

Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' News

The Methodist Church 

Welcome to the latest edition of Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' News.

IDEAS & RESOURCES



Thy Kingdom Come 10-20 May #Pledge2Pray

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that began in the Church of England in 2016. The Archbishop of Canterbury is inviting people around the world to join the movement, and the Methodist Church in Britain has become a partner in the initiative. [Let's pray](#)

Called to

One of the lectionary readings set for Sunday 3 June is 1 Samuel 3: 1-10. The *Called to...* series of booklets are perfect to giveaway in your churches and communities should anyone want to reflect on their calling. Order yours [here](#).

There are also helpful resources on the [Methodist Church](#) website.



Bright Idea

If you're planning a service focussed on prayer, set up a few prayer stations around the meeting space. Each one could focus on a particular local need or charity that the church identifies with. Involve someone who's interested in the cause and provide some simple information, pictures, objects and a card with prayer ideas. There could be a simple act of commitment at each station, eg: lighting a candle, helping colour in a rainbow, signing a petition – the possibilities are endless. Spend 15 or 20 minutes during the service inviting people to move between the stations, spend a few minutes listening to each need and praying. *Thanks to Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church's prayer morning on 28 April for this idea!*



As Local Preachers we need to be well informed about what's going on around us. A good place to start exploring the issues is with the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT). JPIT provide both topical updates and in-depth resources to help us be informed, to pray and to engage with the real issues that affect people's lives. Click [here](#) for their website.



Talking of God

These are fantastic resources which encourage and equip Christians to speak comfortably about their experience of God and the Christian Life. Available from Methodist Publishing later this year. For more information visit the Methodist Church website, search [Talking of God](#).

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2017-2018: Jesus the First and the Last

As part of our response to Our Calling, share the power of prayer with your friends and local community. We have copies of *Jesus the First and the Last* to [giveaway](#). Order your FREE copies (p+p applies) from Methodist Publishing [here](#).

EVENTS

Worship: Leading & Preaching Summer School

Bookings for the Worship: Leading & Preaching Summer School on 6-10th August are going well, but there are still places available for each of the three streams, focussing on Modules 1 & 2, 3 & 4 or 5 & 6. This is an opportunity to share the Explore sessions with others from all over the Connexion in the lovely surroundings of Cliff College. Please note that attending Summer School does not remove the need for you to have a local tutor and mentor to support you, and you will need to have completed the "Prepare" material before you arrive.

Summer School costs £395 including all food and accommodation. Churches, circuits and districts are urged to support and affirm their worship leaders and local preachers in training by contributing to this cost. In cases where difficult financial circumstances would prevent someone from attending, please contact the Local Preachers' Office for details of charities offering possible grant support. To book your place, contact [Cliff College](#). Note: that Worship: Leading & Preaching is week 2 of the Cliff Summer School – make sure you choose the right week! Download our flier [here](#).

New: Spring School

Next year (2019), we will be offering Spring School at Cliff College on 25– 29 March. We intend to offer three streams covering Modules 3 & 4, 5 & 6 and 7 & 8, subject to demand. Information will soon be available on the Cliff College website.



Sermon of the Year

Preach magazine and London School of Theology are holding the finals of their third Sermon of the Year competition at London School of Theology on Thursday 21 June 2018. If you are around London, why not go along? Sign up for free tickets [here](#).

WORSHIP: LEADING & PREACHING

Worship:
leading &
preaching



Progress Report

Since Worship: Leading & Preaching went live some three years ago, over 220 students have completed portfolios, and there are now 1074 students enrolled on the course. Changing to a new way of training was bound to be a big job, and much remains to be done. Over the last year, we've collected and analysed hundreds of comments and suggestions from students, mentors, tutors and Local Preachers' Secretaries, and set our priorities for the things that need to improve. Please bear with us as we work on making things better.

So far, we have:

- Improved the security of the course Moodle site
- Developed clearer assessment criteria for portfolios
- Simplified what goes in a Portfolio and produced a Guide to Portfolios

Our next targets are:

- A Guide to Learning, replacing the last parts of the Course Handbook, which was proving difficult to use
- Improving the Moodle site to make course materials easier to use
- Guidelines to help Local Preachers' Meetings to make use of the course for Continuing LP Development

We value your comments and suggestions. We'll never be able to satisfy everyone's wishes, but we will work hard to remove any obstacles to learning that we can.

Worship: Foundations

The third of three brand-new resources is now available. It's an introduction to preparing and leading worship, and will be of help to those just starting Worship: Leading & Preaching, as well as being a resource for those who have been leading worship for a while, or are considering helping out as a mentor or tutor. It could

W:L&P Submission Dates

A reminder that the submission date for portfolios is September 30th 2018.

From now on, to simplify things for students and tutors, this date will be kept the same from year to year, regardless of what day of the week it falls on. Note that the deadline is final, and any submissions received later than the 30th of September will be deferred to the next moderation period.

This means that portfolios must be uploaded on to the Moodle site and sent to Tutors well in advance of this date. Tutors need to assess the portfolios and send them on for Regional Moderation before the date above. Please be kind to your Tutors and give them plenty of time to do the excellent job they do.

Board of Studies

A word of thanks to our Board of Studies, chaired by Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, which oversee Worship: Leading & Preaching on behalf of the Methodist Council and scrutinises all developments on the course.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

These questions came up recently relating to the new Portfolio Guide:

I have items in my portfolio with old-style cover sheets. Is it OK to include these, or do I need to rewrite them in the new (April 2018) format?

It's quite OK to include old-style forms in a new-style portfolio but for new items you prepare from now on, we recommend that you use the new forms.

I have been building my portfolio for a while, using the previous portfolio template and the old-style forms. Can I use the new forms for the remaining items I need to complete my portfolio?

Yes, we recommend you use the new forms for any remaining items, although it's your choice which forms you use in this case. Remember that portfolios using the old template will only be accepted up to 30 September 2019.

also be helpful to those who are called upon to lead a Local Arrangement in your church – please let them know about it. It's available to download [here](#).

Also available are four videos to download: "Who was Jesus?", "Who is Jesus?", "How do we know about Jesus?" and "How can we inspire people about Jesus?" by Revd Dr Calvin Samuel. As well as setting the scene for prospective preachers and worship leaders, these form great discussion starters for small groups and Local Preachers' meetings.

Also on the website are two short introductory videos taking you through the basics of using the Worship: Leading & Preaching website.

You'll find these FAQs and more on the Methodist Church Website [here](#).



Worship: Leading & Preaching on Twitter

We are now on Twitter - follow us [here](#).



Worship: Leading & Preaching on Facebook

Don't forget to like our [facebook](#) page.



Exegesis for 2018

For those who are planning ahead, the new 2018 exegesis passages have been posted onto the Local Preachers website [here](#).

F&W Submission Dates

For those of you submitting Faith & Worship assignments the deadlines for submitting work to Methodist Church House are unchanged:

- Autumn - 30th September 2018
- Spring - 31st March 2019

Reminders for Faith & Worship

From now on, to simplify things for students and tutors, these dates will be kept the same from year to year, regardless of what day of the week they fall on. Note that the deadlines are final, and any submissions received later than the 30th of September will be deferred to the next assessment period.

The very final submission deadline date will be 31st March 2021

NEWS



Worship planning online - complete the survey

The Connexional Team is researching how best to support Methodist worship through the Singing the Faith website and a proposed worship planning smartphone app.

The STF team would be hugely grateful for your input. The survey includes just ten short questions and will take no more than 5 minutes to complete. [Just click here and get started.](#) We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Worship Leaders – Training Requirements

The Ministries Committee has heard the concerns expressed around the Connexion and have issued this new guidance explaining the possibilities open to Church Councils for the training of Worship Leaders in accordance with Standing Order 680 (1):

Whilst we would still want to commend Worship: Leading & Preaching modules 1-4, with a submission of a portfolio for marking and moderation, as our “gold standard” for the training of Worship Leaders, it is becoming increasingly obvious that for many churches across the connexion this requirement is not appropriate or helpful.

Worship leaders are a local appointment, commissioned to take a leading and significant role in the conduct of worship in a local church. We recognise that local churches will make different demands on their worship leaders requiring different amounts of training. The accredited standard is modules 1-4 of Worship: Leading and Preaching. On the successful submission of a portfolio to the required standard a certificate is issued by the Ministries: Vocations & Worship Team. However in some contexts a Church Council may deem that this amount of training will not be beneficial to the worship leader or congregation. In these situations the local tutor should recommend to the Local Preachers’ Meeting selected parts of modules 1-4 to be studied. These should be selected to best meet the needs of the potential worship leader and local congregation. In these cases it is still the responsibility of the Local Preachers’ Meeting to monitor the candidate’s progress in and completion of training and probation and the assessment of their suitability for appointment (SO680 (1)(iii)).

Note that candidates for the Diaconal Order are required to have completed modules 1-4 of WLP and successfully submitted a portfolio.

See the Methodist Church website [here](#) for more clarification.

God's Calling, Our Calling



We believe in a God who calls. The Biblical narrative begins with God calling creation into being, God calling to Adam and Eve in the garden, God calling Abraham to leave his homeland. The Church exists to respond to God’s call; two of Methodism’s key documents are ‘Called to love and praise’ and ‘Our Calling’.

Within the calling of the whole Church, God calls individuals to particular roles including leading worship, preaching and other forms of ministry. If the Church is to be faithful to its calling it has to equip those individuals to be faithful to theirs. It both works with them to discern their calling (through selection and oversight processes that lead to public recognition) and offers training to develop their gifts.

Over the past few years in the Connexional Team those areas of work have been spread across two clusters; we have now brought them back together into the Ministries: Vocations and Worship Team. This means that the Local Preachers’ work has moved into the Conference Office. This is not an administrative simplification; rather, it enables us to think in a coherent and focussed way about vocations: what is needed to help God’s people hear and to respond to God’s call? Expect much more about vocations in the coming months.

The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler
Assistant Secretary of Conference

This newsletter is issued quarterly and we would like all Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, Tutors, Secretaries and Ministers to receive it. Please encourage any friends and colleagues who do not receive this newsletter to sign up by clicking [here](#).

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Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR 020 7486 5502 (Help Desk) www.methodist.org.uk

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