

What past participants have said about Bridge Builders' courses:

Learn the value of listening with your heart not just your head. Learn how conflict can go beyond resolution toward transformation!

Rev. Nancy Adams, Scottish Episcopal Convener, Lothian, Scotland

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

This training is a must for those in church leadership of any sort. Conflict can be a destructive force in the church and leaders need the skills that the course teaches.

Doreen Button, Baptist Deacon, Ashford, Kent

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

Rev. James Booth, Methodist District Chair, Liverpool District

A practical and empowering course that provides valuable insight into conflict.

Rev. Stuart Macdonald, Baptist Pastor and Chaplain, Moray, Scotland

The course offers a good mix of introducing new skills, fostering self-awareness and equipping with tools.

Rev. Carla Grosch-Miller, URC Minister, Taunton, Somerset

This training has taught me skills and given me tools to not flee from conflict. It was well worth my time.

Rev. Mindy Bell, Methodist Minister, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

This was the best course I have ever gone on – it was hard work but so helpful and has given me many tools which I know will benefit my ministry.

Rev. Martin Breadmore, Anglican Vicar, Wallington, Surrey

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TRANSFORMING CHURCH CONFLICT

A Foundation Course for Leaders

17-22 May 2009

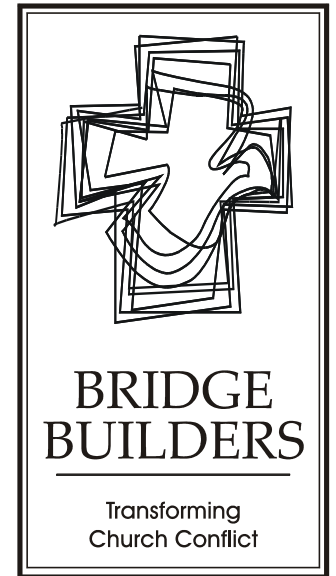
**Whirlow Grange Conference Centre,
Sheffield**

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 Leaders* is a new training course intended for those in leadership positions in the church, and also for other Christians who want to deal better with conflict. 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 as our courses are regularly over-subscribed. 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 Leaders

17–22 May 2009, Whirlow Grange Conference Centre, Sheffield
Begins Sunday evening, ends 4:30pm 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 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.

Meals and Accommodation

The course is residential with accommodation provided from Sunday evening to Thursday evening, and with meals provided each day from Sunday evening until Friday lunch time, of breakfast, lunch and evening meal, in single room accommodation at Whirlow Grange Conference Centre, Eccleshall Road South, Sheffield S11 9PZ (see www.whirlowgrange.co.uk).

Cost, Application and Cancellation

The standard cost for the course is £725. Precedence is given to applicants sponsored by their church or organisation, and who may use the training for its benefit, or to enhance their own ministry. If you are on a very low income, then please contact us to see whether a bursary may be available. A training manual and a style profile are included in the fee.

Spaces are limited to a maximum of 24, 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 (i.e. by 23 March 2009). 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 6 April 2009 onwards).

Course Timings

Sunday 17 May: arrival from 5:00pm for dinner at 6:30pm

Monday 18 May to Thursday 21 May:

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

Friday 22 May: 9:00am–4:30pm

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 skills for communicating effectively in times of conflict
- Practised and learnt skills to facilitate meetings
- Learnt ways of building consensus and working with resistance in groups
- 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
- Discovered ways that conflict can offer opportunities for growth