

What past participants have said about Bridge Builders' courses:

A great opportunity to explore the nature of conflict in our churches and to learn to see new ways of turning it from threat into opportunity.

Ven. Jonathan Greener, Dean of Wakefield

The course is challenging, enriching and great fun. You will be equipped to engage with conflict in new and deeper ways, both in yourself and with others.

Rev Nigel Coles, Baptist Regional Minister, Bristol

The high reputation this course has for helping leaders understand and manage conflict in the church is well deserved. It teaches new skills and processes to enable confidence and good practice.

Ven Annette Cooper, Anglican Archdeacon, Diocese of Chelmsford

Experience and practice-based course founded on solid biblical principles and theology and run by skilled and sensitive facilitators.

Rt Rev Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon, Diocese of Bristol

This – for me – was one of the best, and I think most important, courses I have ever been on for my future ministry.

Revd James Booth, Methodist District Chair, Liverpool District

Of real value in understanding more of myself and learning skills to develop my leadership role.

Major Mike Highton, Salvation Army Divisional Commander, Essex

Gives insight and helps equip church leaders to deal with the complex and conflictual nature of church life.

Monsignor Robert Draper, Roman Catholic Vicar General, Cornwall

It's tempting to think that being a Christian means "being nice" and avoiding conflict, but this course reminded me of the role conflict plays in God's purpose, and that conflict can be both creative and resolvable.

Elizabeth Welch, URC Synod Moderator, West Midlands

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TRANSFORMING CHURCH CONFLICT

A Foundation Course for Senior Church Leaders

22–27 March 2009

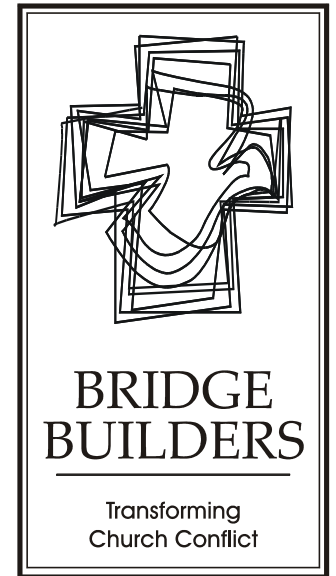
**Lindors Country House Hotel,
Lydney, Gloucestershire**

led by the Bridge Builders team

Conflict is normal and inevitable – but Christians often feel ill-prepared to handle conflict in the church. *Transforming Church Conflict: A Foundation Course for Senior Church Leaders* is a new training course for those in positions of oversight in the church. Attend this training course if you want to:

- Develop new skills for handling conflict
- Give time to personal growth as part of a worshipping community
- Be part of a movement that is changing the culture of the church
- Help put the church's energy to more creative use

This new five-day course is focussed on conflict in church settings, and serves as the foundation for further Bridge Builders courses. Held residentially, it builds on our experience of leading similar training since 1996. The course aims to raise self-awareness, to deepen understanding of conflict and to teach methods for transforming conflict. Spaces are limited and early booking is recommended. Course participants will be invited to join our Bridge Builders' Network, of Christians around Britain involved in transforming church conflict.



TRANSFORMING CHURCH CONFLICT

A Foundation Course for Senior Church Leaders

22–27 March 2009, Lindors Country House, Gloucestershire
Begins with dinner at 6:30pm on Sunday, ends 2:00pm Friday

The course includes teaching, group work and guided practice. Active and practical in focus, the sessions provide hands-on skills training and use role-plays based on the kinds of conflicts encountered in the church. Each day includes times of prayer and worship. *The course is intensive and includes some evening sessions; we strongly recommend avoiding any other commitments during the week.*

Presenters

Alastair McKay is director of Bridge Builders at the London Mennonite Centre, providing training, mediation and consultancy services to churches since 1996. Alastair has an MA in Conflict Transformation, is studying for a Doctorate of Ministry, and has contributed to the books *Making Peace With Conflict* (Herald Press, 1999) and *How to Become a Creative Church Leader* (Canterbury Press, 2008).

Colin Patterson is assistant director of Bridge Builders, and an Anglican priest. He has worked as a training officer for the Diocese of Durham, is an experienced adult educator and is author of the Grove booklet *How to Learn Through Conflict*.

Sharon Kniss is a trainer and mediator with Bridge Builders. She is a Mennonite from the United States, with a degree in Justice, Peace and Conflict Studies from Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia.

Who is the course for?

The course is designed for senior church leaders, such as Bishops and others in the senior staff team (Anglican and Roman Catholic), Regional Ministers (Baptist), District Chairs (Methodist), Divisional Commanders (Salvation Army), Moderators (URC), or equivalents in other denominations. If in doubt, do contact us.

Meals and Accommodation

The course is fully residential, with accommodation from Sunday night, 22 March, to Thursday night, in single rooms at the Lindors Country House Hotel, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 6RB (www.cgholidays.co.uk/mini_sites/lindors/index.php). Meals are provided each day, beginning with dinner at 6:30pm on Sunday evening through until Friday lunch time.

Cost, Application and Cancellation

The cost for the course is £775. Two training manuals and a style profile are included in the fee. **Spaces are limited to a maximum of 20, so do apply early, as our courses are regularly over-subscribed.** To apply, return the enclosed application form with a cheque for £100 payable to *Bridge Builders*. The balance of the fee is due eight weeks before the start of the course (26 January). Once accepted, the £100 deposit is a non-refundable. The full fee is owed if a place is cancelled within six weeks of the course start date (i.e. from 9 February 2009 onwards).

Course Timings

Sunday 22 March: arrival from 5:00pm for dinner at 6:30pm

Monday 23 March to Thursday 26 March:

Either 9:00am–6:00pm, *or* 9:00am–1:00pm, 3:30–6:00pm, 7:30–9:00pm

Friday 27 March: 9:00am–2:00pm

Course Objectives

By the end of the course we expect that you will have:

- Developed greater awareness about your own communication style and its impact on others
- Reflected on Biblical resources related to conflict
- Enhanced your ability to communicate effectively in times of conflict
- Developed your ability to analyse conflict and to identify what intervention may be appropriate, such as mediation
- Considered ways to nurture a culture of creative engagement with conflict
- Reflected on the type of leadership needed in times of conflict
- Practised specialised skills for facilitating meetings
- Learnt ways of building consensus and working with resistance in groups
- Discovered ways that conflict can offer opportunities for growth