



Local Preachers | Frequently Asked Questions

LOCAL PREACHING

How do I become a local preacher?

You need to first discern your own personal call to preach. The next step is to speak to the superintendent minister of your circuit who will ask you about your call to preach. If successful, the superintendent will then recommend you to the Local Preachers' Meeting. If the Local Preachers Meeting agree, it will recommend you have a 'note to preach' to the Circuit Meeting. When the Circuit Meeting agree you have a 'note to preach' you can then commence your local preaching training. There is a booklet Called to Preach which is available to download for FREE via the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp



What does the local preacher training entail?

Please read the section entitled The Local Preacher Training Course 'Faith & Worship' later in this document.

At what age can I become a local preacher?

There is no minimum or maximum age limit.

Becoming a local preacher is a divine call; speak to your superintendent minister about your call to preach.

Is local preaching the only form of worship led by an unordained person in the Methodist Church?

No. The Methodist Church also has worship leaders who can lead worship but cannot preach a sermon. For further information please read the section entitled Worship Leaders later in this document.

Do I need a CRB check to become a local preacher?

It is expected that both during training and once accredited that new local preachers will be engaged in church services which are for children or include children and adults who may be vulnerable.

It is therefore required that:

- Local preachers should obtain a CRB disclosure prior to going on trial.
- For those local preachers currently on trial, a CRB disclosure should be obtained before their accreditation can be completed.

Existing local preachers need to be CRB checked where they have developed a significant ministry of preaching or teaching with children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable.

Tel: 0207 467 5216 | Email: cas@methodistchurch.org.uk Web: www.churchsafe.org.uk

I am a Methodist local preacher in another country, can I preach in the Methodist Church in Britain?

You will need to send to Local Preachers, Discipleship & Ministries, Methodist Church House, London, a letter from your church overseas which illustrates your good standing within that church, your fully accredited status and an APEL form that will need to be completed to demonstrate your previous experience and theological training. Please see the section later in this document entitled APELs, Accreditation of Prior Experience and Learning.

I am an accredited preacher/lay reader in another denomination in another country, can I preach in the Methodist Church in Britain?

Standing Order 566 A or B will apply. Visit the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp and speak to the superintendent minister of your current circuit.

I am an accredited preacher/lay reader in another denomination in Great Britain, can I preach in the Methodist Church in Britain?

Standing Order 566 A or B will apply. Visit the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp and speak to the superintendent minister of your current circuit.

I belong to another denomination and feel called to preach in the Methodist Church, is this possible?

Standing Order 566 A or B will apply. Visit the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp and speak to the superintendent minister of your current circuit.

STANDING ORDERS

566A

566A Preachers and Readers from Other Churches who have become Members. (1) Local Preachers' Meetings can recommend to the Circuit Meeting that it approve the admission as local preachers of lay preachers and readers of other churches (including officers of the Salvation Army) who have become members of the Methodist Church, provided the training procedures they have undergone ***meet the Methodist Council's training specification.***

Before recommending admission the Local Preachers' Meeting must satisfy itself on the following points:

(Please read the full Standing Order which is available via the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp and speak to the superintendent minister of your current circuit).

566B

566B Preachers and Readers of Other Churches. (1) Where there is a ***local ecumenical*** partnership scheme approved by the Conference or (if so empowered) by the Synod any lay preacher or reader of another church participating in the scheme who has not become a member of the Methodist Church may apply to be authorised to serve as a local preacher in accordance with this clause, and in that event the following provisions shall apply:

(Please read the full Standing Order which is available via the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp and speak to the superintendent minister of your current circuit).

THE LOCAL PREACHER TRAINING COURSE 'FAITH & WORSHIP'

Stages of 'Faith & Worship'		
THEORY		PRACTICAL
<i>Introductory Stage</i>	<i>Units 1 – 3</i>	<i>On Note</i>
Section A	Units 4 – 6	On Trial
Section B	Units 7 – 10	On Trial
Section C	Units 11 – 13	On Trial
Section D	Units 14 – 17	On Trial
<i>Admission</i>	<i>Unit 18</i>	<i>Fully Accredited Local Preacher</i>

How many sections of Faith & Worship can I submit per submission period?

A maximum of two sections per submission period can be submitted.

How long does it take to become a local preacher?

Faith & Worship can be completed within a maximum of five years.

The minimum is fifteen months; three months on note, twelve months on trial. The normal period for on trial is between two and four years.

What happens if I don't complete Faith & Worship in five years?

The Local Preachers' Meeting must complete an Extension to Period 'on trial' form which is then submitted to the District Policy Committee. Standing Orders state that such extension 'should be granted only in very exceptional circumstances'.

What happens if I already have a theological degree?

There is a process called Accreditation of Prior Experience and Learning (APEL). This is explored further within this document.

How much does Faith & Worship cost? Who pays for it?

The Faith & Worship course material is paid for by the local circuit.

The local preacher who is on note/trial must pay for their own study books including Bible.

Some circuits donate second hand books to the local preacher on note/trial.

Can I submit my Faith & Worship assignments orally via CD/other recording?

At present we do not have the capabilities for oral examination of course work. For further advice please contact us by email localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk.



When are Faith & Worship assignments submitted to Methodist Church House?

Connexional Assessment Deadlines are 31 March (Spring) and 30 September (Autumn).

This information and more can be found on the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp

When will I receive the results from Faith & Worship?

Connexional Assessment Results are 31 May (Spring) and 30 November (Autumn).

Resubmission Results are approximately 6-8 weeks after receipt at Methodist Church House.

All results are sent to the local preacher tutor.

This information and more can be found on the Methodist Church website local preachers pages www.methodist.org.uk/lp

What are exegesis passages for this/next Connexional Assessment period?

Exegesis passages can be found on the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp and in *Ichthus* magazine.

What is unit 18?

Unit 18 is a project that newly accredited local preachers must undertake within a year of their accreditation. The project can be on a topic of the local preacher's choosing. Unit 18 is not included within sections A, B, C or D and therefore this unit is not assessed but must be presented to the Local Preachers' Meeting upon completion.

Is the Faith & Worship Course worth university credits?

Faith & Worship is an access course into local preaching for the Methodist Church. It could be described as a GNVQ in preaching (similar to level 2 which is GCSE level) but again this is not an official rating and has no formal backing. If pushed, Faith & Worship could be estimated as being worth 30 credits in university terms but again, this course has no official value.

Is there an alternative course to Faith & Worship?

- The **London District** course
- **Bristol District**
- **York St John University** - specifically the Foundation Degree in Theology and Ministry
- **Cliff College** - Certificate in Theology (units in Resourcing Christian Worship and Preaching Practice must be completed)
- **South North West Training Partnership (SNWTP)**

Further details available on the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp

Is Faith & Worship available in other languages?

Faith & Worship is currently available in the Welsh language. It is also currently being translated into the Chinese language.

Is Faith & Worship available in audio form?

Faith & Worship is not currently available in audio form.

Is Faith & Worship available in Braille or large print?

Faith & Worship is not currently available in Braille but a large print version can be developed by enlarging the font of the electronic version.

Is Faith & Worship available electronically?

The units are available for distribution from Methodist Publishing;
Tel: 01733 235 962 | Email: resources@methodistchurch.org.uk
Website: www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

POLICY STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

"The Methodist Church places the utmost importance on the honesty and integrity of its ministry and ministers. An important aspect of this is maintaining fair and rigorous training and assessment prior to accreditation of local preachers and during their ongoing, lifelong ministry. Plagiarism on the part of any individual during that training and assessment is considered completely incompatible with these principals"

APELS Accreditation of Prior Experience & Learning

What is the process for completing an APEL application?

Complete an APEL form:

The APEL form is available to download for FREE from the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp or this form can be completed online.

Acknowledgement email:

When we receive an APEL application an acknowledgment email is sent to the applicant.

If the applicant does not have an email address then we will email the superintendent minister of the applicant's circuit.

Acknowledgement letter:

This letter will be sent to the applicant and superintendent of the circuit by email with a hard copy following shortly afterwards in the post. The acknowledgement letter will inform the applicant of the next steps that need to be taken to successfully complete APEL application. For example, a) whether there is a need to complete certain units of the Faith & Worship course, b) provide us with further information or c) that there is full exemption from the Faith & Worship course.

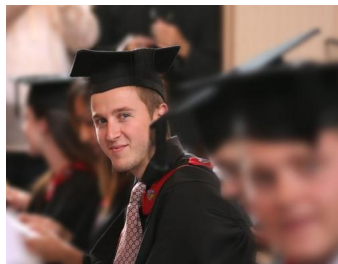
How long does an APEL application take to process?

We aim to process applications within 21 working days. An acknowledgement letter of the receipt of the application and next steps for the applicant are sent out within those 21 working days. (An acknowledgement email is sent out as soon as an APEL application is received).

If the applicant is not fully exempt from Faith & Worship then they will need to complete certain units of the Faith & Worship course. The timescale for completion of these units is determined by the applicant. Once all aspects of Faith & Worship are completed, as instructed by the acknowledgement letter, and all other compulsory elements of Faith & Worship are sufficiently met then the applicant can proceed to become a fully accredited local preacher.

Compulsory elements of Faith & Worship

These elements are highlighted in a document which accompanies every acknowledgement letter. For further information please visit the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp



From where can I obtain an APEL application form?

The APEL form is available to download for FREE from the Methodist Church website local preachers' page www.methodist.org.uk/lp

Who completes an APEL form?

We strongly recommend that the local preacher tutor or superintendent proof-read the applicant's APEL form. The applicant seeking exemption from the Faith & Worship course must complete this form. We recommend the applicant completes the APEL form in collaboration with the local preacher tutor or superintendent of their circuit.

Who do I send the APEL form to?

Local Preachers (APEL),
Discipleship & Ministries,
Methodist Church House,
25 Marylebone Road,
London, NW1 5JR

or localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk (for emails please entitle the subject as 'APEL').

LOCAL PREACHERS' MEETING



What is a Local Preachers' Meeting?

The Local Preachers' Meeting is where all people who preach in the circuit meet and discuss the status and progress of all local preachers on note/trial and it is at this meeting that those decisions are recorded.

Status - John Smith is moving from on note to on trial.

Progress - Jane Smith has successfully completed section B of Faith & Worship.

As well as the status and progress of local preachers on note/trial being discussed and reported at this meeting, there is an opportunity for the meeting to have discussion topics. These topics are to be set by the meeting collectively.

The Local Preachers Meeting must report to the Circuit Meeting.

How often must I attend the Local Preachers' Meeting?

It is important for all local preachers on note/trial to attend this meeting. Similarly, it is also important for accredited local preachers to attend this meeting. Local preacher tutors/secretaries, ministers, deacons and any other persons authorised to serve (under SO 733) as ministers should attend this meeting to support the local preachers on note/trial.

How often are Local Preachers' Meetings held?

Most circuits have a Local Preachers' Meeting every quarter (every 3 months).

Who can be the Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary?

It must be a member of the Local Preachers' Meeting. The duty of taking minutes may be delegated by the secretary.

Who are the members of the Local Preachers' Meeting?

Standing Order 560 states that ministers, ministerial probationers, student ministers and persons authorised to serve as ministers (under SO 733) [who are, in each case, members of the Circuit Meeting] and accredited local preachers who are members in the circuit. All these members are entitled to vote. Worship leaders and local preachers on note/trial are encouraged to attend the Local Preachers Meeting but they cannot vote.

Who can vote at the Local Preachers' meeting?

Only members of the Local Preachers' Meeting can vote.

WORSHIP LEADERS

How do I become a worship leader?

You need to first reflect on your own personal call to lead worship. The next step is to speak to the superintendent minister of your circuit who will ask you about your call to lead worship and direct you to the worship leader training course.

Can worship leaders attend the Local Preachers' meeting?

Yes, worship leaders can attend the Local Preachers' Meeting, but they cannot vote.

How long does it take to become a worship leader?

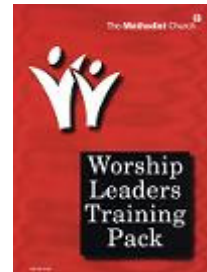
The worship leader training course is completed in the student's own time. Unlike Faith & Worship, there is no timescale.

From where do I get the worship leader training course?

Methodist Publishing | Tel: 01733 235 962 | Email: resources@methodistchurch.org.uk
Website: www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

How much does the worship leader training course material cost?

Worship Leaders Training Pack by David Burfield | Order No: PE120 | Price: £10.00



RESOURCES

How can I order Faith & Worship course units?

Faith & Worship units are distributed from Methodist Publishing;
Tel: 01733 235 962 | Email: resources@methodistchurch.org.uk
Website: www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

How can I order a local preacher's diary?

There is no longer a local preacher's diary. Instead the local preachers' information is included in the Methodist diary available from Methodist Publishing;
Tel: 01733 235 962 | Email: resources@methodistchurch.org.uk
Website: www.methodistpublishing.org.uk

How can I order some Reader Services?

There is a small selection of Reader Services available to download for free from the Methodist
Website: www.methodist.org.uk/lp

What is *Ichthus* magazine?

Ichthus magazine is published quarterly and mailed out to all worship leaders and local preachers within the Methodist Church of Britain. The magazine is a product of LWPT (the Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust).

How do I cancel or amend my contact information for the copies of *Ichthus* that I receive?

Please contact LWPT Tel: 01923 231811 | Email: lwptoffice@lwpt.org.uk

For any further information please contact Local Preachers
localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk | 020 7486 5502 [Helpdesk]

Local Preachers
Discipleship & Ministries,
Methodist Church House,
25 Marylebone Road,
London, NW1 5JR

The Discipleship & Ministries Cluster | The Connexional Team | April 2011