

It seemed like a long and cold winter, and spring took a long time to arrive this year, at least here in the north-west of England. And looking around at the world with its suffering and conflicts, it seems that many have yet to feel the warmth of spring.

Yet we have celebrated Easter, and Pentecost will soon be with us.

As Christian people, we celebrate a Saviour who came as Light into places of darkness, who came as the Word of truth into places of confusion and fear and offers healing and reconciliation to those broken by conflict and violence. It seems that we have a unique role as people of hope in a world that seems chaotic and confused.

We can proclaim hope confidently, knowing that however unlikely our message, we are simply called to live as Jesus did, and be ready to explain the hope within us (1 Pet 3:15).

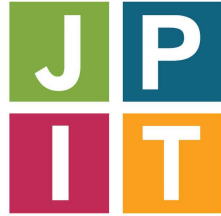
***...for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
the flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.***

(Song of Songs 2:11-13, NRSV)

Stop Press:

New guidance for those responsible for **Local Arrangement** services has just been published. It's available on the Local Preachers' Secretaries' page [here](#).

Events



Good News Training Events Manchester, London, Nottingham, June 2023

As followers of Jesus, we are called to celebrate the good news of God's transforming love with our neighbours, whether they live down our street or half-way around the world.

But when the cost of living crisis is leaving so many hungry and cold right here in the UK, or poverty, disaster and exploitation are facing our global neighbours, what does it look like to speak and live out the good news in our churches?

All We Can and the **Joint Public Issues Team** are hosting three events to explore how we can use our worship gatherings and spaces for reflection and action to explore these topics.

Ideal for worship leaders and preachers, these will be practical workshops aiming to share tools and tips for a better approach.

Sat 3rd June, 10:30am – 1:30pm, Manchester Central Hall

Sat 3rd June, 10:30am – 1:30pm, Hinde Street Methodist Church, London

Wed 7th June, 7-9pm, West Bridgford Methodist Church, Nottingham

To find out more and book, click [here](#)



"Going to 3Generate is like having an energy boost! To see so many Methodist young people in one place is just amazing."

Volunteer registration is open for 3Generate 2023 and we're looking for new people to join our growing community of staff and volunteers.

The event continues to grow: last year there were 1,200 children and young people there with their group leaders. Click [here](#) to watch a video from last year's event.

As the youth assembly of The Methodist Church, 3Generate not only offers lots of fun and engaging activities and worship, it also plays a vital role in the decision making processes of the Methodist Church. Volunteers really treasure both what

they give and receive when serving as part of the intergenerational team at 3Generate. One older volunteer told us "I'm usually around people of my own age, but it was wonderful to be surrounded by so many delightful young people."

To join the team, click [here](#).

Some reasons why you should consider volunteering:

- Join a team of 250+ people, living out their discipleship in an exciting way.
- Play your part in a vibrant event that transforms and inspires everyone involved.
- Use your skills - and develop new ones!
- Encourage and equip the younger generation of the Methodist Church.
- Meet new people, have fun and be welcomed into the 3Generate family.



MHA Sunday 2023

Last year more churches than ever supported MHA. Will you join us on June 11th, or any other Sunday to suit your church calendar?

This year we will be looking at 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and thinking about how we can do so much more together than apart, with a particular focus on our intergenerational work.

Worship resources for MHA Sunday are now available to download [here](#).

Everything you need for a whole service is there including prayers, hymns, video, a quiz for all ages, even a sermon outline for you to adapt for your service.



The Community for Spiritual Formation

Through a programme of worship, teaching, silence and reflection based on a Benedictine monastic pattern, we aim to create transformative space for people to be in communion with God, self, others, and creation for the sake of the world.

All are welcome to the events outlined below, more details are available on the [Community website](#).

Tuesday 18th – Friday 21st July 2023: Three Day Community event: 'Who are you? Living a Godly life' facilitated by Sam Wells, vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, author and broadcaster.

Tuesday 12th - Friday 15th March 2024: Three-Day Community event at Cliff College. Called 'Views from the broken middle' it will be led by The Rev. Dr. Canon Rachel Mann whose five teaching sessions will be part of a rhythm of silence, worship and small group sharing. More information and the registration form can be found [here](#).



The Methodist Church is committed to being an evangelistic church, it's one of the core parts of our calling. All Christians – not just some – are called to listen for, speak of, and live out the good news. And yet, as a Church, we can often lack confidence with evangelism. So we need a tool to help us grow in confidence and make the most of our opportunities for sharing our faith.

Everyone an Evangelist is a course from the Methodist Church designed to help groups from local churches and circuits explore the ways you and your church community are called to share your faith and to grow in confidence as evangelists. The process will help demystify evangelism and build sustainable, intentional rhythms of both personal and shared evangelism.

See the [website](#) for further information, including an information video, how to attend Everyone an Evangelist Surgeries and how to order Everyone an Evangelist materials.

More opportunities for people who are passionate about evangelism and growth:

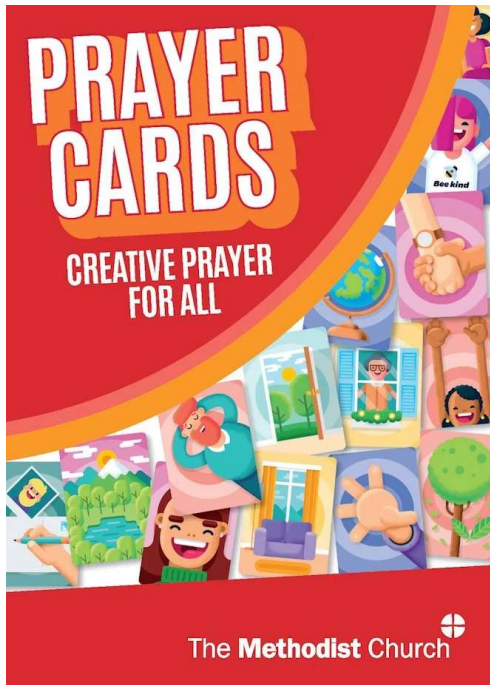
Beginning a Church at the Margins. A three-session interactive online course in June/July 2023. Space to think about connecting and becoming a new Christian community amongst and led by people experiencing poverty. More information and bookings [here](#).

Community Organising. 20th -22nd October, at Cliff College. For people beginning a New Place for New People. For more details and to book your place, click [here](#).

Church Planting Intensive. 3rd to 5th November, a fully funded course for those planting New Places for New People (NPNP). 30 places are available - to book click

[here](#).

Ideas & Resources



We all have moments where prayer is joyous, and times where it feels more like a duty.

If you're looking for creative ways to prayer during services, meetings, youth groups and retreats, the Methodist Prayer Cards are now available as a free PDF and PowerPoint, as well as a printed pack. Click [here](#) to find them.

The Methodist prayer cards offer 52 different prompts for creative prayer; different ways that we can fulfil the Methodist Way of Life commitment to "pray daily" as far as we are able, with God's help.

Here are some comments from people who have tried them:

The teenagers liked them - thought the illustrations were cool and it prompted some good discussion

As the focus of a prayer station, at the on-line Circuit Day of Prayer... I got the following comments: 'Love the focus and simplicity of the cards'; 'Wonderful, keeping me focused'

I found them very helpful in creating ideas for engaging virtual congregations in prayers and reflections



30 Days with Revelation

Many churches and circuits have begun their exploration of the book of Revelation. Some have been surprised by what they've found. Please write to us with your experiences of exploring revelation with your church or small group - we'd love to hear how it's going. Email us at biblemonth@methodistchurch.org.uk. Bible Month is a great place to start your Bible study of Revelation and to explore how you might preach from this remarkable and fascinating book which connects the whole biblical story together. And you don't need to do it in a month - how about using one service each month in the autumn to focus on this great book?

To find out more about Bible Month and to order copies, click [here](#).

The Learning Network have a wide range of events and resources to support your explorations. Check the Bible Month page on the Methodist website [here](#).

There is a link at the bottom of the Bible Month page to download a free black-and-white version of the Revelation booklet for use in your preparation.



Preach magazine from LWPT offers a wealth of resources to help with your preparation for worship and preaching. Each issue of Preach is based on a single theme. Recent themes include Mental Health, War, Joy, Single Living, Disability and The Old Testament.

These themes are examined in a Biblical context drawing comparisons, teachings and wisdom from scripture. Preach writers come from all Christian denominations, giving you a range of viewpoints to challenge and develop your thinking.

Join LWPT and you will receive:

Every Quarter – your own digital or print copy of Preach magazine and LWPT's newsletter, Ichthus.

Every Month – Preach eNews with a round-up of our best content, video interviews and forthcoming Christian events plus occasional OFFERS or FREE e-books.

All year long - access to the full digital archive of Preach magazine.

Student Membership at a 50% discount is available for all those in training to be Worship Leaders and Local Preachers and student preachers. At the 'Theology College prompt insert 'Methodist Church Worship: Leading and Preaching'.

Click [here](#) to subscribe or find out more. Don't forget to select "Gift Aid" if you're eligible - it's worth an extra 25% to LWPT.



LWPHomes

News from LWPHomes:

LWPHomes has a lovely Independent living complex at Milborne Port near Sherborne in Dorset.

Being a Christian community is at the heart of what they do at Gainsborough, as it is called. They have a chapel so that the residents can hold acts of worship and prayer meetings. At present this is led by a couple of the residents. They have devotions on a Monday and a local minister comes once a month to give Holy Communion.

We were in the middle of organising regular prayer visits from local preachers. COVID has unfortunately interrupted this arrangement, but hopefully not for good. The Christian ethos of LWPHomes is alive and well at Gainsborough and we would welcome any Local Preachers who would like to visit and see for themselves, please contact our Administrator. Contact details and further information are on our website [here](#).

SINGING THE FAITH  **PLUS**

Services from the Methodist Worship Book are now being published in Word and PDF formats and as PowerPoint slides. They can be downloaded [here](#).

The list of available services is growing and currently includes Holy Communion, Healing and Wholeness and Covenant services.

There are also a set of additional liturgies for Holy Communion which can be found [here](#).



LWPT

The Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust was created to support worship leaders and preachers to develop their ministries.

Could you be a trustee for LWPT? We are looking for people who can offer their wisdom and skills as trustees to this ministry. If you share our desire to see Christian leaders well trained for local ministry in the UK, then we would like to hear from you. If you would like to consider whether this is an option for you, please contact our CEO (Ian Buchanan) at ian.buchanan@lwpt.org.uk for an information pack.



(I thought that picture might catch your eye - Ed.)

The Connexional Team have helpfully updated the guidance on navigating the tricky world of copyright, especially for online, recorded and hybrid worship. You can find the new guidance on the Methodist website [here](#).

Incidentally, the curious machine in the picture is a typewriter, as used by authors, editors and frantic essay writers in the olden days.

Learning & Development



Last chance to book for Summer School at Cliff College Monday 31st July-Friday 4th August 2023

Summer School provides the opportunity to do the Explore sessions for two full modules of Worship: Leading & Preaching in one intensive week at Cliff College.

You need to have completed the **Learn** parts of your chosen two modules before attending, as you will be asked to reflect and share from your learning from these in your group at Summer School. We DO NOT teach the WLP course at Summer School but learn from each other based on the study we have already done.

For more details and a booking link, click [here](#).

Please note that there is a minimum number of students for each of the four streams. Any streams with fewer bookings may have to be cancelled. If you intend to come to Summer School, please book **as soon as possible**.

Explore Online

Explore Online weekends take place four times each year. Each weekend starts on Friday evening at around 7pm, and runs through to Saturday afternoon (around 3pm).

During the weekend, the three Explore sessions for one complete module are held. Note that you still need a local Tutor and Mentor to support you during the course, and you **MUST** have completed the online Learn material before doing Explore Online for that module. We don't teach the WLP course at Explore Online, we have the opportunity to share our insights and learn from each other. Sessions are interactive and every one is unique, so we don't record them.

More information and booking links are on the Explore Together webpage [here](#).



How is your **Continuing LP Development** going? Our collection of ready-made session plans for use in the Local Preachers' Meeting continues to grow. The latest addition is a fascinating session by Dr Ruth Bancewicz of the Faraday Institute, which connects churches with the scientific community. Her session asks why Christians should care about the natural world and what the Bible says about care for creation.

Visit and bookmark the CLPD page [here](#).



New WLP Training Page

Information on all training opportunities related to Worship: Leading & Preaching can now be found on the dedicated **/wlptraining** page on the Methodist website [here](#).

These include:

WLP Online Induction

All new WLP3 Students, their Tutors and Mentors are invited on enrolment to a 90-minute online induction session, providing an overview of the course and an introduction to the course website. Sessions are generally monthly, alternating between Friday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.

Introduction to WLP for LP Secretaries, Mentors & Tutors

A 90-minute Zoom session for those supporting students on the Worship: Leading & Preaching course, or who are considering these roles. The session includes a short introduction to the course with breakout groups looking at the roles of Tutor,

Mentor and LP Secretary. Six sessions are held per year - check the training page for planned dates.

Further Skills for Tutors & Mentors

Five separate reflective sessions with shared wisdom from experienced practitioners in adult education. Sessions are booked separately and tutors and mentors are welcome to come to one, some or all. All sessions include case studies or worked examples. See the training page for planned events.

Hot Tip for students: *The **Learn** material contains a lot of things for you to read, watch and reflect on. We recommend that you spend 10 hours on **Learn** in each module-section. You might not be able to cover everything in that time, so focus your attention on things that relate to the Learning Outcomes and to your Project - you can come back to other material later. You can also download anything from the Module Reader to your computer to read and/or print anytime: click "Reader" on the "Resources" menu, choose the module you want, then scroll down and click the "Download Folder" button.*

Footnote

One of the changes I have noticed in my preaching around the circuit since COVID is that these days, there are rarely any children in worship. Recently, I caught up with Gail Adcock, the Children & Youth Officer in the Connexional Team. I expressed my concerns, and as ever, she was most encouraging. This is what she had to say:



Gathering as people of all ages when we worship continues to be vitally important. These special intergenerational spaces give us great opportunities to build relationships, grow faith and recognise something of the wonder of being God's people together.

I commented that I've noticed that some of the excitement and vitality of worship seems to be lacking now the congregation is almost all of the same generation:

There can be some incredible benefits if each of us on our own journeys of faith are able to share our questions, reflections and experiences with people of different ages. These can bring new insights and inspire us to keep on following Jesus day by day!

So how can we recapture some of the benefits of intergenerational worship? *It's well worth considering where there are moments, however big or small, to do this in church services. It really does bear fruit and builds up the whole body of Christ in the process.*

So even if there aren't any younger people present in worship, it's good to plan worship so that if there are, they will feel included. It may be that by doing this, the word may spread, and people may be invited. Then you'll be ready when families turn up and be able to welcome all generations with joy. God bless you as you continue to speak of hope and encourage people to listen for God's voice.

Bob Bartindale - Officer for Worship and Local Preachers.

[unsubscribe](#)

[Subscribe to other newsletters from the Methodist Church](#)

[Change your email details](#)

Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR 020 7486 5502

www.methodist.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1132208