

## Course Dates 2024

Sessions will be held on Thursdays at [Whirlow Spirituality Centre](#), Whirlow Grange Close, Sheffield S11 9SY from 9.30am - 4.30pm.

Induction afternoon: Wednesday 17 April 2024 (2.00 – 5.00 pm).

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

## Fees

Participants are encouraged to ask their church and/or other supporting bodies to contribute to their fees. The full fees (covering food, refreshments and resources) are £200 per person. 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.

## To apply

- 🔗 Use the QR code or visit [sheffdio.org/ASA](https://sheffdio.org/ASA).
- ✉ Send the enclosed application form and recommendation forms to Suzanna Schofield, Diocesan Church House, 95-99 Effingham Street, Rotherham S65 1BL.



Forms can be downloaded from the above webpage or by calling Suzanna on 01709 309 147.

All applicants will have a meeting with course facilitators to help us discern together if the course and timing seem right and to deal with any questions that you have. These will be held in February and March.

**The closing date for applications is Wednesday 31st January 2024**

# The Art of Spiritual Accompaniment

An experiential course in discerning listening

**April –  
November  
2024**



 THE DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD

# The Art of Spiritual Accompaniment 2024

## An experiential course in discerning listening

### Aims

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

### Key elements

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.

We particularly welcome applicants with disabilities and those from minority groups.

### The process

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.

### Unsure

If you are unsure as to whether the course is appropriate for you, please email [spirituality.adviser@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:spirituality.adviser@sheffield.anglican.org) or phone Rev Dr Julian Raffay on 07907 331 859 who will be happy to discuss things with you.