



What past participants have said:

*“The knowledge I have gained through this course has been invaluable and I would recommend the course to anyone who has a leadership role in church or the wider community. It has been a real joy and blessing to meet so many wonderful people on the course from different churches within MK. We have all grown in friendship and faith together.”*

*“Although I was unsure why we were doing it at our age I can say that we learned a great deal. I was amazed at the insights we learned and relationships formed at the small group sessions. As Christians we do need to explore more how we can engage and have input for the Lord in our society today and this course has certainly helped to challenge and equip us to do so.”*



## *Leading for a Change A Programme to Develop Lay Leadership*

### *What is the programme about?*

The object of the programme is to equip and empower you as a Christian to bring about positive change.

The kinds of change envisaged lie within two broad categories:

- Change initiated together with community partners. This may have a focus on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Marks of Mission
- Change which initiates new missional projects within the church

The course adopts a community organising model developed by Citizens:MK within a Christian framework by which Christian beliefs, values and purposes are expressed and become drivers for change.

The course has two distinct phases: a teaching phase which takes place at the beginning of the course and an action phase which follows during which participants will take on a Change Project. This latter phase will be supported by regular action learning sets.

### **Teaching Course**

The teaching course covers six sessions at the beginning of the programme. The course starts by establishing a broad Christian framework within which the course elements which follow can be understood. The implications of “God’s story” in terms of identity, values, power, purpose and vocation will be explored. The following sessions will develop a community organising model within the Christian framework exploring the importance of power, self-interest, active listening, research, negotiation, action, evaluation and development in effecting change. Sessions will be practical and interactive. Throughout the course, you will be invited to explore what your particular vocation may be in effecting change so that you will be ready to take on a Change Project for which you have personal commitment.

### **Change Projects**

Through the teaching course, we hope that you will discover a vocation for change about which you feel passionate enough to act. You will be the author of your Change Project: there are no “off the shelf” ideas from which to choose. Experience within Citizens:MK has led to Change Projects concerned to establish a real living wage, to weave trust across diverse communities, to welcome refugees. This kind of community action may be your vocation. Equally, you may be called to initiate a missional project of the church: this could range from starting a coffee morning to creating a fresh expression of church and everything in between. There are no pre-conceived ideas, the only limits are your dreams for the kingdom of God in Milton Keynes.

In the pilot programme, we have seen a Project exploring the development of space for use by community agencies which is creating valuable personal links with key people within the area, a Project linking up significantly diverse constituencies within a single church which is producing a new unity within that church and a Project developing missional links with a school in an area of new build amongst others.

### **Action Learning Sets**

In order to support you in your Change Project, you will work in a group with five others facilitated by one of the team. Each member of the group will have a 30 minute slot to explain and explore the challenges of their Change Project with the support, questioning and inquiry of the other members of the group. These Action Learning Sets (ALS) will meet every other month during the Change Project phase of the programme and are intended to develop focussed mutual localised support for your leadership. You will remain in the same ALS throughout the programme.

### **The Teaching Programme 2018**

All at Christ the Vine, Coffee Hall

Sat. January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction and Christian Framework The Importance of Power for Change	9.00-4.00
Weds. January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Listening for Change	7.30-9.30
Weds. January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Researching for Change	7.30-9.30
Weds. February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Negotiating Power	7.30-9.30
Weds. February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Action, Evaluation and Development	7.30-9.30

### **Action Learning Programme**

February, March, May, July, September, November

Evening sessions 7.00 - 9.30

Dates and venues to be arranged

### **Coming Together**

There will be two opportunities for all participants to come together in the middle and at the end of the programme for sharing and celebration. Dates and venues to be arranged.

### **Staffing**

Teaching Course                      John Robertson & Tim Norwood

Action Learning Sets                Tom Bulman, Katharine Crowsley  
& Phil Wason

### **Details**

**Cost** £80

(This includes a generous grant from the Diocese of Oxford)

**Numbers** There are 15 places available for the programme.

Action Learning Sets will take place in three groups of five.

leadership