

# acorn prospectus 2018

acorn christian healing foundation



acorn  
wholeness for all



## A Message from Acorn's Director

It is a joy to write the introduction to Acorn's 2018 Prospectus. During the past year we have seen Acorn training events taking place throughout England and Wales, in partnership with churches, colleges and Christian organisations. Acorn reaches a diverse community and one thing I am particularly pleased with is the way our teams can make the training day 'fit' the context in which they teach. This is no small a skill, but is a significant part of Acorn's training.

Our prospectus contains information on all Acorn courses and training provision, and you can have confidence that when you participate in an Acorn event, the materials have been well prepared and will be well presented by our trainers.

This year you will see some titles with which you are familiar, and some new 'offers' to equip and resource you and your church.

For example, Acorn will come and run a **Quiet Day** at your church to help people focus on key parts of the Christian journey, in a safe and sacred space. As we seek new direction and wisdom, it is often helpful to have someone from 'outside' to act as a guide. During her long association with Acorn, Revd Elizabeth Knifton, our Chaplain, has crafted some excellent resources. Many people

attending our ministry centre in Whitehill Chase have benefited from these resources and they will enhance both your life and the life of your church.



We have also added a number of **Retreat Days** that can be provided in a local church context: ***Leading with Sanity, Embracing Contentment, Building Resilience*** and ***Managing the Gift of Time***. These are opportunities to explore and reflect on issues that impact all of us, as people made in the image of God living in our contemporary culture.

During 2017, at Whitehill Chase, we began a monthly School of Healing event on Saturday mornings. We explored the ***Christian Healing Ministry***, through thirty-six hours of teaching, discussion and debate, covering subjects as diverse as The Ministry of Jesus, Chronic and Long-term Illness, Ministering in Healing Prayer and Theodicy. The **School of Healing** will run again this year, but we would love the opportunity to deliver its life-shaping teaching to churches around the country. So we would be pleased to have a conversation with anyone who felt this would be a possibility in their locality.

Our established courses continue to resource churches throughout the country. The ***Reconciliation*** course and its accompanying reconciliation process are key tools in enabling churches to face and transform conflict in a

healthy manner. Acorn's **Healing and Wholeness** courses provide both inspiration and training in this key area of Christian ministry, and our three **Listening Modules** are, as ever, a staple element of all ministry and mission. Added to these are courses on ***Forgiveness, Prayer Ministry*** and ***Grief and Loss***, all shaped to serve the local church.

There is so much going on in the regions and at our ministry centre in Whitehill Chase and we would love to offer you hospitality here (accommodation is available), or come to you and journey together, as we equip and strengthen the Church in its hope-giving, life-changing ministry.

I look forward to seeing you at an Acorn event in 2018.

Grace and peace,

**Revd Wes Sutton** (Director)



# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>A message from Acorn's Director</b>	<b>page 1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Listening Modules</b>	<b>page 10</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>New for 2018</b>	<b>page 4</b>		Effective Listening Practice (Module 1)	
	Hearing God in the Silence: An Individually Guided Retreat			Applied Listening Practice (Module 2)	
	Grief and Loss: A Journey of Hope			Professional Volunteer Listening (Module 3)	
	Quiet Days			Staying in Touch	
	Building Resilience: Acquiring the Resources to Meet Life's Challenges			RESOURCES: Just Listen!	
	Embracing Contentment		<b>6</b>	<b>Tailored Programmes for Churches &amp; Christian Organisations</b>	<b>page 13</b>
	Leading with Sanity			Prayer Ministry Training	
	Managing the Gift of Time			Conflict in the Church: A Lunchtime Conversation	
<b>3</b>	<b>Healing &amp; Wholeness Modules</b>	<b>page 7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>page 14</b>
	Christian Healing Ministry		<b>8</b>	<b>How to Book</b>	<b>page 14</b>
	Generational Healing		<b>9</b>	<b>About Us</b>	<b>page 15</b>
	Wholeness: Authentic Living		<b>10</b>	<b>Our Team</b>	<b>page 15</b>
	RESOURCES: Growing a Healing Ministry		<b>11</b>	<b>How to Find Out More</b>	<b>page 18</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Reconciliation Modules</b>	<b>page 9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>How to Support Us</b>	<b>page 19</b>
	Reconciliation: Mending Broken Relationships				
	Focus on Forgiveness				

## New for 2018

### Hearing God in the Silence: An Individually Guided Retreat

*(held over three days at Whitehill Chase, see website for dates)*

We all need time to stop and recalibrate; to take some spiritual barometer readings and breathe a fresher air into our hearts. It is often helpful to share the journey and to have a companion on the way. In a quiet and reflective community, retreatants are able to allow their lives to pause and hear the whispers of God's loving heart.

You will be able to eat in the company of others without needing to engage in the 'small talk' that fills most of our lives. You can share in the silence that is framed by the rhythm of daily prayer, and meet with one of the ministry team each day for a short time of prayer and reflection as you communicate what is on your heart.

### Grief and Loss: A Journey of Hope

**Grief and Loss: A Journey of Hope** is especially designed to equip churches and individuals to navigate the journey of loss and bereavement in a healthy and supportive way. The day will provide practical and biblical insight to help you serve within this vital ministry.

### Quiet Days

Acorn will come and run a **Quiet Day** at your church to help focus on key parts of the Christian journey, in a safe and sacred space. It is often helpful to have someone from the 'outside' act as a guide as we seek new direction and wisdom. A **Quiet Day** is a unique opportunity to be gently supported through your own steps of discovery into God's healing and wholeness.

## Retreat Days led by Revd Wes Sutton, Acorn's Director

### Building Resilience: Acquiring the Resources to Meet Life's Challenges

We are so stretched every which way, with the demands of work, family – and even church – that we run on empty and lose who we are in the very business of living. This day will seek out the resources by which we can not only survive, but feel fully alive in who God made us to be. As a starter, think about this question: Who, or what, energises you?

*"Acorn felt a very safe place, very welcoming" – guest.*

### Embracing Contentment

Our culture is restless, almost agitated, in its pursuit of acquiring 'things' – we have become the ultimate 'upgrade' society. This day will



explore how contentment is a grace which can be cultivated, enabling us to live with a steady heart in what Paul calls 'plenty' or 'need'. As an opener, who said "Enough is as good as a feast"? – what might it mean for us?

## Leading with Sanity

In the Song of Songs one character talks of working in the vineyard of others, but neglecting their own. In all our work, and even leadership, the one person we often neglect to consider is... ourselves!

This day will look at the elements of 'self-leadership' which make it possible to live with a sustainable pace, a joyful heart, and hope! Think about this, and bring it with you to the retreat – How many disasters would there really have been, if you had lived a little more kindly towards yourself this last year?



## Managing the Gift of Time



Time is something God made for us – measured, predictable and expressing momentum in life and creation. Most of the time we seem to have too little and yet, in some seasons of life, even too much, as we find waiting a challenge.

This day will establish how I steward this gift God has given me – for my benefit and the blessing of others. To begin with, think about this question: What would you actually do with a 25th hour in the day?

*All the time in the world is not the same as inhabiting eternity. ~ Revd Wes Sutton*

## Healing & Wholeness Modules

### Christian Healing Ministry

The Christian Healing Ministry course helps churches and individuals learn how to exercise a credible and Christ-centred healing ministry. It can also serve as a church's first engagement with Christian healing.

The modules focus on providing a robust theological and practical framework to the Christian healing ministry, examining the nature of ministry itself and exploring the different arenas in which it is exercised. The course considers the ministry of Jesus in the gospels, and throughout early and contemporary church history. It also confronts some of the difficult questions inherent in the Christian healing ministry and provides a framework for understanding, and operating in, the ministry gifts of the Holy Spirit, in a competent and compassionate way.

The course lays out clear practical steps for exercising a Christian healing ministry and provides opportunity for delegates to participate in prayer for Christian healing.

### Generational Healing

During this specialist module you will be exploring a biblical perspective on generational healing and will learn how to put together a 'genogram' or family tree. There will be time to reflect privately, in God's presence, on the wounds and pains that we experience from people in our family who have hurt us, or loved ones we might have lost.

It is an opportunity to consider what has shaped us from the past and find peace for the pains picked up on life's journey. In a safe place you will be encouraged to talk to God about your wounds and allow Him to heal your heart, your emotions and broken relationships with other family members.

At the end of the course you will be invited to participate in Holy Communion laying before God your dreams and desires concerning your family.

## Wholeness: Authentic Living

A day covering what it means to be made in the image of God and how, in life's difficulties, God can restore people to wholeness. This event, containing worship, teaching and prayer, will help your congregation to find wholeness themselves. It will explore how to pray effectively and how to support others in their journey towards physical and spiritual wholeness.



## Resources:

### Growing a Healing Ministry

**Growing a Healing Ministry** is a five-session introduction to the Christian healing ministry. Designed for a small group context it gives an excellent introduction to the ministry of healing and provides helpful and practical advice for encouraging those seeking to establish a safe and effective healing ministry in and through the local church.

The complete pack includes leaders' notes, a PowerPoint presentation and a copy of the participants' handbook. Each participant attending **Growing a Healing Ministry** will need their own handbook to enable them to benefit fully from this interactive learning experience. It is '*a course that anyone can share in*' – delegate.

**Growing a Healing Ministry Pack** ~ £25 inc p&p  
**Handbooks** ~ £6 including p&p (£50 for set of 10 including p&p)

## Reconciliation Modules

### Reconciliation: Mending Broken Relationships

Many Christians regard conflict as intrinsically unspiritual and to be avoided at all costs – with the result we either hide from it or handle it badly.

This module is led by specially trained Acorn trainers and will explore the process by which individuals and church communities can understand what is happening in times of conflict, directing them to the appropriate, biblical mechanisms of handling 'difference' before it becomes destructive. This interactive module provides a biblical and theoretical framework for engaging with conflict and suggests approaches to transform the relationships involved.

*"Wonderful leadership and teaching.  
Compassionate, warm and friendly"*

### Focus on Forgiveness

This module considers what happens when we forgive and what happens when we do not.

It examines how churches can become communities of forgiveness and what that looks like in real life. It will help churches take a fresh look at what Jesus meant when he taught his disciples, within the Lord's Prayer, 'forgive us...as we forgive'.

The day looks at the theological and ethical issues surrounding forgiveness and how Jesus' teaching ran contrary to the norms of his day – as it does ours. We will consider the impact that forgiveness has on us and others and how churches can model the forgiving heart of God to the world.

## Listening Modules

We live in a busy world. Social media screams headlines and conversations extend to the length of a tweet or the time it takes to drink a cappuccino. We tire quickly, and long for space to breathe, talk, be heard. Acorn's Listening Pathway responds to this longing because listening is a vital part of the healing process.



### Effective Listening Practice (Module 1)

This module introduces the ministry of listening as a foundational element of the wholeness ministry. On this day delegates will learn active reflective listening skills.

### Applied Listening Practice (Module 2)

On this module delegates are invited to explore more deeply the places in which God may call people to listen. Building on the skills in module 1 the full Acorn paradigm of listening is introduced and developed.

## Professional Volunteer Listening (Module 3)

This next step in the listening pathway equips delegates to listen safely in a formal one-to-one setting. We also consider what good and safe practice looks like, shaped through a biblical understanding. The full Acorn paradigm will be revisited and an assessment will be undertaken by Acorn trainers.

Applicants for this module must have successfully completed modules 1 & 2.

*"Inspiring!" – delegate.*

## Staying in Touch

Equipping churches to support all those affected by the impact of the early stages of dementia.

This module is specifically designed to equip those supporting individuals affected by dementia with the listening and communicating tools they



need to reduce isolation and relate better to those with dementia. It also offers opportunities to meet others in a similar situation and to feel refreshed and energized.

The module develops a clear understanding of the dynamics accompanying dementia, identifies creative ways in which to respond to those impacted by it, and focuses on equipping your church or community to reduce the isolation people experience.

This two-part module is run by specially trained and experienced trainers and provides an appreciation of the impact of the early stages of dementia.

**Part one** examines the difficult issues facing those caring for people living with the early stages of dementia and how we might give appropriate support to family members and carers.

**Part two** considers how we can effectively listen to and communicate with a person living with the condition.

## Resources: Just Listen!

Many of us today have discovered for ourselves the difference it makes when someone really listens to us. Being well listened to can be a life-changing experience, and yet sadly also one which is comparatively rare in our busy world.

This introductory DVD and self-guided module offers foundational teaching on the value of listening to others, to God and to ourselves.

**Just Listen!** DVD ~ £25 inc p&p

**Module Books** ~ £5 each (inc. p&p) - per delegate

## Tailored Programmes for Churches and Christian Organisations

Our experienced training team are well qualified to listen to the needs of your church or organisation and design and deliver a training solution which will address those needs and achieve mutually agreed objectives.

### Prayer Ministry Training

This module provides a clear conceptual framework for the development and practice of a competent and compassionate prayer ministry in a church or community setting.

It examines the biblical foundations of drawing others into the presence of God through prayer ministry, and explores the essential nature of being made 'Imago Dei'. Setting this essential ministry within the overall life of the church, this module establishes a clear understanding of personal and ministry boundaries, and devotes time to working in small groups and to assessing real-life ministry scenarios.

There is opportunity to put learning into practice and the day concludes with a brief service of dedication.

### Conflict in the Church: A Lunchtime Conversation

An event tailored specifically for groups of leaders within diocesan, fraternal and church networks.

Facilitated by Acorn's Director, Revd Wes Sutton, for groups of up to twelve leaders over a buffet lunch, you will have opportunity to explore the common roots of conflict within the church, and the spiritual and practical dynamics at play. With options on how to manage conflict, you will have the chance to relate it to your own situation and find hope and a way forward.

## Fees

### Courses & Ministry held at Whitehill Chase:

One-day courses & Ministry days	£50
Quiet Day	£40
Hearing God in the Silence: An Individually Guided Retreat (3 days)	£180
Generation Healing (3 days)	£250
Professional Volunteer Listening (Listening Module 3) (2 days)	£220
School of Healing (monthly) (Suggested donation of £10)	

*(lunch is not included in the prices below)*

### Courses held at churches or organisations:

One-day courses / Quiet Days for up to 20 participants	£375 to £425
Two-day courses for up to 20 participants	From £550

Prices include 10 workbooks. Additional workbooks  
**£25** for a pack of 10 (including p&p).

Some training events can be delivered to larger groups, depending on the size of the venue, but an additional fee may be charged.

*We do not wish to discourage anyone from joining us on financial grounds. If you would like to join us but the cost is not affordable please get in touch with us. We may be able to help.*

## How To Book

To make a booking please go to our website [www.acornchristian.org/events](http://www.acornchristian.org/events) or ring 01420 478121.



## About Us

Acorn Christian Healing Foundation delivers healing and wholeness to individuals and communities. Established in 1985 by Bishop Morris Maddocks, Acorn has been at the forefront of providing people, regardless of their circumstances, background or life choices, with the opportunity to experience the 'shalom' – the life-encompassing peace – that is at the heart of the Christian message.

Shalom impacts every area of a person's life – relationships, physical and spiritual wellbeing, and emotional wholeness. Acorn remains engaged in, and committed to, being a transformative agent in today's multifaceted society.

Our training events are divided into three interlinked pathways of learning: listening, healing and reconciliation.

## Our Training Team

All our training is delivered by our experienced team of Acorn trainers, each of whom has attended a rigorous development programme. Many of our trainers have been with us for a number of years, and we also have several new additions to the team each year. Our team are spread throughout the regions and work closely with our National Training Manager, Howard Fleming. We offer a number of '**Calling Day**' events for those who might want to explore God's calling to our work. If you would like to know more about how to become one of the Acorn Training Team, please contact Howard, [howard@acornchristian.com](mailto:howard@acornchristian.com).

## Our Methodology – Working in Partnership with You

Our training is led so that delegates will develop new knowledge and understanding of the subject and leave the day inspired to use their newly acquired skills.

Our training is therefore:

- Offering foundational teaching, with sound biblical values that shape ministry
- Interactive in the training approach
- Reflective, with space to listen to God and to others within the group
- Challenging, as delegates gain the skills required to enable others to find wholeness
- Exciting, as delegates develop their God-given potential as disciples of Christ.



### Revd Wes Sutton

Acorn's Director

Wes Sutton has been in Christian ministry some thirty years. He trained as a teacher before starting full-time ministry with Youth for Christ as a worship leader, songwriter, and evangelist. After six productive years with YFC, he moved to Loughton to lead a small church of twenty which, over the next nineteen years, grew to over four hundred. Wes then led the Oasis Church Network for three years, initiating a church planting strategy to establish churches in challenging communities. Immediately prior to joining Acorn as Director, he ran a consultancy helping churches and leaders understand and define their calling. Wes is an ordained Anglican Priest.



## Revd Elizabeth Knifton

Acorn's Chaplain

Elizabeth has been Chaplain of Acorn since 2005. She was previously a nurse and a hospital chaplain. Elizabeth was ordained in the Church of England in 1997 and has an Advanced Diploma in Theology and Pastoral Studies. She is the Bishop of Guildford's adviser on healing. Her passion is to bring the healing love of Christ to a broken world through listening, healing and reconciliation.



## Howard Fleming

Acorn's National Training Manager

Howard spent eight years as the manager of a training and employment project, during which time he completed a Training Executive course through the Open University. He then returned to full-time education, studying theology and cross-cultural communications at Redcliffe College, before taking up further roles which involved coaching and mentoring individuals in customer care and negotiation skills, and working in the not-for-profit sector.

## How to Find Out More

Acorn has a full and varied program of courses and events, which are not all mentioned in this prospectus. We would love to keep you informed about all of these events along with any updated information or courses that are happening in your area.

If you would like to find out more information or dates please see our website or email us at [info@acornchristian.org](mailto:info@acornchristian.org). Contact details can be found at the end of this prospectus.



## How to Support Us

Your generosity enables our teams to equip and resource churches and communities in becoming beacons of healing and wholeness, giving opportunities for people to experience the “shalom” that is at the heart of the Christian message. You can invest in to the work of Acorn by giving a one-off gift or by becoming a regular financial donor.

### Payment Options

- By Standing Order: please fill in Form A
- By Debit/Credit Card: please phone our office or fill in Form B
- By a secure online payment: [www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)
- By cheque: please make cheques payable to “Acorn Christian Foundation”
- Directly to our CAF Bank account with the following details:  
Sort Code: 40-52-40    Account No: 00007115    Account Name: Acorn Christian Foundation

# Acorn Christian Healing Foundation - Donation Form A

**FORM A** - To set up a regular standing order, please send **ACORN** this mandate. *(Please do not send it to your bank)*

To (insert name and full address of your bank or building society). Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Please make the following payments by standing order to:  
Bank: CAF Bank Ltd, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA  
Sort Code: 40-52-40

Account Name: Acorn Christian Foundation  
Account No: 00007115

Amount: £ ..... Amount in words: .....

Date of First Payment: ..... Frequency of Payment: **Monthly/Quarterly** until further notice.  
*(delete as applicable)*

Title: ..... Name: .....

Name of Account if different: .....

Sort Code: ..... Account No: .....

Home Address: ..... Postcode: .....

Telephone No: ..... Email Address: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

This is a new instruction. Please cancel any previous standing order in favour of the above beneficiary. Please return this form to **Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, Whitehill Chase, High Street, Bordon, GU35 0AP.**

*For Gift Aid instructions and/or to receive mailings from Acorn see overleaf.*

# Acorn Christian Healing Foundation - Donation Form B

## FORM B - Payment by Debit/Credit Card

Title: ..... Name: ..... Telephone No: .....

Home Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Email Address: .....

Please charge my **Credit/Debit Card** £ .....  Visa  MasterCard  Maestro

Card Number:

Name on Card: ..... Start Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ Issue No: \_\_ (Maestro only)

Cardholder's Signature: ..... Date: .....

*I would like to receive emails with news and updates on Acorn events*

Charities can reclaim tax on donations made by individual taxpayers under the Gift Aid scheme. The donor must pay amount of income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for a tax year (06 April to 05 April) at least equal to the tax repayment claimed on their donations by all the charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) to whom the donor donates in that tax year. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

I am a UK taxpayer intending tax to be reclaimed on the enclosed donation under the Gift Aid scheme. I have read and understood the Gift Aid guidance above:





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 @AcornChristian

 AcornChristianHealing

Registered Name: **Acorn Christian Foundation**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee) Company No: 3851139  
Registered Charity No: 1080011 (England and Wales) SC042491 (Scotland)

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**Acorn Christian Healing Foundation**

Whitehill Chase  
High Street  
Bordon  
Hampshire  
GU35 0AP

Tel: +44 (0) 1420 478121

e-mail: [info@acornchristian.org](mailto:info@acornchristian.org)  
web: [www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)