

Courses available through

# The Learning Network

The Connexional Team

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# BIBLE month

## Bible Month

Bible Month is an annual campaign that celebrates Scripture by inviting the whole Methodist Connexion to feast on one particular book of the Bible together.

Through a menu of carefully curated resources, training and learning opportunities, churches and circuits are encouraged to taste and see the goodness of an individual text; enjoying some of its unique flavours, considering its origins, appreciating its place alongside the rest of Scripture, and savouring the unique contribution it might make to our faithful living and learning today.

Individuals, groups, circuits and churches will be encouraged to chew over the text in a whole host of different ways.

To find out more and discover how you can join in, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/BibleMonth](https://methodist.org.uk/BibleMonth)

# Encounter

## Exploring your calling

The Encounter programme is for adults wishing to understand more fully their calling to follow Jesus and to live as Christ's disciples in the world.

The programme will help you to identify your gifts, and explore the various possibilities of ministry and service.

The core programme revolves around ten monthly online evening meetings

*Encounter helped shape my journey of calling, it taught me to look within – for the unexpected – and find my path.*

The Encounter sessions provide opportunity to journey with others as you explore and deepen your understanding of God, and reflect on how God may be calling you at this stage in your continuing discipleship. Sessions will involve prayer, discussion, guest speakers, and time for reflection. Each session is based around a theme connected with discipleship and vocation.

To find out more about Encounter, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/VocationCourses](https://methodist.org.uk/VocationCourses)

## Explore

Explore is an opportunity for any member of the Methodist Church to take a breath, step back, and consider how they are called to respond to God's call through Worship, Learning and Caring, Evangelism or Service.

You can register at any time of year, although the course element usually runs from September to May.

Whenever you register you will be offered support through:

- Reflecting with an **Accompanist**
- **Journalling** your experiences
- **Shadowing** people involved in the work of the kingdom of God
- A range of **learning and development** resources and support to dip in and out of
- Being part of a group who learn together on a **nine-month course**

For more information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/Exploring](https://methodist.org.uk/Exploring)



MHFA England

## Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

The Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course is internationally recognised training that teaches people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health and provide help on a first aid basis. For more information visit [mhfaengland.org](http://mhfaengland.org)

### What does it cost?

Usually the course costs £325, however if you are connected to the Methodist Church the cost is subsidised to £60 (non refundable). Please don't let the cost deter you. If cost is a concern, please contact us for assistance.

To book your place and for further information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/MHFA](http://methodist.org.uk/MHFA)

In response to **Our Calling**, Methodist people are to help others to grow and learn as Christians, through **mutual support and care**

# Who Cares?

## Training for Pastoral Care



*I enjoyed exploring how I could take my passion to the needs of the world...very inspiring.*



**Who Cares?** is a series of four 2-hour sessions that introduces participants to pastoral practice. With suggested pre/post session learning and reflection, these sessions will set churches and Methodist communities on a sound footing to envision and enable pastoral support in their context.



*It's often difficult to think what to say or pray when someone has suffered some trauma or loss event but (I) found these discussions really helpful.*



**Session details** (it is strongly recommended that participants attend all 4 sessions)

Session 1: Introduction to Pastoral Care

Session 2: Welcome and Hospitality in Pastoral Care

Session 3: Listening and Prayer in Pastoral Practice

Session 4: Care in Difficult Times and Self-care in Pastoral Practice

For course and event details, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/WellbeingCourses](https://methodist.org.uk/WellbeingCourses)



# The Last Taboo

Death: is it the last taboo for you, or for others?



***Useful content, delivered with care and sensitivity.  
Thoughtful, and thought provoking.***



Delivered in partnership with MHA, The Last Taboo is a half-day workshop all about death and dying. Designed for pastoral visitors, carers and ministers, participants explore how to:

- talk about death and dying with confidence
- care for others as they prepare for death
- create a positive, loving environment when someone is dying.



***The course was thought provoking. The approach enabled me to reflect on my own concerns about death and dying without telling [us] what to think. I really appreciated being given space to make sense of my views and experiences. The use of stories to illustrate the points being made assisted my learning.***



To book your place and for further information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/WellbeingCourses](https://methodist.org.uk/WellbeingCourses)

In response to **Our Calling**, Methodist people are to help others to grow and learn as Christians, through **mutual support and care**

# Unconscious Bias Training

Unconscious bias refers to a bias of which we are unaware, and which happens outside of our control. It happens automatically and is triggered by our brain making quick judgements and assessments of people and situations, influenced by our background, cultural environment and personal experiences.

These influences have the power to undermine and derail our desire to act justly and fairly towards others, including in our recruitment, promotion and openness to new ideas.

This training session is suitable for those engaged in the stationing invitation process, as well as all members and leaders of the Methodist Church.

This single online 90-minute session includes some preparatory material and follow-up afterwards.

To find out more and book your place, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/UnconsciousBiasTraining](https://methodist.org.uk/UnconsciousBiasTraining)

# Lay Employee Orientation

*This was such a helpful day as I begin my new role in the Methodist Church.*

An online one-day course for new lay employees to meet, explore their role, understand Methodism and get to grips with key employment practices and much more!

To book your place or for more information, visit [methodist.org.uk/LayEmploymentSupport](https://methodist.org.uk/LayEmploymentSupport)

A collection of learning opportunities for those in lay positions in the Methodist Church

# Reflective Line Management

This training is designed for any new or existing line managers. Comprised of two three-hour sessions, it offers a holistic approach to the exploration of good practice.

**Session 1** will enable participants to:

- identify the key skills/qualities needed to manage lay employees
- describe their role and responsibilities in managing lay employees in the Methodist Church
- clarify the different functions of line management
- understand their role in managing the employment cycle.

**Session 2** will enable participants to:

- understand their own operational preferences
- have confidence in making interventions
- enable lay employees to reflect on their practice
- support lay employee development and vocation.

To book your place or for more information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/LayEmploymentSupport](https://methodist.org.uk/LayEmploymentSupport)

# Boundaries and Saying “No”

Sometimes we feel that our boundaries are not quite in the right place, and we have said “yes” when we maybe could have said “no”. In the Boundaries and Saying “No” session we will:

- spend time with Jesus and discern our responses to saying “no”
- explore some methods to help us develop, and keep to boundaries we have set.

To book your place or for more information, visit [methodist.org.uk/LeadershipDevelopment](https://methodist.org.uk/LeadershipDevelopment)

# Leadership Skills Training

Are you a lay leader? Would you like to explore and enhance your leadership skills? This one-day online course offers lay people working in the Methodist Church a chance to develop their leadership skills and style while learning how to lead meetings, manage group dynamics, build teams and understand conflict.

To book your place or for more information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/LeadershipDevelopment](https://methodist.org.uk/LeadershipDevelopment)

# Time Management

Sometimes the to-do list seems never ending and it can be hard to find time for what feels most important. In the Time Management sessions we will:

- think about how best to manage our own diaries and other people's expectations
- consider how to use our time discerningly, making space for what matters most
- learn some practical ways for managing to-do lists.

To book your place or for more information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/LeadershipDevelopment](https://methodist.org.uk/LeadershipDevelopment)

# Discernment Course



## What is the Discernment course?

The Discernment course exists to help leaders listen together to God's invitation when making decisions.

We live in times of tremendous change in the Church, and those in leadership are faced with many challenging circumstances, as well as many potential ways forward.

The Discernment Course seeks to help leaders listen carefully to what God is doing in their local context, to develop tools to support decision-making and to learn how to make good and prayerful decisions together.

## Who is the course for?

The course is intended for anyone involved in leadership in the local church, including church stewards, circuit stewards, local preachers, lay workers, deacons, presbyters and superintendents.

## How can the course be used?

The full course can be delivered in six hours, in person or online. The course can be delivered by local leaders, perhaps by a local presbyter, deacon or circuit steward.

To book your place or for more information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/LeadershipDevelopment](https://methodist.org.uk/LeadershipDevelopment)



# First Moves in Ordained Ministry

For ministers who are considering a move or re-invitation for the first time, this is an opportunity to take time and space to reflect on your first move as a minister. The reflection is offered in two parts. The first is planned ahead of the stationing process and the second is the following Spring.

During the first part, there will be an opportunity to reflect on your experiences in your present situation as you consider whether to seek a re-invitation or enter the stationing process for the first time.

During the second part, there will be an opportunity to consider your aspirations for the future.

More information and relevant contacts can be found at  
**[methodist.org.uk/FirstMove](https://methodist.org.uk/FirstMove)**

## Re:Charged: 10-12 years in Ordained Ministry

An opportunity for each participant to reflect on ministry and vocation as it stands and consider questions about ongoing call, gifts and graces and what next in ministry. It will provide a mix of small group conversation spaces, personal reflection time, led thinking and of course a chance to pray and worship together.

The aim is to provide time and space for ministers to reflect on their experiences in their present situation and to consider their aspirations for the future.

More information and relevant contacts can be found at  
[methodist.org.uk/ReCharge](https://methodist.org.uk/ReCharge)

# 25+ years Ordained Ministry Travelled

An event for all presbyters and deacons who have been in ordained ministry for 25 years, or more, to meet with others at the same stage of ordained ministry to:

- share ways of sustaining ministry
- be equipped for the rest of your ministry in a very different context to the one in which you started.

Over three days you will explore what was, what is, and what is to come. This event is about **SPACE**: Spiritual, Practical, Attentive, Creative and Exploration.

A chaplain is available throughout the event for one-to-one conversation and prayer.

More information and relevant contacts can be found at [methodist.org.uk/28-30](https://methodist.org.uk/28-30)

# Growing through Change and Conflict

The Growing through Change and Conflict course offers support and training in recognising and responding to conflict so that we can:

- be equipped for the resunderstand how conflict works, in ourselves, our churches and faith communities; and
- be aware of and experience simple tools to transform conflict.

For course information and booking, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/PWT](https://methodist.org.uk/PWT)

A series of courses that focus on the ways in which we **engage with each other** and **address conflict** within the life of the Church

# Bullying and Harassing Behaviour

This workshop enables those who participate to consider the dynamics that lead to bullying and harassing behaviour and equips participants with basic skills to become more confident when dealing with people who display such behaviours. The course builds upon the learning covered by 'Growing Through Change and Conflict'.

For course information and booking, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/PWT](https://methodist.org.uk/PWT)

A series of courses that focus on the ways in which we **engage with each other** and **address conflict** within the life of the Church

# Scripture Spirituality and Conflict

Building on 'Growing through Change and Conflict', this material explores an approach to Scripture rooted in God's loving reconciliation in the world.

Together we consider how Scripture sheds light on conflict and on the spiritual journey. We draw on the work of John Paul Lederach.

For course information and booking, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/PWT](https://methodist.org.uk/PWT)

# Faith in Change and Conflict

This longer course equips us in how to become effective catalysts for change in conflict situations. It runs over two three-and-a-half-day sessions, and covers four units:

## **Unit 1: Introduction to Conflict Transformation and Personal Development**

We understand how conflict, change, and transition operate in others and in our churches when we understand how it operates in ourselves.

## **Unit 2: Communication and Facilitation Skills**

Honing facilitation and communication skills are essential as we lead others through times of change and transition.

## **Unit 3: Conflict and Mediation Skills**

In this unit, we dig deeply into some of the skills needed for transforming conflict, for hosting difficult conversations.

## **Unit 4: Conflict in the Context of Faith**

What are the specific dynamics at play in church contexts when we encounter change and difference? What does the Bible teach us about conflict and change? How do we apply our learning in our own faith context?

While each course can be accessed independent of the others, it is beneficial to participate in 'Growing through Change and Conflict' initially as a foundation for the other courses.

For course information and booking, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/PWT](http://methodist.org.uk/PWT)

# Circuit Stewards Training

Are you a new circuit steward and are wondering what happens next? Or perhaps you have been one for a while and want to explore more about being missional in your role?

Here are two distinct training options to suit the diverse needs and schedules of circuit stewards:

## Option 1: Online Zoom Training

This six-session course will take place two hours weekly, on a week night.

The course will:

- introduce new and existing stewards to the role and responsibilities
- refresh circuit stewards in their ongoing learning and development
- encourage local and Connexional peer support among circuit stewards
- encourage a reflective journey rooted in mission and vocation
- signpost and connect to relevant resources.

Each session will offer opportunities to explore ideas and share experiences as well as identify possibilities for further action and ongoing learning and development, particularly in these areas:

Session 1: Stewarding God's Mission

Session 2: Governance as Mission

Session 3: Leadership as Mission

Session 4: Management as Mission

Session 5: What's Next?

Session 6: Mission Planning



## Option 2: Online Self-guided Training

Circuit Stewards can have demanding schedules, and so an online self-guided independent course has been developed for circuit stewards to access anytime and learn at their own pace.

Join the circuits stewards' training course for new and existing stewards on the MCBX learning platform. It is a course rooted in mission and vocation that will enable you to discover more about your role and responsibilities. It includes helpful resources and will take between three and six hours to complete.

For more information, visit  
**[methodist.org.uk/CircuitStewardsTraining](https://methodist.org.uk/CircuitStewardsTraining)**

Or to sign up for self-guided training, visit  
**[mcb.theologyx.com/course/circuit-steward-training](https://mcb.theologyx.com/course/circuit-steward-training)**

# Connexional Community of Practice for Circuit Stewards

Are you a circuit steward and feel you could benefit from connecting with other circuit stewards?

This online, monthly gathering, held on a weeknight from 7pm-9pm, is an opportunity for circuit stewards from across the Connexion to come together to build relationships with each other, to learn and share together and to support each other in their mission.

Each month, guests will join from across the Connexion with specialisms and insights in particular mission areas to share their wisdom, invite discussion, and answer key questions. Within each session, there will be plenty of time available for conversation and sharing in small and large groups.

These sessions are will cover the mission areas of:

Property, Finance, Mission Planning, Net-Zero, Trusteeship, Digital, Transforming conversations, Justice, Inclusion, Children, Youth and Families, Rural, Creative Models for Lay Ministry... and more!

For more information and to watch some video recordings from Circuit Stewards' Community of Practice events, visit [methodist.org.uk/CircuitStewardsTraining](https://methodist.org.uk/CircuitStewardsTraining)

A range of learning opportunities to support new, returning and experienced **Stewards** in their roles

# New to Reflective Supervision

Essential skills and information for first time supervisees. During our time together, we'll explore what supervision is, why it matters and how to get the most out of it so you're fully prepared for your first session. This event is highly practical, offering you a chance to experience skills used in supervision, and to see a live demonstration. There are some preliminary tasks ahead of the online gathered session.

# Refreshing Supervision

Helping supervisees get the most out of reflective supervision  
This session is designed to help you get what you need out of the supervision process by looking at ways to stimulate ideas to bring to supervision, refreshing your understanding of the purposes and methods of supervision and providing space to observe and reflect on live supervision.

For more information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/Supervision](https://methodist.org.uk/Supervision)

# Continuing Development of Supervisors

A library of nine different courses offered twice throughout the connexional year.

- Using creative methods in reflective supervision
- Working effectively with agreed records in reflective supervision
- Supervision of supervision
- Additional models
- Balancing support and challenge in reflective supervision
- What makes online supervision good?
- Supervising cross-culturally
- Listening theologically in reflective supervision
- Soul, role and context

For more information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/Supervision](https://methodist.org.uk/Supervision)

# Dreaming Beyond

*One of the best online trainings I have attended.  
So many ideas! Where to begin!*

Dreaming Beyond is an online space for people passionate about mission with small and/or rural churches.

In the Autumn, the community meets to hear stories of mission being done in exciting and new ways.

In the Spring, the community re-gathers to reflect upon the learning and developments in mission since the Autumn gathering.

# Positively Rural

Positively Rural usually meets four times each connexional year to support mission and ministry within a rural context. Within this ecumenical gathering, time is taken to explore a range of topics pertinent to rural churches and communities, to share experiences, ask questions and explore new resources and approaches.

For more information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/Learning/Rural](http://methodist.org.uk/Learning/Rural)

Online communities seeking to support those who serve in rural churches, and others involved in rural mission

# WLP Support and Skills Development

**Worship: Leading & Preaching** is the authorised training course for Worship Leaders and Local Preachers in designed to equip leaders for mission and ministry in a changing world.

## WLP Online Induction: For Students, Tutors and Mentors

This is an orientation session to which all local preachers and worship leaders starting out on the Worship: Leading & Preaching course are invited, along with their tutors and mentors. It is helpful if student, tutor and mentor attend together if possible.

During the 90-minute online session, we look at the basics of LP and WL training and the WLP course itself, project work and assessment. We also take a tour of the virtual learning environment used to deliver the course to help students and tutors become familiar with that platform.

## WLP Local Preachers' Secretaries Drop In sessions

Periodic, informal opportunities to meet with other LP Secretaries from around the connexion to share ideas and concerns.

This 90-minute Zoom meeting includes short introductions to topics of interest, time for informal discussion and time for Q&A.

## WLP Study Skills for Students

Are you feeling nervous or over-awed at the prospect of studying on the WLP course? Maybe you haven't done any formal study for a long time, or your previous experiences of study have been negative.

This four-session course will help to equip you with the tools needed to get the most from your study.

- **Session 1: Who am I as a Learner?**  
Exploring our own preferences and needs and how to make the most of our strengths and cope with our weaknesses. Overcoming barriers to learning and coping with the unexpected.
- **Session 2: Practicalities of Learning**  
Planning time and space; getting organised; suggestions for taking notes; getting the most from the 'reader' and understanding the assessed tasks (project briefs).
- **Session 3: Critical Thinking and Theological reflection**  
Introducing these two important skills and working through some examples of using them.
- **Session 4: Getting to Grips with Exegesis**  
Working through the model of exegesis introduced in Module 2 of the course and having a go together.

### WLP Further Skills for Tutors

A reflective series of sessions for tutors (and mentors), designed to share wisdom from experienced practitioners in adult education and experienced WLP tutors. You are welcome to come to one, many or all of the six sessions. Please book for each one separately.

- **Session 1: Who's in Your Group?**  
Introduces us to the idea of learning styles and helps us to understand the strengths and weaknesses that each student brings.
- **Session 2: Feedback for Growth**  
Thinking about the structure of good feedback; the language we use to celebrate what is good and how to address areas of work that need improvement.

- **Session 3: Exegesis with Students**  
A practical session using the model of exegesis outlined in Module Section 2.1 and used on the Service Planning and Reflection Form that outlines the method and the reasoning behind the questions asked.
- **Session 4: Self-Assessment for Tutors**  
How do we cope with feedback on our tutor/mentor skills? What are your communication preferences/learning preferences/teaching style? How do these play out in your interactions with students?
- **Session 5: Supporting Students with Dyslexia, Dyspraxia or Dyscalculia**  
This event is ideal for tutors and mentors looking to enhance their skills in supporting students living with Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Dyscalculia
- **Session 6: Supporting Students with Autism and ADHD/ADD**  
This event is perfect for tutors and mentors looking to enhance their skills in supporting students living with a form of neurodiversity.

### WLP Explore online

A key part of the WLP course is the opportunity to come together and share in learning. In reality, many students find that they are the only person studying in their circuit, or that different students may be progressing at very different paces, so it is not always possible to be a part of a group locally.

Explore Online covers each of the three sessions from one module on Friday evening and Saturday. This enables students to come together with other learners across the Connexion and discuss the Explore sessions of the course. Please note that attendees must have already completed their own study of the Learn material before the sessions, which are interactive and will not be recorded.



Modules are delivered on an annual cycle, with sessions held quarterly. This commences with Modules 1 and 5 in November, Modules 2 and 6 in February, Modules 3 and 7 in May and Modules 4 and 8 in July, so that theoretically a student could complete all sessions over a 2 year period. Note that it is only possible to complete one module in a weekend.

For further information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/WLPDevelopment](http://methodist.org.uk/WLPDevelopment)

# Working Out Worship

Are you involved with organising, planning or leading worship?

Each session focuses on an element of worship, key aspects in facilitating worship, and a variety of styles and approaches to leading worship. You can attend as an individual or as a group with other stewards, worship leaders, preachers or contributors to your worship context.

Listed here are the range of areas we focus on, but particular areas of focus can be added.

## **Local Arrangements**

This session considers the simple steps of planning a service, different aspects and approaches to worship and signposts some fantastic resources.

## **Creative Worship**

This session aims to deepen understanding of the creative nature of God and explore how creativity is used to connect the senses to God.

## **Intergenerational Worship**

This session explores what it means to be an intergenerational church, to worship intergenerationally, signposts some useful resources and considers how to be inclusive and engaging in all that we do.

## Practice What You Preach

This session will help you further develop your newly-learned skills. Whether you want to develop extemporary prayer or reflective prayer spaces, use creative ideas for small groups or get support for planning worship with larger congregations.

You can register for one or more of the sessions, and feed in your particular interests and needs so facilitators can include as much variety as is possible.

For further information, visit  
[methodist.org.uk/WLPDevelopment](https://methodist.org.uk/WLPDevelopment)