

PRIORITY AREAS LEARNING PROGRAMME



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Dates: **2021**

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	COMING IN '22
<p>30th Sept Shaping the Learning Programme</p>	<p>5th Oct Getting to Know Your Community</p> <p>6th, 13th, 20th & 27th Oct Challenge Poverty Webinars</p> <p>7th Oct Asset Based Community Development in Action</p> <p>25th Oct Picking Up the Threads</p> <p>28th Oct Reclaiming Evangelism</p> <p>10th Nov Shaping the Learning Programme</p>	<p>2nd Nov 5Q Live Lounge</p> <p>4th Nov Emotionally Effective Leader</p> <p>10th Nov Shaping the Learning Programme</p> <p>18th Nov Asset Based Community Development in Action</p> <p>24th & 25th Nov The Big Conversation</p> <p>29th Nov Picking Up the Threads</p>	<p>1st Dec Introduction to Coaching Skills</p> <p>4th Dec 3D Futures</p>	<p>31st Jan Picking Up the Threads</p> <p>23rd & 24th Feb Launching Missional Communities</p> <p>TBC Preaching in Priority Areas</p> <p>21st & 22nd Sept Leading Kingdom Movements</p> <p>TBC Building Worship Teams</p>

WELCOME

Welcome to our Learning Programme for Autumn 2021!

The last 18 months have been anything but business as usual. Last year, we had to suspend our learning programme before we even got as far publishing it. This year we have been reviewing, listening and preparing to get started again. Whenever you are stopped in your tracks it takes a bit of time, effort and head scratching to get running again, it is true of everything interrupted by the pandemic, and it is true of our learning programme. We've taken the time to review, listen, reflect and we are launching a trimmed down series this autumn – allowing us to trial a few new pieces, and also to do some further listening to shape next year's offering. We hope that there is something within these pages which catches your eye – and if there is not we hold an open invitation for you to have a chat with us about what *would* interest you.

Our Learning Programme forms one of the core offers of support from the Priority Areas team to those in ministry in Priority Areas, and those engaged in anti poverty work in the wider church. Every piece of learning in here originated within a piece of feedback, a request, an ask. As far as humanly possible we want to keep our offerings right on point for the current set of challenges you are facing.

Some of our activities may be shorter in duration, a few hours, others may arc across a number of years – it depends on the request and the appetite for the journey. We have themed our learning into 4 main categories:

- Asset Based Community Development
- Sustainability and Partnership Development
- Leadership, Missional And Worship Development
- Networking, Sharing Expertise and Good Practice

All of these areas of focus dovetail with the strategic objectives outlined in the Priority Areas Strategic Plan and the emerging Faith Action Programme.

Each year we run through the cycle of asking people what would be helpful to them, planning and delivering a series of learning opportunities, and then evaluating how well those opportunities connected with the original expression of need.

If you have any requests relating to future events, or questions about our current programme please do get in touch.

For now, dive in and have a look at what is on offer.

KEEPING IT SHARP!

Each of our learning pieces has to provide value for the participants and for the wider church, and by doing so offer a return on the investment. One of the ways we help keep our focus sharp and on track is through checking that each piece helps us make progress toward one or more of our strategic outcomes.

The 7 PA Strategic outcomes are:

- Increase our ability to take our work to the margins
- Increase our ability to tackle the causes of poverty in Scotland
- Increase our ability to widen the reach of our support
- Increase our ability to make our buildings work for us, fit for purpose and be community lights
- Increase our confidence and ability to place worship at the heart of what we do
- Increase our ability to make our structures more straightforward
- Increase our skills and abilities to develop more effective leaders

The Faith Action Programme

As you may be aware, the Assembly Trustees of the Church of Scotland have agreed the development of a Faith Action Programme to support transformation and the growth of the Church. The Programme will hold the Five Marks of Mission, prioritising under 40's work and leadership development as its strategic outcomes.

We are confident that our Learning Programme will support people to increase their confidence, skills and abilities to work to these missional marks:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

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Preaching in Priority Areas

We recently completed our first preaching in Priority areas webinar which was really popular. It is likely that this will be something we will come back to - please do get in touch if you'd like to note interest or give any feedback around areas of content.

Register your interest by emailing [John Finch](#).

Preaching in
Priority Areas

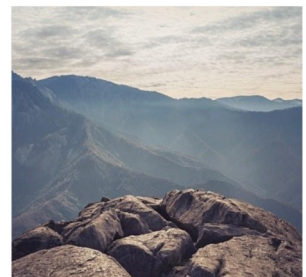


Picking Up The Threads

13th Sept, 25th Oct, 29th Nov 2021 and 31st Jan 2022

Learning Community is an incredible two-year process to help you focus on key areas within your Congregation and community. Join teams from other churches and move through each of the four gatherings, looking at discipleship, leadership, mission and how they all come together in Church. Supported by the team from Cairn, this will involve teaching, reflection, and planning as you go through the discipline of mapping out what is, dreaming of what could be, and determining what will be. There will be further cohorts of the Learning Community being delivered by Priority Areas and the team from Cairn in the future. To register your interest in taking part in future cohorts make contact with [John Finch](#).

Picking Up
The Threads



PRIORITY AREAS LEARNING PROGRAMME

Asset Based Community Development in Action



Asset Based Community Development in Action 16th Sept, 7th Oct and 18th Nov 2021

Priority Areas have teamed up with Cormac Russell at Nurture Development, a leader in this field, to offer communities a chance to really invest in Asset Based Practice in the local context. We are registering interest now for events next year. Typically the course will be focused around your needs and Every month we share an online call with Cormac, with assignments and reading in between. if you are interested we would love to hear from you.

To register your interest, make contact with [John Finch](#).

5Q Live Lounge

21st Sept and 2nd Nov 2021

In 2019 Priority Areas, Ascend and Path of Renewal hosted a conference with Alan Hirsch called 'Enabling Vibrant Teams'. Over two days we explored the APEST model found in Ephesians 4 and unpacked its relevance for the church in Scotland. Do we need just a couple more sentences here explaining APEST and what it stands for? As we continue to interrogate, journey with and unpack this material, we are hosting two new events this autumn inviting people to reflect, post pandemic, on the relevance of this material particularly in the new context we find ourselves in.



PRIORITY AREAS LEARNING PROGRAMME

Shaping the Learning Programme



Shaping the Learning Programme

30th Sept, 25th Oct, 29th Nov 2021 and 31st Jan 2022

Each year the Priority Areas team curates and offers out a Learning Programme. The content varies from year to year – but is always generated by ‘asks’ from Priority Area congregations. This autumn we are running a series of short workshops which will focus on conversations around learning. We want to hear about ideas, needs, gaps in provision, and aspirations. We would love to see your ideas featuring in next year’s learning programme and we hope that this is one of the vehicles which will help us make that a reality.

Book online [here](#).

Getting to Know Your Community

5th Oct 2021

10am—12.30pm

This webinar will explore how we understand our communities using both statistics and community research, including Asset Based Community Development approach. It will explore the new Priority Areas list and supplementary list and how it was produced and introduce updated Deprivation Stats available for every parish which can help explore issues around poverty in your own community. No previous statistical knowledge or experience is required and this is open to people from all congregations, not just those in Priority Areas.

Book online [here](#).

Getting to Know Your Community

5th October 2021

10-12.30pm



PRIORITY AREAS LEARNING PROGRAMME

Challenge Poverty Webinars



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Challenge Poverty Webinars

6th, 13th, 20th and 27th Oct 2021
2—3.30pm

This year we are expanding our Challenge Poverty Week offerings and hosting webinars through the whole of October to tie it together with COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference being held in Glasgow in November. Climate and poverty are two of the greatest challenges facing the world at the moment and through these four webinars we will be exploring the links between them and looking at different ways congregations can get involved in tackling them head on. All the sessions will be facilitated by the Priority Areas staff team and involve lots of opportunity for discussion and questions.

Book online [here](#).

Reclaiming Evangelism

28th Oct 2021
1—2.30pm

In listening to learning needs so far this year, evangelism has come up a number of times as being an area of focus. We are really keen to meet this appetite head on, but would like a chance to better understand exactly the expectations people are coming with. This short workshop will give a facilitated space to discuss this in more detail and start to shape plans for next year.

Book online [here](#).

Reclaiming Evangelism

28th October 2021
1-2.30pm



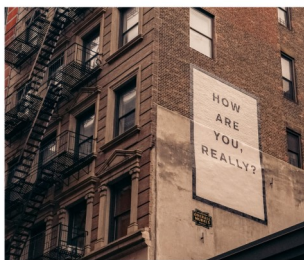
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Emotionally Effective Leader

28th October 2021

10am-3pm



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Emotionally Effective Leader

4th Nov 2021

10am—3pm

Emotional intelligence impacts on every single thing we do. As Leaders it has an enormous impact on the people around us, and the effectiveness of the work we lead.

This day long workshop developed works with the EQi assessment developed by MHS. Each participant will get a personal assessment and 1.5 hour feedback session prior to the workshop.

Alternating between group activities and individual reflective exercises, this engaging workshop encourages leaders to focus on their leadership strengths and areas they can develop further.

Book online [here](#).

The Big Conversation: Priority Areas 360

24th and 25th Nov 2021

We're going to reset after these last eighteen months and do what we're good at; gathering our Priority Areas folk together and listening to what people want. There'll be sessions on sharing stories of success and lessons learnt and sessions on what the new Faith Action Programme will be hoping to achieve in linking the Church's work to the 5 Marks of Mission. In particular we're excited to explore the latest thinking and development around policies to support the introduction of Basic Income or Minimum Income Guarantee to move people permanently out of poverty.

Book online [here](#).

The Big Conversation PRIORITY AREAS 360°

To See Ourselves as
Others See Us

24th and 25th of November 2021



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Introduction to Coaching Skills

1st December 2021

1.30-3pm



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Introduction to Coaching Skills

1st Dec 2021

1.30—3pm

Coaching has been a part of the support offered to those in ministry since Priority Areas launched which is now the Ascend coaching programme back in 2007. This workshop helps to unpack some of the skills used in coaching which can then be transferred into other contexts. Particularly useful to line managers and those managing volunteers, we will have opportunity to practice some of the skills and discuss where they are most appropriately deployed.

Book online [here](#).

3D Futures

4th Dec 2021

10am —4.30pm

Are you looking to develop your work with families? 3D Drumchapel are a family support charity with a Christian ethos based in Glasgow, who are committed to making a difference in the lives of children and their families. Their work is about empowering families to make positive changes. They know they have a model that works and want to offer this through some free pilot workshop. We are partnering with them to offer this to congregations in Priority Areas this autumn.

3D Futures

Building capacity within
communities for families
to thrive



building strong family foundations

priority
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Contact [Sharon Colvin](#) to register your interest.

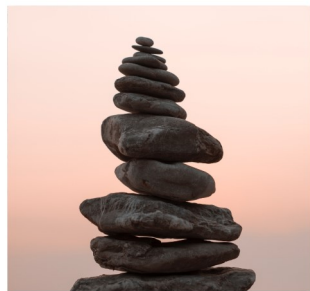
COMING IN 2022

Wildcard Learning!

We often stress that there is nothing in this Learning Programme which does not have its genesis in a request from a Priority Area parish. However, as a staff team we move in a variety of networks where we encounter new opportunities, and this year we will present a few of them as prospective pieces for future years.

At each of the [‘Shaping the Learning Programme’](#) events we will include some pieces of wildcard learning generated by our team for you to think about and feedback on; whether we pursue them or not is entirely dependent on whether they meet with your approval and stimulate some interest.

Launching Missional Communities



Launching Missional Communities

23rd and 24th Feb 2022

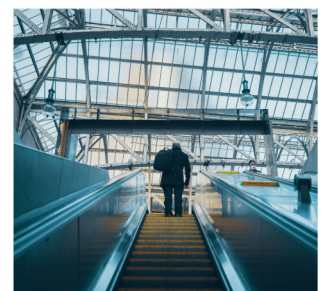
Contact [John Finch](#) to register your interest.

Leading Kingdom Movements

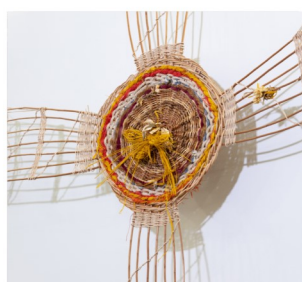
21st and 22nd Sept 2022

Contact [John Finch](#) to register your interest.

Leading Kingdom Movements



Building Worship Teams



Building Worship Teams

TBC

Contact [John Finch](#) to register your interest.

Our Team works towards the strategic plan for Priority Areas, which forms part of the Faith Action Programme for the Church of Scotland. We are located within **Faith Nurture** and are supported by the **Priority Areas Implementation Group**.

“Priority for the poorest and the most marginalised is the gospel imperative facing the whole Church - not just the Church in the poorest places.”

Priority Areas Core Team	Shirley Grieve, Priority Areas Secretary sgrieve@churchofscotland.org.uk
Pam Mellstrom, Young Adult Volunteer Coordinator pam.mellstrom@churchofscotland.org.uk	Iain McLarty Worship Development Officer imclarty@churchofscotland.org.uk
Naomi Dornan, Administrator ndornan@churchofscotland.org.uk	John Finch, Ministries Support Officer jfinch@churchofscotland.org.uk



The Church of Scotland

