



**SUSSEX
GOSPEL
PARTNERSHIP**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022



God's Better Story

For a world wrestling with
identity, sexuality and gender

Equipping for Bible-Centred Ministry

Sussex Ministry Training Course (SMTC)

Tuesdays (10am to 4.15pm) in term time in Cuckfield, near Haywards Heath. A one-year course with the option of a 2nd year.

Saturday Morning Bible Training Course (SMBTC)

Monthly on Saturday mornings over two years. This course covers the core elements of SMTC year 1. Those who complete the course may choose to apply for SMTC year 2. Venue for the next course to be confirmed.

Courses start in September and application forms will be available from Easter 2023.

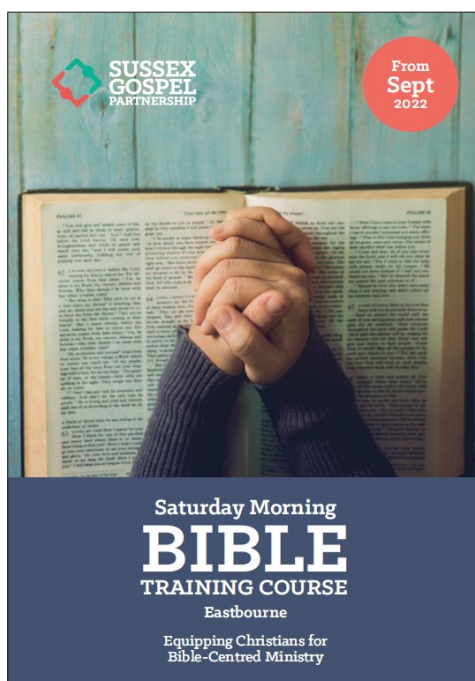
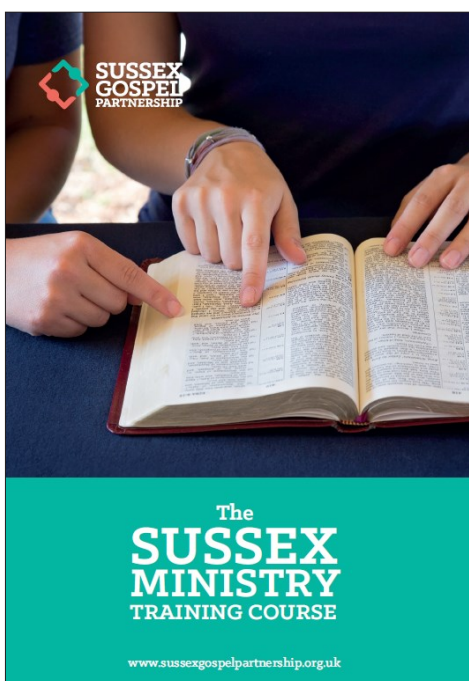
For more information about the training courses, including a video and brochures which can be downloaded, please visit:

sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk/ministries/training-courses/

or contact our SGP Administrator:

Email: admin@sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk

Phone: 07516 672 848 (Mondays and Tuesdays)



PROGRAMME

Session 1 (10 to 11:20am)

Andrew Bunt

*A better story concerning
our identity*

Refreshment break

Session 2 (12 to 1pm)

Andrew Bunt

*A better story concerning
our sexuality and gender*

Lunch

Seminars (2 to 2:55pm)

Final Session including Q & A (3 to 3:30pm)



We are very pleased to welcome **Andrew Bunt** as our main speaker today.

Andrew is part of a church in Bexhill and is Emerging Generations Director at Living Out, a UK charity that helps people, churches and society talk about faith and sexuality. He is the author of *People Not Pronouns: Reflections on Transgender Experience* and *Finding Your Best Identity: A short Christian introduction to identity, sexuality and gender*.

SESSION 1 — Andrew Bunt

A Better Story Concerning Our Identity

How do I find who I am?

Others decide

I decide

God decides

- Illustrated in the life of Jesus (Luke 2:49; Mark 1:11; 9:7)
- Human identity (Genesis 1:27; 9:6; James 3:9-10)

Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

- Christian identity

Ephesians 2:1-10 (ESV)

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

- Experiencing your identity

SESSION 2 — Andrew Bunt

A Better Story Concerning Our Sexuality and Gender

LGBTQ+ shame and identity

Genesis 1:27 (ESV)

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Sexuality and identity

Mark 2:18-20 (ESV)

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to him, “Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” ¹⁹ And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.”

Isaiah 54:5a (NIV)

For your Maker is your husband – the LORD Almighty is his name.

Hosea 2:19-20 (NLT)

I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. ²⁰ I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the LORD.

Ephesians 5:31-32 (ESV)

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Revelation 19:6-7 (ESV)

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.”

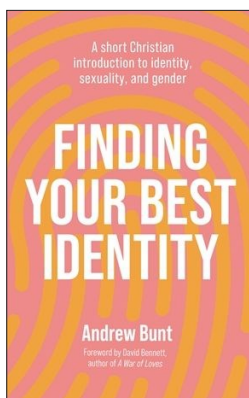
Gender and identity

Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

ON THE BOOKS ALIVE STALL TODAY!



Finding Your Best Identity

Andrew Bunt

RRP: £8.99 **£7.00**

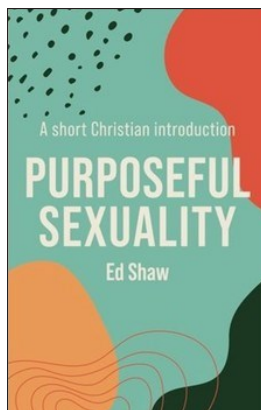
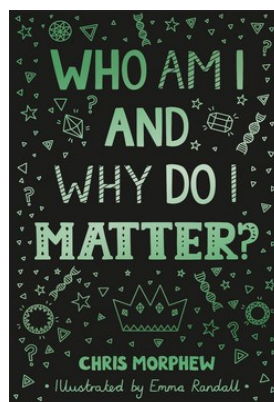
Who are you? And how can you find who you are? In this short Christian introduction to identity, Andrew explores and examines different ways we can discover who we are. Blending his personal story with careful Bible teaching and genuine cultural awareness, this is a book to get conversations going and help us all understand our best identity.

Who am I and Why do I matter?

Chris Morphew

RRP: £6.99 **£5.00**

Sooner or later, kids ask big questions about themselves and their faith: Who am I? Where do I fit in? Am I good enough? What do people think of me? What does God think of me? In this warm, empathetic book, Chris shows children how to embrace and enjoy their identity as those loved by God and made in his image. He also gives lots of practical advice on how to remember what God says about who they really are.

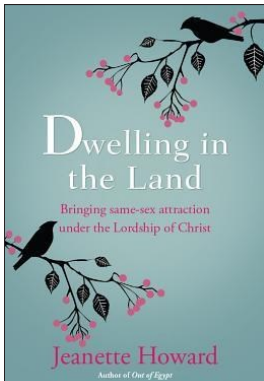


Purposeful Sexuality

Ed Shaw

RRP: £8.99 **£7.00**

If you're a human being, then you're a sexual being. But what is your sexuality for? That's a question we often struggle to answer because we find it so hard to talk about our powerful and personal sexual feelings—perhaps especially if we're Christians. In this book, Ed explores the Bible's deepest answers to this question in ways that will help everyone to appreciate and enjoy God's purposeful gift of sexuality – whatever your past history, current situation or sexual orientation may be.



Dwelling in the Land: Bringing Same-Sex Attraction Under the Lordship of Christ

Jeanette Howard

RRP: £8.99 **£7.00**

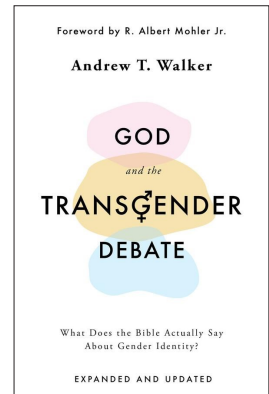
With intelligence, compassion and fellow-feeling Jeanette explains what it means, as a Christian who has wrestled for the whole of her adult life with same-sex attraction, to live honestly and consistently as a Bible-believing Christian.

God and the Transgender Debate

Andrew T Walker

RRP: £8.99 **£7.00**

This warm, faithful and compassionate book that helps Christians understand what the Bible says about gender identity has been updated and expanded throughout, and now includes a section on pronoun usage and a new chapter challenging some of the claims of the transgender activist movement. Andrew also answers questions such as: What is transgender and gender fluidity? How should churches respond? What does God's word actually say about these issues?



10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity

Rebecca McLaughlin

RRP: £11.99 **£9.00**

Backed by state-of-the-art research, personal stories, Harry Potter illustrations (warning: spoilers!), and careful biblical study, this book doesn't dodge tough questions. Instead, it invites teenagers to ask their hardest questions about Christianity and to find surprising, life-giving answers.

SEMINAR A — Mel Lacy

Telling our children God's better story

Space for your notes

Space for your notes

SEMINAR B — Andrew Bunt

God's better community for trans-identifying teens

The current situation

Understanding what's going on

SEMINAR C — Jeanette Howard

God's better community for same-sex attracted people

Introduction – It's a dog's life!

Brief testimony

Self-Identification and the Tribe

- This is me
- This is us

Christ-Identification and the Church

- This is Him
- This is us

The Big Challenge

- From without
- From within

What is God for?

A Binding Faith

Psalm 68:5-6

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but
the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

Matthew 12:48-50

“Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹ Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

A Practical Faith

- The Good News
 - Silence is not an option

- A Shared Life

- Addressing Common Life Issues

- Shoulder to Shoulder

SEMINAR D – Adam & Sarah Thrift

Living a Better Story at college and loving our transgender classmates

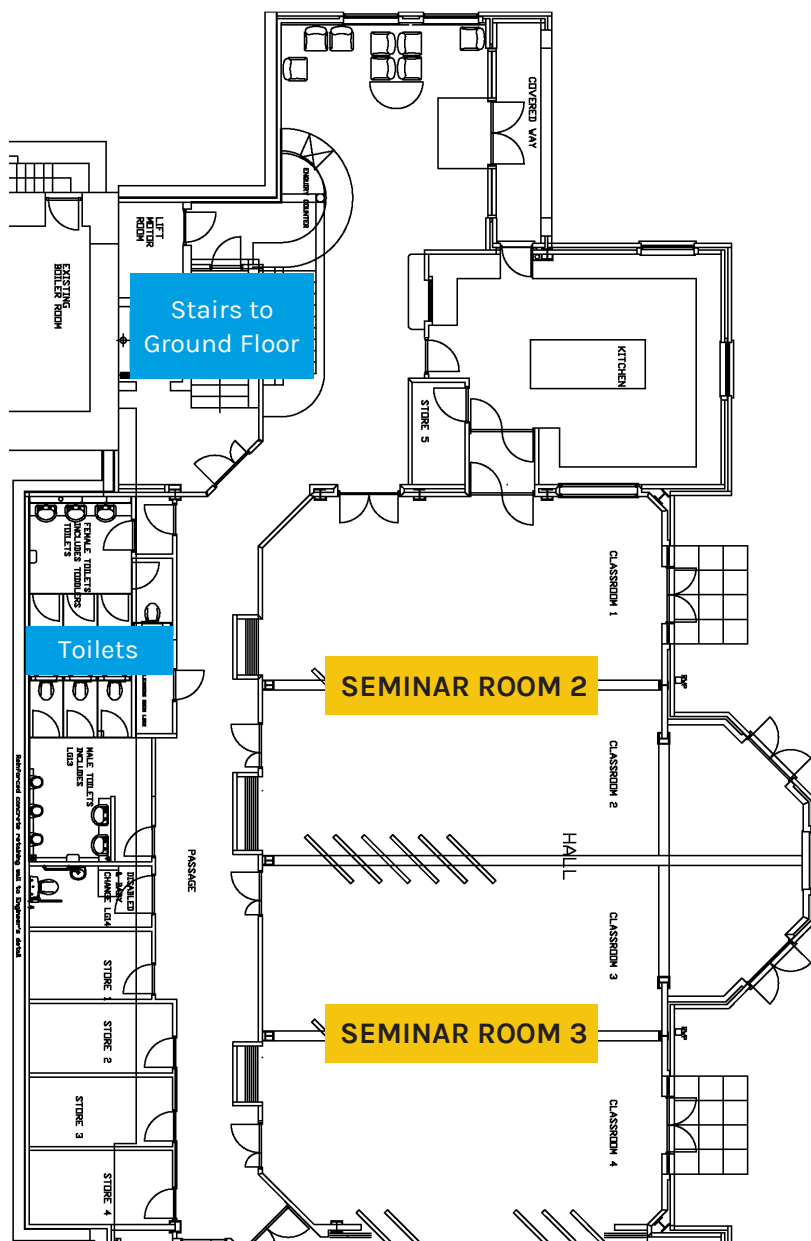
Space for your notes

Space for your notes

The floor plan shows the layout of the first floor. Key areas include:

- Top:** A circular **WORSHIP ROOM** with an **APSE**, **PULPIT**, **COMMUNION TABLE**, and **LECTERN**. It is flanked by **ROOF OVER KITCHEN** and **ROOF OVER CRECHE**.
- Left:** **Toilets** and **Stairs to other floors** (indicated by a yellow box pointing to the stairs: **Upstairs to SEMINAR D (First Floor—Music Room)**). Other rooms include **GLASSBROOK S/V COMMITTEE ROOM**, **ROOF OVER LIFT MOTOR ROOM**, **ADMINISTRATION**, and **GENERAL OFFICE**.
- Center:** A large yellow box labeled **MAIN SESSIONS and SEMINAR ROOM 1**.
- Bottom:** A **PORCH** and a large yellow box labeled **AFTERNOON CRECHE AREA**.
- Right:** A **Bookstall**, **Information Stands**, **BAPTISTERY**, **SACRISTY**, and another **Toilet**.

Venue plan—main building (lower ground floor)



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Crèche/Imagine (Babies & Preschoolers) drop-off and pick-up: **OLD HALLS**

Inspire (School Yrs Reception to Year 5) drop-off and pick-up: **OLD HALLS**

Ignite (School Yrs 6 to 9) drop-off: **STABLES**; pick-up from Church building

Coffee Break

Only the youth in *Ignite* (Yrs 6 to 9) rejoin parents during coffee break.

Please do not disturb the other groups (*Crèche/Imagine* and *Inspire*) during the break!

Lunch break and end of day

Please collect your children quickly FROM THEIR PICK-UP POINT.

Parents are responsible for their children during lunch.

Would parents please keep their mobile phones turned on, in silent mode, so that leaders can contact them during the day if needed.

SITE PLAN (with walking route between venue buildings)



FIRST AID

First Aid cover at the conference is being provided by Sarah MacLennan. If you need help, please ask a steward who will contact Sarah.

Sussex Gospel Partnership
sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk
admin@sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk
07516 672 848