



**Guide to the Children’s Ministry Certificate**



**What Is the Children’s Ministry Certificate?**

The Children’s Ministry Certificate (CMC)is a year-long course for church-based children’s volunteers and workers to develop their practice, through relationship with the year’s cohort, training sessions and practical challenges in your own context.

**Am I suitable for CMC?**

Are you leading, volunteering or helping with children in your church children’s groups. Are you wanting to make church accessible to young families with children? Have you been organizing craft bags for your children and families? Or help to run the Church Toddler Group? Or Messy Church? Or Sunday School? Or are you a church volunteer in your local school? Or are you someone who just wants to see children and their families engage with the faith of the church in this ever changing world?

*Whether you have lots of experience or are just starting out, this course is for you.*

The course focuses on sharing faith with families, babies and children of up to top primary age.

**Who runs CMC?**
The course is led by Charlotte Nobbs, Children’s Mission Enabler for the Gen2 Team for Peterborough Diocese. The core team is made up of volunteers, paid staff and people with experience and a passion to make Christ known amongst children and their families.

**Can I talk to anyone about applying for the course?**

Do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any queries at this stage:

**Charlotte Nobbs**
07772816990 or charlotte.nobbs@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

**Nuala Salter**
Course Administrator
01604 887 049 or nuala.salter@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

**Do I have to attend an Anglican church to come on CMC?**

No.  Although this course is run by Peterborough Diocese, it is open to all denominations.  The key is that you are a member of your local church, and have the blessing of your church leadership team to apply for the course.

**What does the course cover?**

Our aim is to explore how to generate and build on our relationships with children and their families through the church, school, in their households and wider communities. We will discuss what good practice might look in each of these settings.

**When does CMC meet?**

Every first Tuesday of the month, in the evening, from September 2022 to June 2023, from 7-9pm, with the option to arrive earlier to enjoy a simple bread and cheese supper with the team and the others on the course at 6:30pm at Christ the King Kettering, Deeble Road, Kettering NN15 7AA. Added to this there are 2 extra sessions including a full Saturday in November and an extra evening session in January.  The expectation is that you will attend all these sessions.

In between each monthly session, you will have a practical challenge to try out, in your local context, that you will feedback in a small group at the next session.

**Sessions**

**Tuesday 6th September:** Session 1 Effective Welcome

Tuesday 4th October: Session 2 Toddler Groups & introducing St.Ideal

Tuesday 1st November: Session 3 Gathering team

***Saturday 19th November: Session 4 Exploring the Bible***
Tuesday 6th December Session 5 Faith in a story

Tuesday 3rd January: Session 6 Faith at home

***Tuesday 24th January: Session 7 Safeguarding***

Tuesday 7th February Session 8 Parents and family life

Tuesday 7th March: Session 9 The cathedral of nature

Tuesday 4th April: Session 10 Blessing our local school

Tuesday 2nd May: Session 11 How do we remain in the race?

Tuesday 6th June: Session 12 Celebrating our journey with bubbly and cake!

Tuesday 4th July: Session 13 Optional invitation evening

**What happens in the sessions?**

There will be a variety! But first and foremost, it is informal in style with a focus on encouraging practical outcomes in your own setting. None of us have all the answers on children’s ministry, therefore there is a focus on learning from each other as well as from the team. So, there will be room for discussion, sharing ideas, considering new ideas and information sharing. Every session will begin with worship and prayer. You will have the opportunity to visit some examples of good practice too, as well as try some things out in your own church setting.

**What will we visit?** 

* Your local primary school to observe a lesson
* A church project that is concerned with serving children and families outside a Sunday church service context

We will direct and help you to set up these visits once you commit to the course. It will be possible to visit examples of church-based projects too (but this is optional)

**Do I have to do ‘homework’?**

Yes. It is to try out the practical tasks set between each session and to be willing to report back to a small group about how this impacted you and the children you are serving.

**How much does it cost?**

We expect the students to be recommended by their church PCC/eldership/leadership team and for them to pay for the cost of you being on this course. It is very difficult to facilitate children’s work with your church if they are not supporting you. It is £60 per church regardless of how many attend from your parish. (Please speak to us if there is a difficulty with raising the finance)

**When do I pay?**

We will invoice your church half-way through the course to collect payment.

**Is it better to come in a team?**

We welcome individuals who represent their churches and we love to welcome teams. If you come in a team it is far easier to share your learning and shape your children’s ministry than trying to do this on your own. In previous years we have had several teams attend and this has been significant for their church’s ministry.

**I would like to find out some more before committing to the course. What do I need to do next?**

* Look at this short **CMC Promo** for an overview of the course with Charlotte Nobbs [Watch the video here.](https://youtu.be/wSWbj9AImy0) (add new video link)
* Join us on Thursday 16th June, **7:30pm for a Zoom drop-in** where you can hear from previous CMC students, meet some of the core team and hear some more about the course as well as bring any of your questions.

**Topic:** Introduction to the Children's Ministry Certificate Drop-In

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4714846272?pwd=ODc4RDBhOU5vY0xBY0tVek1BNDRGZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 471 484 6272

**Passcode:** 1234

* Come to a taster session on Tuesday 12th July, 7-9pm at Christ the King Church, Deeble Road, Kettering, NN15 7AA. [Please book your place on Eventbrite.](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/childrens-ministry-certificate-taster-session-tickets-347939545547)
* For more information Email Charlotte Nobbs or phone Charlotte on 0777 2816990

 **I know I want to do the CMC course so what do I need to do next?**

* **Fill in** [**‘Children’s Ministry Certificate Application Form’**](https://peterboroughdiocese-my.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/g/personal/nuala_salter_peterborough-diocese_org_uk/EQ1filLwqEBPss-niS9US98BZcFXfuPOeR3eImdYmBdDaA?e=1yyxkc) **(link to new form) –** This includes GDPR, emergency contact details as well as your personal contact details. ***Please complete all three pages in this form. If you have agreed to sharing your and contact details please email a photograph of yourself*** to: mailto:nuala.salter@peterborough-diocese.org.uk?subject=Children's Ministry Certificateto create a contact list to share with the CMC cohort.
* Check you have a **DBS Check, less than 3 years old. If you do not have one,** please apply through your Parish Safeguarding Officer. Please bring your DBS certificate to the first session on Tuesday 6th September.
* **Arrange a visit to your local primary school, by February 2023.** [Click here to read through ‘Guide to Visiting your Primary School’](https://peterboroughdiocese-my.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/g/personal/nuala_salter_peterborough-diocese_org_uk/EQbzmApPSDNEmEMdsJRVUEQBCdfQnDiAvzk9zVJgzFVKwA?e=4WXLfJ) (change link) to find out how to arrange and undertake your visit successfully.
* Come to the first session on **Tuesday 6th September to arrive for 6:30 pm** if you would like to share a simple bread and cheese supper with the team and to meet the other students, or for 7pm, when the formal session begins.

**A few extra notes:**

* **Development Conversations**: A member of the core team with invite you to have two conversations. One towards the beginning of the course, and one towards the end. We call these ‘Development Conversations’(DC’s). The first DC is so that you have opportunity to get to know one of the team, to ask any questions and to share your hopes in joining the course. The second DC is designed to help you reflect upon your experience of the course.
* **Resources**: We will share resources, books, links, handouts as the course unfolds. The Bouverie Court library has a good supply of books and practical resources that you can borrow. To be a member of the Children and Youth Library please complete and sign a joining form and email to Nuala. Nuala will be available at the first session to support you with this. There will a selection of books to borrow at each session. You can also search the children and youth catalogue online. (link)
* **Safeguarding**: We expect every student to complete safeguarding training. This involves two online courses (C0 and C1) that need to be completed at the latest by the end of December, ready for the evening of training that falls on Tuesday 24th January 2023. [Click here for C0](https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/safeguarding/c0.pdf), [Click here for C1](https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/downloads/safeguarding/c2.pdf) (change links)

**And finally:**

Our prayer is that you will grow in your faith and confidence as you journey with our Children’s Ministry learning community over the year and be able to build on this in your own settings. We pray that what you learn will overflow from you and be shared in church and into the wider community, schools and homes.

We believe that God is already working in you and this will just bless what He has already started.

‘Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.

One generation will commend your works to another.’

Psalm 145:3-4