

2024 dates

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

Sessions will run from 9.30am - 4.30pm on Thursdays at Whirlow Spirituality Centre, Whirlow Grange Close, Sheffield S11 9SY.

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

Fees

We encourage participants to ask their church/supporting bodies to contribute. The fees (covering food, refreshments, and materials) are £200 per person. The Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board subsidises ASA via a grant to the Diocese of Sheffield.

For information about grants, please contact Suzanna (see below).

To apply

- 🌐 complete the online form at sheffdio.org/ASA (or use the QR code).
- ✉ send the enclosed forms to Suzanna Schofield, Diocesan Church House, 95-99 Effingham Street, Rotherham S65 1BL.
- 📞 phone Suzanna on 01709 309 147.



Applicants will meet with the facilitators in February or March to help us:

- discern together if the course and the timing seem right
- respond to any questions.

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

We invite anyone of any denomination or none who has completed the [Spiritual Growth and Transformation](#) (SG&T) course to apply. The Art of Spiritual Accompaniment (ASA) builds on SG&T, including the experience of the listening groups. It is not academic.

We embrace equality and diversity and are working to make accompaniment accessible to everyone. We especially welcome applicants with disabilities and those from minority groups.

For everyone

ASA is particularly suitable for people who:

- find themselves drawn to listening to others' faith journeys
- wish to further develop their ability to listen to God in the lives of others
- sense a call to the ministry of spiritual accompaniment (spiritual direction)

Aims

ASA aims to:

- introduce spiritual accompaniment
- develop discerning listening
- enable growth in the ministry of spiritual accompaniment through prayer, listening and reflection.

Features

An ecumenical team has developed ASA over the last 20 or so years. It has five key features:

1. Prayer and reflection, experiencing approaches to prayer.
2. Observed listening in small groups. This develops into the practice of responding suitably, and with discernment, to what is shared.
3. Reflection in groups on the growth points experienced.

4. Explorations of the significant themes of Christian spirituality and spiritual accompaniment. These include (a) biblical and theological perspectives, (b) human development and (c) inter-personal dynamics within spiritual accompaniment.
5. Experience group supervision of your listening to a chosen individual from outside of ASA.

Approach

The course:

- encourages openness to God, discerning listening to the Holy Spirit and a faithful response to the call of Christ in life.
- consists of an induction afternoon and twelve one-day sessions
- includes role play, reflection exercises, case studies and being observed in listening groups.

Requirements

The most important requirement is the desire for a deeper relationship with God, to grow in faith and develop the ability to accompany others on the spiritual journey. We expect you to:

- have completed SG&T
- have completed Basic and Foundation level Safeguarding through [Anglican online training](#) or denominational equivalent
- have seen your spiritual accompanier for at least a year
- provide a recommendation from each of your spiritual accompanier and church/community leader
- practise accompaniment with someone outside ASA
- commit to journaling and complete homework
- commit to attending all sessions (due to small group learning).

Unsure?

If you are unsure whether ASA is suitable for you, please email spirituality.adviser@sheffield.anglican.org or phone Rev Dr Julian Raffay on 07907 331 859. I will be happy to hear from you. (Tuesdays and Wednesdays are best).