



“While we want to work closely with a small group of churches we think the process is a good one for every church. LEAF Church begins with four workshops that could help a church rediscover its mission and make sure it is equipped to follow God’s leading.

The workshop sessions are

**Session One:** *An introduction to the programme*

**Session Two: Listen** *Listening to God speak through scripture, prayer and church meeting.*

**Session Three: Engage in Learning** *Looking for resources and learning from all directions*

**Session Four: Acting in Faith** *Focussing on priorities and drawing up a church learning plan for the next 12 months.*

Listen, Engage, Act in Faith spells out **LEAF**.

A taster is available on the CF website and you can register your interest and receive a download of all the materials to work through in your church. You can still contact the Learning and Development Enabler for help-particularly in locating resources. If your learning plan includes something really exciting that you need finance for, you can send it in to the Learning and Development Group who may fund individual items. How to go about this and the relevant criteria is included in the materials.

The five churches we work with and the churches who send us their own learning plans will be recognised as LEAF churches at May Assembly. Our dream is that these churches will become so well equipped that they will become RESOURCE churches for other congregations seeking to grow and develop.

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# LEAF Church Programme



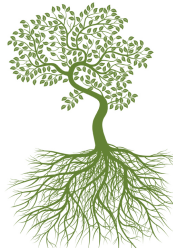
## A Programme to develop the life of your church



# What is the LEAF Church Programme?

Psalm 1 describes God's people being like a growing tree;

**'They are like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither-  
whatever they do prospers.'**



It's a wonderful image. If your church is like a tree its roots reach down into the refreshing waters of God's spirit and it bears good fruit which nourishes those around it. This psalm also mentions the leaves of the tree. Leaves are amazing things. They draw in what the tree needs to develop and grow: carbon dioxide and sunlight.

What does your church need to 'draw in' in order to develop and grow? The LEAF Church programme is designed to help your church think about its unique mission and the learning resources it can draw upon.

There are so many good resources out there but it can be difficult finding the right ones for the direction in which your church is going. The LEAF Church Programme helps you look, gives you support and ensures that good ideas make a difference.

May God bless you as you continue to serve.

Suzanne Nockels.



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*The LEAF Church Programme is able to directly support up to five churches a year. So far the programme is supporting churches without paid ministry, churches approaching interregnum and churches which are re-thinking their mission.*

## **STAGE ONE**

The church finds out about the programme and after an exploratory period both the church and the Learning and Development Department think that the supported programme would be beneficial.

## **STAGE TWO**

The church works through four workshop sessions with the Learning and Development Enabler.

## **STAGE THREE**

The church prepares its Learning Plan. The Learning and Development Enabler helps the church to locate the resources it needs. Church Meeting approves the Plan.

## **STAGE FOUR**

The church submits its Learning Plan to the Learning and Development Group for recognition as a LEAF Church. The church's Learning Plan may be fully funded up to £1,000 which will be considered by the Learning and Development Group.

## **STAGE FIVE**

The church is recognised as a LEAF Church on the supported programme at the nearest May Assembly and a presentation is made. The church works through its Plans and reflects with the Learning and Development Enabler.

## **STAGE SIX**

A final reflection takes place with the Learning and Development Enabler and is submitted to the Learning and Development Group. The church is recognised as a RESOURCE church in a particular area agreed by the church and the Learning and Development Group. It receives a certificate validating it as a RESOURCE church at May Assembly.