The Sussex Gospel
Partnership (SGP) is a
network of Bible-centred
churches working together
to train leaders, strengthen
and plant churches and
advance the Gospel.

Our Ministry Training Courses are for those who want to understand the Bible better and be equipped to teach it to others. We recognise the vital need in today's church to equip all believers for works of ministry and to develop the next generation of Bible teachers who will faithfully pass on the Word of God.

Sussex Ministry Training Course

(SMTC) Runs every Tuesday from 9:40am – 4:15pm at Cuckfield Baptist Church near Haywards Heath for 3 ten-week terms. The next course begins September 2025. There is an optional second year which builds on what is learnt in the first year.

Saturday Morning Bible Training Course

(SMBTC) Runs once-per-month on a Saturday morning (except August) over 2 years and is a cut-down version of year 1 of the Tuesday course aimed at those who are not free to undertake a week-day course. Students attend once each month (excluding August) from 9:30am to 1:00pm and it takes 2 years to complete the course. To widen accessibility, the SMBTC is run in various locations across Sussex (East/Mid/West). The next course starts in September 2025 and will be held at Bishop Hannington Memorial Church in Hove

Completion of yr 1 of SMTC or 2 years of SMBTC recognised as an Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) training programme by the Diocese of Chichester.

Further information

For applications and further information please contact our administrator, Vic Donougher:

Tel: 07516 672 848

Email: admin@sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk **See our website:** sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk



Sussex Ministry Training Course (SMTC)

Course fees

The course costs £264 per term. Bursaries are available on a discretionary basis

Term dates

Autumn Term 2025

September 23rd to December 9th

Spring Term 2026

January 6th to March 31st

Summer Term 2026

April 21 to July 7th



At Cuckfield Baptist Church, Polestub Lane, Cuckfield, West Sussex, RH17 5GP. The nearest railway station is Haywards Heath which is a 45min walk or 15min bus ride (Numbers 31 or 271), followed by a 10min walk.

Saturday Morning Bible Training Course (SMBTC)

Course fees

The course costs £95 per term. Bursaries are available on a discretionary basis

Term dates

Autumn Term 2025

September 23rd to December 9th

Spring Term 2026

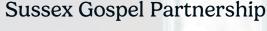
January 6th to March 31st

Summer Term 2026

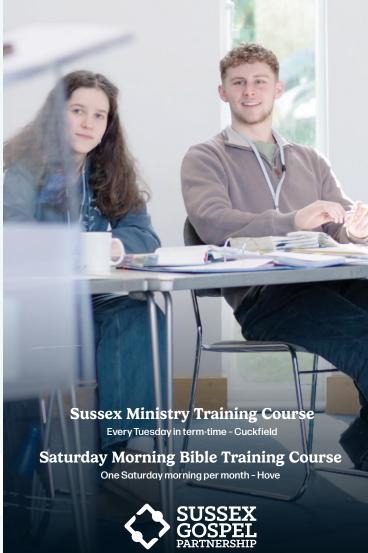
April 21 to July 7th

At Bishop Hannington Memorial Church, Nevill Ave, Hove BN3 7NH.

The nearest Railway station is Aldrington which is a 15min walk.



Ministry Training Courses 2025-2026



What is covered?

Sussex Ministry Training Course (SMTC)

Each Tuesday is divided into four main sessions (The Saturday course is divided into 3 sessions)

Bible Overview: Looking at how God's Word fits together from Genesis to Revelation.

Expositions: In-depth study of different Bible books from different genres, showing how to teach and apply them in the 21st century.

Gospel Ministry: Practical training from a range of experienced pastors and Bible teachers. Subjects include Christian Leadership, Giving Talks, Evangelism, Church Planting, World Mission, Pastoral Care, Ministry to Elderly and Apologetics.

Workshop Streams: In 2025 we hope to start different streams a chance to give students a chance to gain experience in either Preaching or leading Bible studies or Children's ministry or 1:1 ministry, with feedback from experienced workshop leaders. After preparing passages in the first term, students practice giving talks or leading Bible studies in a group setting.

What does a normal day look like?

9:40 - 10:05 Fellowship Groups, prayer & praise 10:05 - 11:10 Bible overview / doctrine 11:10 - 11:30 Coffee 11:30 - 12:40 Exposition 12:20 - 13:35 Lunch Gospel Ministry 13:35 - 14:45 14:45 - 15:05 Coffee 15:05 - 16:15 Workshop streams





The course also includes a British Museum day or a London Heritage tour during the Autumn term.

In addition we hold regular 'Partnership Training Days' with specialist visiting speakers throughout the year which students are free to attend.

Who teaches on the course?

Spencer Shaw is the Director of SGP. He became a Christian as a child and worked as an industrial physicist before training for ministry. Before coming to Sussex in 2025, he served as a church Pastor in the Westcounty for 23 years.

Jon Hobbs is the SGP Associate Trainer, teaching on the training courses and speaking at training events. Alongside his role with the SGP, he leads Grace Church Haywards Heath.

Other experienced ministers and speakers who teach on the course from time to time include:

Rev Sam Carter
Rev PJ Guy
Nick Mcquaker
Rev Steve Rees
Rev Nick Ashton
Janine Bending
Pastor Will Cockram
Pastor Mark Ventham
Pastor Graham Nicholls
Rev Rory Graham

Pastor Roger Barden John Woods David Lowries Rev Nick Tucker Adam Thrift Rich Arnold Richard Vincent Nigel Styles Rev Steve Finch Carrie Sandom

Jon Hobbs