

2026 ICON PAINTING WORKSHOPS WITH AIDAN HART
11-15 May and 21-25 September 2026
at Walcot Hall, Lydbury North, Shropshire
(SatNav: Powis Arms, Lydbury North, Shropshire)

The teaching

In 2026, as in previous years, I shall be running two five-day icon workshops at beautiful Walcot Hall in Lydbury North, Shropshire, SY7 8AU. (<http://www.walcothall.com/>). The dates are May 11-15 and September 21-25, although the booking fee covers accommodation from 4pm on the Sunday.

In the May workshop we shall concentrate on the full figure (with an emphasis on drapery), while the September workshop will be on the face, so that icon will be a head or perhaps a bust. There will be a talk with slides at the beginning of each workshop. The theology of the icon is also taught throughout the week in the context of learning the technique.

We all paint the same icon, with Aidan guiding us through the different stages of building up colours in traditional egg tempera on a previously prepared gessoed panel which you will buy or make. After demonstrating each stage (there are at least three demonstrations a day), Aidan spends time with each student one-to-one. Icon painting is a complex process and requires many years of training. The aim is not therefore to complete the icon by the end of the course, but to gain experience in the particular emphasis of the workshop (drapery for a full figure, or face for a head).

The course caters both for the inexperienced and the more experienced, on a first-come-first serve basis.

Participants bring their own pigments, panel and equipment. About four months before the course I will send an invoice for the balance of payment and a list of materials that students will need to bring with them, including a prepared gesso panel. The panel can either be purchased, or if desired, students can make their own (instructions will be supplied). Students are sent a digital copy of the icon to be used as a prototype, and will be expected to do a drawing of this before the workshop begins. This is so that we have maximum time for learning painting skills during the course itself.

The course consists of around seven hours tuition per day (9.00am–5.00pm, except Monday when 10.00am–5.00pm, and Friday when 9.00am–1.00pm). There are places for twelve participants.

Transport

The nearest international airports are Birmingham International and Manchester. The nearest train station is Craven Arms, six miles from Walcot Hall. From there the best thing is a taxi (this needs to be booked in advance). Do a Google search for current taxi companies.

The cost

The cost for the teaching, plus a substantial lunch and morning and afternoon teas, will be, £580.

A £30 deposit will be required by those whose registration is accepted. The non-refundable balance of £550 will be due about four months before the course begins. The invoice will be mailed about two weeks before that due date.

Accommodation

The course offers self-catering accommodation at Walcot Hall to those who wish it. Participants are given their own bedroom in one of the Walcot apartments. The cost covers from 4 pm on Sunday until Friday morning. Each apartment has two to four bedrooms and its own kitchen and bathroom or two. Accommodation is booked through the course and not directly with Walcot Hall.

The accommodation cost is £350 per person (payable to Aidan Hart Icons, not to Walcot Hall). Most people do in fact like to arrive the evening before, so this new arrangement to include Sunday night accommodation is tidier for everyone.

This accommodation cost includes bed linen and towels, and food supplies for you to make your own breakfast. I deliver this food Monday morning at about 8.00am. Participants will need to arrange their own evening meals. There is a fully equipped kitchen in each apartment, and Bishops Castle is 3 miles (5 km) away and has numerous shops, takeaways and eating places. There is also a small community store in Lydbury North 1 mile away, that opens 8am until 2pm.

A non-refundable £20 deposit for accommodation is required of successful registrants.

The course accommodation is available from Sunday late afternoon (exact time to be confirmed) until Friday morning, when rooms need to be emptied by 9.00am for the cleaners.

Registration

If you wish to come, please fill in and return the registration form below by email: mail@aidanharticons.com. Acceptance is on a first-come first-served basis, so only the senders of the first twelve registrants' forms to be received can be accepted. Places are usually filled within a short time, so don't delay! Successful registrants will then be sent an invoice for the deposits (£30 for tuition only, or £50 for tuition plus accommodation). These are non-refundable.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aidan Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aidan Hart

REGISTRATION FORM
FOR 2026 ICON WORKSHOPS WITH AIDAN HART
11-15 May and 21-25 September 2026
at Walcot Hall, Lydbury North, Shropshire, UK

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER/MOBILE _____

EMAIL _____

11-15 May 2026

Yes, I would like to attend this course (tick here) _____

Walcot accommodation required. Yes _____ No _____

21-25 SEPTEMBER 2026

Yes, I would like to attend this course (tick here) _____

Walcot accommodation required. Yes _____ No _____

MOBILITY NEEDS

Do you have mobility needs that require you to have a downstairs bedroom?

Yes _____ No _____

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Please indicate any dietary needs that you have. Please restrict these to necessary requirements (allergies) rather than preferences, as it is not possible to accommodate a big range of dietary requests:

Please fill in and return to Aidan:

EMAIL: mail@aidanharticons.com

Applicants will be informed if a place is available or not, and receive an invoice for the deposit if so. Their place will be confirmed only on prompt receipt of payment.

For any queries contact Aidan at:

MOBILE: +44 (0)7910 246774

EMAIL: mail@aidanharticons.com