

**Information for interested participants from Ely Diocese**

Take up the challenge to deepen your knowledge, hone your skills and follow God’s call for ministry and mission with children and young people. Catalyst is a dynamic training course which aims to equip and inspire you. This course will help you if you are a volunteer in a toddler group, helping at a youth club, doing a few Sunday morning sessions a month or running an outreach programme as a paid worker. You will learn from experts in the fields of children and youth ministry, whilst being supported by your Diocese. And did we mention that the Catalyst course is fully funded by the Church of England (the only element not covered is your travel expenses).

**Who is it for?**

The course will benefit you if you are new to children and youth ministry by providing a solid foundation on which you can build. It will also benefit those who have been around a little longer, to renew, refresh and revitalise their existing knowledge and experience. For some, it will also provide a pathway into further training. So, whether you are a volunteer or an existing paid church worker, we encourage you to prayerfully discern whether Catalyst is right for you.

**What will I learn?**

At its heart, Catalyst will help you develop approaches with children and young people that fosters a holistic and lively relationship with Jesus.

Weaved through the sessions and the conference are the core topics of: safeguarding, cultural awareness, working in groups, discipleship, self-knowledge, self-reflection, theology, biblical studies, play, informal learning, mission and evangelism.

**What is involved?**

Induction: You will be invited to an induction day on **Saturday 18th October** in Ridley Hall, Cambridge.

Five Group Sessions: There are five monthly group sessions where you will meet, for about 2 hours, with other Catalyst participants from your Diocese. Prior to each group session, you will engage with topic content through the Catalyst platform from the comfort of your own home. This will take you approximately 5 hours per session. This means that you will be familiar with the topic before you meet as a group, then you will be able to engage with the topic themes by drawing on your own experience. We will meet in person for these sessions at Etheldreda House in Ely (start time of 7pm or 7.30pm to be agreed with group). We are proposing to run these sessions on the following dates:

* Thursday 13 November
* Thursday 11 December
* Thursday 8 January
* Thursday 26 February
* A close up of a text

  Description automatically generatedPresentations Thursday 23 April (TBC)

Please note, these are **draft** at the moment and will be **confirmed in due course,** therefore if these dates are a barrier to you participating in the course, please contact Ruth New on the details below.

Conference: At the end of January (**Friday 30th to Sunday 1st Feb.**), you and all Catalyst participants from other Dioceses are invited to the three-day Catalyst conference at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire. All meals and accommodation will be provided, and during the day you will hear from experts in the fields of children and youth ministry.

Graduation: You are invited to celebrate the completion of the course and all that you have achieved with your new Catalyst friends at Ridley Hall in Cambridge (**Saturday, 16th May**).

**More information**

For more information, see the summary of content below; check out the Catalyst website [https://catalyst30k.org](https://catalyst30k.org/); watch a video here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgX95j3Ej-E](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DOgX95j3Ej-E&data=05%7C02%7Cruth.new%40elydiocese.org%7C2d096e55a9714fe5d70f08ddc2e73a40%7C8cefe2afc6f544c4bbc3849ef05aafca%7C0%7C0%7C638881021765484538%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WsY3k8XSEJyD8DS4WBlhNONzdw5RUUniWmsJDWAvOT8%3D&reserved=0); or contact Ruth New, Development Officer for Children and Families ([ruth.new@elydiocese.org](mailto:ruth.new@elydiocese.org)).

**Applications**

In the first instance please discuss this with your incumbent (or Church Warden/PCC representative if you are currently in vacancy) and complete the Diocese of Ely Catalyst Training Application Form. Completed forms should be sent to [childrenandfamilies@elydiocese.org](mailto:childrenandfamilies@elydiocese.org).

**Catalyst Summary of Content**

**Induction: A Catalyst for Mission**

Discover what it means to play your part in God’s mission to the world.

* Learn how Catalyst will equip you to serve children and young people in your context.
* Understand the value of reflection for your ministry and mission with children and young people.

**Session one: Children, Young People and Culture.**

Ignite your passion for mission with children and young people by taking a closer look at the cultural contexts you are in.

* Develop your understanding of the relationship between mission and culture.
* Explore biblical examples of mission and culture (e.g., Paul in Athens – Acts 17).
* Recognize the characteristics of contemporary culture i.e., growing up within a digital environment.

**Session Two: Children, Young People and Relationships.**

Explore the importance of developing a deeper relationship with God, your team and the children and young people you minister to.

* Explore how trust and collaborative relationships with your team are beneficial for your ministry with children and young people, particularly in relation to safeguarding.
* Learn how to develop healthy relationships with children, young people, and their families that benefit mission and discipleship.
* Understand your role as a leader with children and young people.

**Session Three: Children, Young People and Discipleship.**

Discover what discipleship is for children and young people today and develop approaches that will be best suited to your context.

* Understand how discipleship of children and young people is influenced by their cultural context.
* Develop your understanding of children and young people’s spirituality.
* Explore a variety of discipleship approaches e.g., intergenerational church, resourcing faith at home, Forest Church, traditional small groups, camps etc.
* Understand the role of being a leader when discipling children and young people.

**Conference: Children, Young People and Growth.**

Take a deep dive into the theology of growth and learning in the beautiful university city of Cambridge.

* Develop your understanding of discipleship and your role within this.
* Explore theories of children and young people’s development.
* Investigate the principles and practices of play, informal education, and/or non-formal education among children and young people.
* Explore theories of how we learn e.g., Vygotsky, Freire, multiple intelligences.
* Explore a biblical understanding of children and young people.
* Develop your ability to lead a group.

**Session Four: Children, Young People and Learning**

Building from the conference, you will continue to expand your knowledge about how children and young people learn and how participatory and inclusive groups are essential for their growing relationship with Jesus.

* Develop your understanding of inclusion and participation.
* Consider how your approach engages with neurodivergent children and young people.
* Understand issues facing children and young people who have physical disabilities.

**Presentation (in learning groups): Children, Young People and Me**

Show your learning group your key learning from the Catalyst course by giving a short presentation about an aspect of your ministry over the past year.

* Understand how your learning will enable the development of others.
* Consider how your learning can be built on and influence your sense of calling to working with children and young people in the future.
* Understand the importance of reflective practice in ministry with children and young people.

**Catalyst Training Form**A blue text on a black background

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**Training Application**

***To be completed by Incumbent & applicant together.***

Catalyst training is a funded pilot from the Church of England to help train up and develop those working in Children and Youth ministry whether in paid or voluntary roles. The content is delivered via online learning to be completed in the applicant’s own time with a monthly locally (diocesan) facilitated learning community. For more information, please see catalyst30k.org.

This application form is to be completed jointly by the Incumbent [or (in a vacancy) another person with a supervisory role for the applicant e.g. church warden or PCC member] and the applicant. Please return the application to [childrenandfamilies@elydiocese.org](mailto:childrenandfamilies@elydiocese.org). A copy of the application should also be retained by the applicant and the incumbent.

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| **CATALYST Candidate & Incumbent’s details** |
| **Name of Catalyst applicant:** |
| **Specialist ministry area (e.g. Children & Families, Youth & Families or other area):** |
| **Name of Incumbent:** |

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| **Benefice/Parish details** |
| Benefice, parish or parishes in which the candidate is serving: |
| Does the applicant have the PCC’s support to be trained for this role? |
| Who is responsible for supervising any ministry with children or young people that the applicant is involved in? |

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| **Safer Recruitment Checklist** | | | |
| *In making this appointment to your team it is vital to ensure that safer recruitment practices have been followed.* ***Please mark boxes to confirm.*** | | | |
|  | Applicant holds a current DBS at an appropriate level. |  | If yes, from what date? |
|  | Is an overseas Criminal record Check required? |  | If yes, has it been undertaken? |
|  | Applicant has signed and returned a confidential declaration? | | |
|  | Applicant has seen and read parish safeguarding policy? | | |
|  | Applicant has completed all appropriate and necessary safeguarding training for their role? | | |
|  | Have you taken safeguarding references for the candidate? Confidential Declaration Form  NB References are held by the Parish Safeguarding Officer | | |
|  | Applicant has a current role description for their ministry? | | |

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| **Working Relationships: Review, Support, and Supervision** |

1. Who has oversight of the applicant’s role and/or ministry? Vicar? Ministry team Leader? To whom will they be responsible?

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1. What support is in place for the applicant? How often will they meet with their supervisor to review or plan work and consider the impact of their training on their ministry. How will the applicant be supported to develop the reflections and learning from the course and embed this into their ministry?

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1. Do you have any learning needs? If so, what adaptations would be helpful for you to access the learning?

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| **Signatures** |

**Declaration by incumbent (person supervising during an interregnum)**

I have met with the applicant and discussed the Catalyst course and the application, and it would be of benefit to the applicant. The applicant has the support of the PCC to commence this training. Safer recruitment has been undertaken in accordance with diocesan guidelines.

**Signed (Incumbent/Supervisor):**

……………………………………………………..………..……………. Date ……………………………

**Applicant’s Signature:**

…………………………………………………………………………….. Date: ……………………………

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the Church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to immediately raise this with Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Those who work with children, young people and/or adults who are vulnerable should have a commitment to:

* Treat individuals with respect, ensure their welfare and safety
* Recognise and respect their abilities and potential for development
* Working in ways that meet and develop the personal, spiritual, social and pastoral needs
* Promote their rights to make their own decisions and choices, unless it is unsafe
* The promotion of social justice, social responsibility and respect for others
* Confidentiality, never passing on personal information, except to the person you are responsible to, unless there are safeguarding issues of concern which **must always** be reported to the person named above.

**Data Protection**

**We process your data in accordance with Diocesan policies as laid out in the main EDBF General Privacy Notice found here:**

**https://www.elydiocese.org/parish-support/privacy-and-data-protection/privacy-and-data-protection-6458.php**

**Please sign below to confirm you understand this.**

**Signed ………………………………………………... Date …………………………..**

**PRINT NAME ……………………………………….**

**Completed forms should be sent to** [**childrenandfamilies@elydiocese.org**](mailto:childrenandfamilies@elydiocese.org)