

# The Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry

for all who work with children and young people in the Church



helping you to  
strive for  
the highest  
qualities in  
practice

support and  
development  
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enjoyable,  
user friendly  
and non-  
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training



# The Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry

*Going for Growth* (2010), the Church of England's national policy for ministry among children, champions a commitment to provide 'support and development for those called to work with children and young people in the name of the Church, so that they might strive for the highest qualities in their practice.'

The Diocese of Manchester has responded by developing the Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry.

The Certificate is offered at three levels.

Participants do not need to 'work their way up' and can start at whatever level is best suited to their needs.



**the venue is  
wherever is  
convenient  
for you**



**start at whatever level  
is best suited to you**

as enjoyable,  
user friendly  
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threatening  
as possible

## Level 1

Many of those who volunteer for children's ministry may not be used to attending training or 'equipping' courses. For this reason the **Level 1** material is designed to be as enjoyable, user friendly and non-threatening as possible.

Not only that, it is largely 'do it yourself' – other than for the Safeguarding (Child Protection) session, participants don't have to leave the comfort zone of their own parish or the people they know.

For the other sessions there are no outside 'leaders' involved – the facilitators are provided from your own team – and the venue is wherever is convenient for you.

The sessions are designed to be short (90 minutes maximum, including refreshments) and your team decides when and how frequently to hold them.

The decision to take part in the scheme needs the support of the incumbent/priest in charge and PCC. An introduction, together with the session details and a sample session are available on the diocesan website (children's section) and will help your parish make that decision:

see [www.manchester.anglican.org](http://www.manchester.anglican.org)

If your parish decides to run the Level 1 programme, contact Children's Officer, Steve Dixon to register and he will send you the DIY instruction pack. The six sessions are:

- **Safeguarding children**
- **How children develop**
- **Working together**
- **Planning what we do**
- **Children and prayer**
- **Children and the Bible**

Level  
our needs.

## Level 2 (Core Skills for Children's Work)

Level 2 of the Bishop's Certificate is awarded to those who have successfully completed the *Core Skills* programme by attending all six sessions, collecting their notes and handouts into a portfolio, and producing brief reflections on each session.

*Core Skills* is an ecumenically devised and delivered programme, comprising six sessions:



### Session 1: Child Development

- Characteristics of children at different ages
- Our own experience of life, learning and faith
- Theories of human development

**gain core  
skills for  
best practice**

### Sessions 2: Leadership Skills

- Looking at your skills and gifts and how you'd like to develop them
- Who supports you in your work with children in the church
- Thinking about the activities we do and how to do them better

### Session 3: Programme Planning

- Planning activities to suit the different ways that children learn
- Making up your own activities as well as using published resources
- Thinking about the different needs of your children



**you can collect yo  
over several terms  
different venues**

**Build a  
portfolio of  
resources  
and skills**



**our six sessions  
by attending at**

## Session 4: Children and Community

- Different ways of including children in the life of the church
- Developing and promoting a 'vision for children in our church'
- What your church could offer children in the neighbourhood

## Session 5: Pastoral Awareness

- Checking on knowledge about keeping children safe in our churches
- How adults use their authority
- How to be supportive to children dealing with difficult situations

## Session 6: Spirituality and the Bible

- Thinking about what the words 'spirituality' and 'faith' mean to you
- Helping children use the Bible in spiritual and prayerful ways
- Experiencing different Bible-based activities

The programme is delivered by Steve Dixon and ecumenical colleagues at a different venue each term.

Details are posted on the children's events section of the diocesan website.

A small charge is usually made for each session.

Participants can collect their six sessions by attending at different venues over several terms.

## Level 3 (Church Colleges' Certificate in Children's Ministry)

Level 3 of the Bishop's Certificate is awarded to those who have successfully completed the Church Colleges' Certificate in Children's Ministry programme.

This is a one year, part time course, validated by the University of Chester, leading to the award of the nationally recognised Church Colleges' Certificate (equivalent to 60 credits at academic level four) as well as the diocesan Bishop's Certificate.

The course comprises 3 modules each lasting one term – *Understanding Childhood, The Bible and Children*, and *Children and Worship* – plus a placement at a church other than your own for wider experience and reflective learning.

The attendance requirement is 6 evenings, 2 Saturdays, and 2 placement visits per term. In addition, time is required for reading and completing two assessed tasks totalling 4,000 words (or equivalent) per module.

There are no academic entry requirements for the course but you will need to be actively involved in children's ministry in a church context, and have your church minister's support plus an acceptable enhanced CRB disclosure.

The course is run in conjunction with the Diocese of Chester. The current venue is St George's Church Hall Altrincham WA14 4DE, and the 2011/12 fee is £165 for the year.

Lay students may apply for a Laity Development Grant to help with this. The Programme Leaders are Steve Dixon, and the Chester Diocesan Children's Ministry Adviser.

For further information see contact details on the back page.



**study for a  
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recognised  
qualification**



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Laity Developmen**

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## Authorised Lay Ministry

### Authorised Lay Ministry



This ministry takes different forms but in general Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) lead or establish a team of people working in an area of ministry and also work to encourage and develop the gifts of others.

You might want to consider offering yourself for training as an ALM with a specialism in Children's Ministry.

ALM training includes a 'core' module exploring ministry and discipleship, and two modules on your specialist area.

For the Children's Ministry specialism you must undertake Level 1 and Level 2 of the diocesan Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry together with two practical tasks in your parish or complete Level 3 of the Bishop's Certificate.

For full details of the ALM scheme visit the Diocesan Website or contact the Course Administrator:

Helen Fallone  
Tel. 01618281411  
email: [helenfallone@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:helenfallone@manchester.anglican.org)



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t Grant

**Encourage  
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## For more information

If you would like to know more about any of the levels of the diocesan Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry, please contact:

The Revd Steve Dixon  
Children's Work Officer  
Education Department  
Church House  
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Manchester M3 2GH

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**Share in the  
ministry of  
your local  
church**