

# **worship 4 today**

**worship 4 today** is a twelve session course specially designed to encourage and equip those involved or interested in leading worship in the local church. It is suitable for everyone - those with some experience and training and those with none; musicians and non-musicians; those who lead intercessions; those with skills in creative arts or technology; ordained or lay.

This highly successful course has been developed and run centrally in Sheffield Diocese over the past five years, attracting both clergy and laity. The course is now being made available nationally for use by other dioceses, deaneries or parishes.

**Part 1: Laying a firm foundation and Part 2: Developing key skills**  
are already available direct from Sheffield Diocese.

**Part 3: Consolidating and expanding horizons**  
is due to be published in January 2012.

Each part contains four sessions and comes in a separate ring binder. Part 1 also contains all the introductory material and instructions for setting up the course. There are teaching notes for leaders, handouts for participants, and a PowerPoint presentation to accompany each teaching session. A CD-Rom contains all handouts, PowerPoint and other resources. Written by experienced practitioners, Revd Helen Bent, Bishop's Adviser in Music and Worship in Sheffield Diocese, together with Liz Tipple, worship leader, teacher and professional musician, **worship 4 today** has proved a catalyst in many churches for renewed vision and direction in worship.

The Bishop of Sheffield, Dr Steven Croft writes: "I have seen at first hand the effect the course has had in transforming the worship of individuals and congregations. The material is very well grounded theologically and liturgically and immensely practical. You will find from the very first session that the course begins to affect the way you prepare for and lead the worship of God's people. The **worship 4 today** course is a vital resource to train and equip leaders of worship in a mission-shaped church. I am delighted that the course is now being made available for use in a range of different ways through the hard work of Helen Bent and her team."

Our passion is to encourage and equip worship leaders, both lay and ordained, nurturing their own personal worship as well as renewing vision and direction for inspiring worship in the parish. Common Worship has provided a library of resources, but the abundance of material now available demands a higher degree of liturgical understanding and expertise. Similarly, the breadth of contemporary music creates an expectation that musicians will be competent in many different styles. **worship 4 today** is designed to address both these issues, offering practical training and developing new skills to support worship for a mission-shaped church.

**worship 4 today** also addresses many issues raised by the Transforming Worship initiative launched by the Church of England's Liturgical Commission in 2007. Helen Bent explains: "Worship is central to our encounter with God, nurturing and strengthening faith through word and sacrament. However, encounter should not just leave us with a rosy glow. Worship is the launch pad for mission, sending us out into our communities with passion and vision to see lives changed."

## The Results:

### In Sheffield diocese

76 worship leaders authorised in 4 years  
13 worship leaders in training this year in Sheffield  
Improved parish worship  
Better working relationships within parish worship teams  
Worship teams available for diocesan services and events  
A growing pool of able teachers and trainers across the diocese

### Further afield

14 worship leaders in training on new **worship 4 today** course in Leicester diocese  
Other dioceses planning to start **worship 4 today** courses in Sept 2012  
Across the miles, **worship 4 today** has made its way to Johannesburg and Cape Town, S. Africa, and to South Carolina, USA, to aid in worship training in the dioceses there.

## Frequently asked questions:

### Who is the course for?

It suits a wide spectrum of those involved in leading worship in some way. Increasingly we have been joined by a number of Church Wardens, who have found themselves leading services in multi benefices or during vacancies. We have also had a diverse age range between 22 and 84 years old. Our 84 year old was already reading lessons and leading prayers. She will never be an 'up front' leader, but she has been a catalyst for change in her church relating to every age group in a disarming way.

### When does it run?

In Sheffield, **worship 4 today** runs centrally as part of the School of Ministry alongside Reader, Pastoral Worker, Evangelist and Children's Minister training. We meet on the second Sunday afternoon of each month from 1.45 - 5.15 pm to avoid clashing with service times. In May, we also have a full Saturday. We don't meet in August. The course could also run on a Saturday morning, but an evening is not really long enough unless the sessions are all divided in half. Since publication, it is now possible to run the course in outlying deaneries or a multi-benefice cluster.

### How much does it cost?

Each volume (term) costs £40-00; the whole course costs £120-00 plus postage and packing at £5-00 per volume in the UK, more for carriage abroad.

### How do we get copies?

The best way is to come on a **worship 4 today national training day** to find out in detail how the course runs from the authors and some of the participants.

Alternatively contact Sheffield Diocese through their website: [www.sheffield.anglican.org](http://www.sheffield.anglican.org)  
or contact the authors direct:

Revd Helen Bent: Telephone: 01709-363850 or email: [helen@thebents.co.uk](mailto:helen@thebents.co.uk)