



# HOLY LISTENING

formation in spiritual direction

*Apply today for 2025!*

Are you interested helping people deepen their spiritual lives?

Could God be calling you to be a spiritual director?



You're already a good listener, a person others confide in. Your faith is important to you, and you have an awareness of your spiritual journey. You're receiving spiritual direction yourself (or you're willing to).

And you're open to the experiences and stories of others, to the unique journey they may be making through life, and to the value of the different traditions and expressions of faith in which their lives are rooted.

If that sounds like you, perhaps it's time to explore a vocation as a spiritual director.

Why not join us on the *Holy Listening* journey as we learn, pray and grow together and become equipped for this unique and invaluable ministry?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris".

Revd Chris Webb  
Course Director

# HOLY LISTENING

## formation in spiritual direction

*Holy Listening* is a Launde Abbey training course which will help you develop skills and reflective practice for a ministry of spiritual direction. We explore core aspects of Christian spirituality, and how we create and hold spaces that enable other people to hear God speaking in their lives.

Each course day we begin with prayer and reflection introducing a variety of different aspects of prayer and Christian spirituality. The main seminar of the day covers various topics associated with spiritual direction.

During the afternoon we engage in practice sessions to embed our learning. You'll be asked to share and work with your own concerns and experiences throughout the course, and a willingness to do this is essential.

You'll also keep a reflective journal throughout the course, complete some written assignments, and meet from time to time with one of the tutors.

### The Team

The *Holy Listening* teaching team is led by Chris Webb, an Anglican priest with many years experience in spiritual direction.

Our other team members are John Rackley (a Baptist minister), Catherine Wright and Rhona Knight (Anglican priests) and Janet Brown (an experienced lay spiritual director).

More details about the team can be found on the website.



## Course dates

### 2025

January 17	<i>Orientation</i>
February 7	<i>Models of Direction</i>
March 14	<i>Suffering and Change</i>
May 2	<i>Sacred Space</i>
May 22-25	<i>Residential retreat</i>
June 20	<i>Ways of Faith</i>
September 5	<i>Supervision</i>
October 3	<i>Sexuality and Abuse</i>
October 31	<i>Personal Dynamics</i>
November 21	<i>Sacred Story</i>

### 2026

February 13	<i>Self-Reflection</i>
March 13	<i>Life Stages</i>
April 17	<i>Listening Skills</i>
May 22	<i>Images of God</i>
June 12-14	<i>Residential retreat</i>
September 4	<i>Safeguarding</i>
October 2	<i>Reconciliation</i>
November 6	<i>Boundaries</i>
December 4	<i>Difficulties</i>



## Admissions

Applying to be part of *Holy Listening* is the beginning of a discernment process that continues throughout the course.

An application form is available on the website and should be returned to Janet Brown (hl@launde.org.uk) by Friday 27th September. Ten places are available, with enrolment open to both clergy and lay Christians.

Interviews will be held at Launde Abbey on 14 and 16 October to assess how appropriate the course may be for you, and to discern the likelihood of this being a part of your future ministry.

We'll notify successful candidates by 25 October.

## Fees and Bursaries

The annual fee for the 2025–26 intake is £1740, including a non-refundable deposit of £290 payable on course commencement and offset against the final semester fees. This includes all tuition, materials, meals, and the cost of the residentials.

The fees may be paid by a Direct Debit of £145 per month.

*Bursaries may be available to help with the costs: find out more on the website.*



Launde Abbey has been the home of *Holy Listening* since the first course began here in 2013.

Set in the spacious east Leicestershire countryside, Launde has been a place of prayer for nine centuries and an Anglican retreat house for over seventy years.

During the course you'll enjoy the warm hospitality (and great food!) for which Launde is renowned. You'll also share in the praying life of the community and have access to the Chapels, labyrinths, prayer rooms and other facilities of the retreat house.

## Your Sponsoring Community

Every student on the Holy Listening course is required to have a sponsoring church or community. This sponsor may be:

- your local church
- a denominational body
- a training institute at which you are studying
- a Christian organisation for which you work
- a monastic or religious community

or any other suitable organisation able to fulfil the sponsorship requirements

If you're considering applying for a place on Holy Listening you'll want to begin conversations with your potential sponsoring community as soon as possible so they have time for any formal processes to take place.

We ask sponsoring communities to do five things in support of your application, training, and future ministry (helping you to **PRESS** forward!) ...

**PRAY** for you during your discernment about the course, your time of training, and as you enter into your new ministry

**RECOMMEND** you formally for training and future ministry (this would usually involve a minuted agreement at a formal meeting – a church council, chapter meeting or meeting of trustees, for example)

**ENSURE** you are able to meet all the safeguarding requirements for this ministry (this includes running a DBS check on your behalf and providing access to relevant safeguarding training)

**SUSTAIN** you during your period of training (this includes pastoral and spiritual care, and helping you find your first directee for the second year of the course; they may also choose to offer financial aid, although this is not required to be a sponsor)

**SUPPORT** your transition into ministry after the course (which may include ensuring you are able to connect with peer networks and find a supervisor)



[laundeabbey.org.uk/holy-listening](https://laundeabbey.org.uk/holy-listening)