

## Fees

Participants are encouraged to ask their church and/or other supporting bodies to contribute to their fees. The full fees (which cover the provision of all resources, food and refreshments) are £200 per person and can be paid in 6 monthly instalments. The course is currently supported by finance from a grant to the Diocese of Sheffield from the Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board.

## Course Dates 2024

Induction afternoon: Wednesday 17 April 2024 - 2-5pm

Remaining sessions: Wednesdays - 9.30am - 4.30pm

- 24 April
- 8 & 22 May
- 5 & 19 June
- 3 & 17 July
- 11 & 25 September
- 9 & 23 October
- 6 November

All sessions will be held at Whirlow Spirituality Centre at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Whirlow Grange Close, Sheffield S11 9SY.

## Applications

If you are interested in the course, please complete the online application form [www.sheffield.anglican.org/learning/courses/art-of-spiritual-accompaniment/](http://www.sheffield.anglican.org/learning/courses/art-of-spiritual-accompaniment/).

**Closing date** for applications is Wednesday 31 January 2024.

All applicants will have a meeting with members of the course team to explore and discern participation. These will be held in February and March.



# THE ART OF SPIRITUAL ACCOMPANIMENT 2024

**The aims of the course** are to:

- introduce Spiritual Accompaniment
- develop discerning listening
- enable growth in the ministry of Spiritual Accompaniment through prayer, listening and reflection.

It is particularly suitable for people who:

- find themselves drawn to listening to others' faith journeys
- wish to develop further in their ability to listen to God in the lives of others
- sense a call to the ministry of Spiritual Accompaniment (Spiritual Direction)

This course will build upon the work covered in 'Spiritual Growth and Transformation', including the experience of the listening groups.

This is an experiential course rather than an academic course, open to all in a church or other Christian community.

## **The Course...**

- consists of an induction afternoon and twelve one-day sessions
- includes the use of role play, reflection exercises, case studies and being observed in Spiritual Accompaniment exercises; participants will be expected to commit to journaling and complete homework as required
- encourages openness to God, discerning listening to the movement of the Holy Spirit and a faithful response to the call of Christ in life.

This course has been developed over the last 15 years by an ecumenical team.

There are five key elements:

- prayer and reflection, experiencing different approaches to prayer

- observed listening in small groups to enable enhanced listening; this will develop into the practice of responding appropriately, and with discernment, to what is shared
- reflection in groups on the growth points being experienced
- explorations of the significant themes of Christian spirituality and spiritual accompaniment; these include biblical and theological perspectives, and exploration of human development and inter-personal dynamics within spiritual accompaniment
- supervision in a group setting of practice, of listening to someone outside the course.

## **Course Requirements**

The most important requirement is the desire to enter into the journey of this course, seeking deeper relationship with God, to grow in faith and develop the ability to accompany others on the spiritual journey. So, for example:

- You are expected to have your own Spiritual Accompanier, whom you have been seeing for at least one year
- You are expected to have completed the 'Spiritual Growth and Transformation' course and Basic and Foundation level Safeguarding online training
- You are asked to provide a recommendation from your spiritual accompanier and church/community leader.

The course requirements are set out in full in the application form.

There are no academic or educational requirements.

If you are unsure as to whether the course is appropriate for you, please contact Canon Ian Smith on 01302 853324 who will be happy to discuss things with you.