



**SUSSEX
GOSPEL
PARTNERSHIP**



The
**SUSSEX
MINISTRY
TRAINING COURSE**

www.sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk

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, Christian maturity and confidence to share God's word with others. 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 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 own context. The course is particularly 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.

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.

"I've had an amazing two years growing closer to God through studying his word on this course. It has helped me grow more confident in giving talks. I feel better equipped to lead women's Bible studies and reach out to women on a 1:1 basis using the word of God to help them. I have also made new life-long Christian friends and enjoyed much fellowship and support."

Jane, Mum of 4

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

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 10am and finish at 4:15pm, enabling off-peak travel to and from the course. The day is divided into four sessions of 70 minutes each with breaks for refreshments (provided) and lunch (bring your own).

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 by preparing and presenting a short talk on a Bible passage.

The teaching workshop groups are deliberately kept small and enable



students to learn by 'having a go' and sharpen their Bible-handling skills in a safe and supportive environment.

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.

"Taking time out to deepen your walk with God through his word and learn how better to understand it and teach it to others is an investment that will set you up for a lifetime of ministry. It was a course like this that really helped train me when I was in my twenties and I'm so thrilled that we now have such a good quality training course available in Sussex. I would love every member of my church to do it."

PJ Guy, Vicar of Christ Church, Horam

"It's been a great two years going deeper into God's word, seeing how the Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled completely in Christ. It has both challenged and encouraged me in my personal faith and given me a better grounding in the Bible. My only regret is that I didn't do it 30 years ago as it would have helped me to be a bolder and better equipped Christian in my workplace. I would encourage anyone to seriously consider doing this course"

Sarah, Physiotherapist

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.

"Several people from our church have benefitted from this course. The impact on our development as a young, independent church has been considerable and a blessing beyond measure. I strongly recommend the course to anyone interested in furthering or supporting the spread of the Gospel."

Graham, Commercial Surveyor

Find us on...



Course Leadership

The course is currently led by Jon Hobbs.

Jon is the SGP's Trainer. He has been in church leadership for over twenty years and serves as the minister of 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 Will Cockram, Adam Frith, Graham Nicholls, Mark Ventham, Nick Tucker, Hugh Bourne, PJ Guy, Andrew Cornes and Steve Rees. Guest lecturers have also included David Jackman, John Stevens, Dan Strange and Nigel Styles.

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.

"It has been a privilege to be able to study God's Word with such a lovely group of people who all love the Lord. The teaching is so clear. I have learned so much, developed a greater understanding and become closer to Jesus because of it. I can't think of a better way to spend Tuesdays and I highly recommend it to anyone who loves the Bible."

Sylvie, Retired

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Location & Travel

The course is held at Cuckfield Baptist Church, Polestub Lane, Cuckfield, near Haywards Heath, RH17 5GP. The venue is readily accessible by bus and by car and there is plenty of on-site parking. The closest railway station is in nearby Haywards Heath with good rail links to London and all parts of Sussex. Lifts from the station can usually be arranged if needed.



Cost & Applying

The cost of the course is £245 per term. If the cost is prohibitive, many of our students have received help for funding from their churches and bursaries are also available, if your church is unable to contribute to the fees.

Apply online at:
forms.sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk/smtc

To find out more or request a paper application form, please contact:

Mrs Victoria Donougher
SGP Administrator
c/o 1 The Wilderness,
Lindfield
RH16 2JD

Tel: 07516 672 848

(Monday AM, Tuesday, Wednesday AM)

admin@sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk

Not Available on Tuesdays?

We also run monthly Saturday Morning Bible Training Courses and other regular training events. For more information, take a look at our website or contact Victoria Donougher.

“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,
former Bishop of Lewes