in various contexts. I heartily recommend them to anyone who wants to grow in their knowledge of the Bible.

Richard Jackson, Bishop of Lewes

There is simply nothing more important than for preachers and teachers to be deeply persuaded that the Bible is God-breathed and therefore our final authority. To be equipped to rightly understand and apply its message is the greatest need of the 21st Century. This course is an excellent means of being further strengthened in the truth and prepared to turn the world right-side-up through the Gospel - starting in Sussex!

Derek Fortnam, Pastor, Park Hill Church in Brighton

Location and Travel

The course is held at Christ Church, New England Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 3LE. The venue is readily accessible by car, train and bus. It is a 20 minute walk from the mainline railway station with connections to London, Brighton, Hastings and Littlehampton; and parking is available on surrounding roads.

Cost and more information

The cost of the course is £180 per term. Bursaries may be available for those on a lower income whose church is unable to contribute to the fees.

To find out more, or to request an application form, please contact:

Mrs Wendy Sands
SGP Administrator, c/o Christ Church
New England Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 3LE

Tel: 01444 458 635
Email: admin@sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk

Not available on Tuesdays?

We also run **monthly** Saturday Morning Bible Training Courses and other regular training events. Please take a look at our website or contact Wendy Sands for more information.

www.sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk

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**The Sussex
Ministry Training Course**

Equipping Christians for Bible-Centred Ministry