

Courses available through the

Learning Network

The Connexional Team

The Learning Network

The Learning Network is a team of practitioners tasked with equipping circuits to fulfil their calling and be places of lifelong learning. As members of the Connexional Team, the Learning Network has a mix of lay and ordained staff from a range of professional and ministerial backgrounds who work with others across the Connexion, and ecumenically, to respond to the learning needs of the Church.

In this brochure you will find information on some of the opportunities for online learning and development available to anyone in the Connexion.

Further information, including booking details, dates and the lead person to contact are online at methodist.org.uk/LearningNetwork

Please check the Learning Network calendar regularly for any future course information at methodist.org.uk/Learning/Events

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BIBLE month

01 | 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 or search 'Bible Month' on Facebook.

02 | Encounter Course

Exploring your calling

Encounter is a place to deepen your awareness of God, reflect on your faith journey and discern your unique calling. The Encounter Course is for adults seeking to deepen their discipleship by discerning their vocation.

In a supportive small group environment, you'll explore what it means to follow Jesus and how your call fits within the Methodist tradition.



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



This online course takes place over eight evening sessions, and two Saturdays.

For more information, visit
methodist.org.uk/Encounter

03 | Explore

Explore is an opportunity for any member of the Methodist Church in Britain 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

04 | 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

05 | Lay 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 and deal with conflict.

To book your place or for more information, visit methodist.org.uk/LeadershipDevelopment

06 | Line Management Training

Designed for any new or existing Line Managers, this one-day offering covers the basics of line management, including key skills, management styles and conflict management.

Participants on this stand-alone training day will join colleagues from across the Connexion online.

To book your place or for more information, visit methodist.org.uk/LayEmploymentSupport

07 | Appreciative Inquiry

Different from the common tools you might use to help create change and development, Appreciative Inquiry leaves behind looking at problems and finding solutions for them. Instead it focuses on what works: what are people doing well; what are their strengths; and facilitates good conversations together, building upon what is already working. No plan based on failings ever went well.

Appreciative Inquiry doesn't sweep problems under the carpet. Rather it accepts they are there and, while identifying strengths and 'what works', it looks at them from a different viewpoint. It really shines when there are difficult conversations to be had, and new plans to make together. Whatever it is you need to explore, Appreciative Inquiry can help people do this together and in harmony.

So, if you need to help people discover their strengths, draw them together to design a new future built on what they're good at, and harness the energy they generate to make it happen, then consider adding Appreciative Inquiry to your expertise.

For more information or to book your place, visit
methodist.org.uk/LeadershipDevelopment



MHFA England

08 | 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

What does it cost?

Usually the course costs £325, however if you are connected to the Methodist Church the cost is subsidised to £50 (nonrefundable). (This will increase to £60 from 1 September 2024.) 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

09 | Positive Working Together

The Methodist Church believes that everyone should be enabled to flourish, to become the people whom God created them to be. Positive Working Together is a series of courses that enables us to reflect on the way we engage and interact with each other within the life of the Church and the wider community.

Scripture, Spirituality and Conflict

Exploring how Scripture sheds light on conflict, on managing change, and on the spiritual journey.

Growing through Change and Conflict

Considering our 'conflict styles' and how we respond in difficult or tense situations. Exploring how conflict and tensions escalate in a church context, and begin to consider some tools to de-escalate conflict.

Bullying and Harassment

Gain a basic understanding of bullying and harassing behaviour, and learn some basic techniques to create good practices in ministry that can address negative behaviour.

The workshop may not be suitable for individuals who are in a complaint process.

For more information and resources on Positive Working Together, visit methodist.org.uk/PositiveWorkingTogether

10 | Who Cares?

'Who Cares?' is a series of four two-hour modules that introduces participants to pastoral practice, drawing on insights and underpinning knowledge in the areas below. With suggested pre/post-session learning and reflection, these pilot sessions will set churches and Methodist communities on a sound footing to envision and enable pastoral support in their context.

Session topics:

- **Session one:** Introduction to pastoral care
- **Session two:** Discipleship and hospitality
- **Session three:** Listening and prayer
- **Session four:** Pastoral care in difficult times

(It is strongly recommended that participants attend all four sessions.)

For more information, or to book on to a course, visit methodist.org.uk/WhoCares

11 | 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.

12 | 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.

To find out more, visit
methodist.org.uk/Supervision

13 | 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, or to book on to a course, visit
methodist.org.uk/Supervision

14 | Supporting Rural Churches

Positively Rural and Rural Dreaming Beyond are two online communities seeking to support those who serve in rural churches and others involved in rural mission. They are open to anyone of any denomination involved in rural ministry, including volunteers, lay workers and clergy. Four meetings a year are offered covering a wide range of topics relevant to rural churches and communities.

Positively Rural

Positively Rural offers four online meetings each connexional year covering a wide range of topics relevant to rural churches and communities.

Rural Dreaming Beyond

What is social prescribing, and how can churches and faith groups get involved?

With the cost of living crisis as it is, are foodbanks the answer? Or is there another way?

Join Peter Jones, Chair of Growing Compassionate Communities, Sarah Hulme, Rural Officer for the Methodist Church, and representatives from Food Hubs from across the Connexion to learn and discuss.

For more information on supporting rural churches and to sign up for courses and webinars, visit methodist.org.uk/RuralSignposts

15 | Theology Book Club

The Christian tradition is rich with amazing thinkers and activists who have helped us be the kind of Christians we are today. Theology Book Club is an opportunity for you to hear, explore and engage with these brilliant 'voices' of our tradition.

You don't need to consider yourself a 'theologian', but if you love to explore and think deeply about your faith this might just be for you. Each connexional year we choose two or three books to explore. Each book is explored in two 90-minute sessions.

Having struggled alone in the past to read a few theology books so this approach is something I have been really looking for and am very excited about.

To find out more, visit methodist.org.uk/TheologicalLiteracy

16 | Unconscious Bias Training

Unconscious bias refers to a bias that we are unaware of 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 75-minute session includes some preparatory material and follow up afterwards.

To find out more and book your place, visit methodist.org.uk/UnconsciousBiasTraining

17 | Worship Leading and Preaching Support

WLP Support: Induction for Students

Are you are a student of the Worship Leading and Preaching course?

This four-session online course aims to familiarise you with expectations, approaches, opportunities and skills to get the most from the course.

For further information, visit methodist.org.uk/WLP

WLP: Tutors and Mentors

Supporting tutors and mentors of WLP 3.0, this five-session course hones your skills as you support your students to become worship leaders and local preachers confident in serving the Methodist Church.

For further information, visit methodist.org.uk/WLP

18 | Working Out Worship

Are you involved with organising, planning or leading worship with adults, children, young people or all ages together?

These two-hour 'Working Out Worship' sessions aim to help you explore some principles and skills for leading and facilitating engaging worship in a variety of styles and approaches for different contexts.

Whether you want to develop skills for what you are already involved in or you are planning new ways of worship with congregations or small groups, these sessions will be helpful to you. You can attend as an individual or as a group with other stewards, worship leaders, preachers or contributors to your worship context(s).

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

Local Arrangements

Local arrangements are a great opportunity for churches to explore different ways of worshipping together. How can these be led well? Whether you are a church steward, worship leader or someone who regularly contributes to worship, this training session will help you.

It will look at the steps of planning a service, different aspects and approaches to keep in mind, and how to plan ahead. The session will also signpost you to useful resources to assist you.

Creative Worship

Is creativity a style of worship or something we should aim to incorporate into every part of worship? What does it mean to be 'creative' in worship? Ever found yourself saying "I'm not very creative", or "I wish our services were more creative"?

Whether you can't get enough of creativity or find yourself intimidated by it, this training session is for you! It will deepen your understanding of the creative nature of God and help you to explore how to use creativity to connect the senses to God.

Intergenerational Worship

What does it mean to be truly 'intergenerational' as a worshipping community? How do we integrate different styles and approaches to encourage the participation of all?

Whether you have lots of children or young people in your congregation or none at the moment, this session is for you! It will explore what it looks like to be an intergenerational church and how we can enable intergenerational worship for all who are present to participate. It will look at how we can be inclusive and engaging in all we do and offer some tools to help in planning.

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, this session will help you in your preparation and practice.

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.

To find out more, visit
methodist.org.uk/WOW

19 | Circuit Stewards Training

Are you a new circuit steward, or have been one for a while and are looking to dive deeper in to your role and develop your skills and knowledge?

This five-session course introduces new circuit stewards to the expectations and responsibilities of serving in this area of circuit leadership and will refresh existing circuit stewards in their ongoing learning and development.

Session topics include:

- Calling and role of the circuit steward
- Distinctively Methodist
- Positive Working Together
- Mission planning

Each session will offer opportunities to explore ideas and share experiences as well as identify areas for further action and ongoing learning.

To find out more, visit
methodist.org.uk/CircuitStewardsTraining

The Learning and Development Team

This booklet captures what we are offering to the whole Methodist Connexion – wherever you are located – through online delivery.

However, we also provide learning opportunities directly to districts and circuits, which can be hosted in person, online or a mix of both.

For more information, visit
methodist.org.uk/LearningNetwork



The **Methodist** Church

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