

# UPDATE FOR USERS



## WORSHIP: LEADING & PREACHING IS CHANGING

The Worship: Leading & Preaching course has now been running since 2015. Since that time, 83 new Local Preachers have completed the course, as well as many Worship Leaders. There are several hundred more at different stages of their learning journey. The course represents a huge shift in the nature of lay training in the church, and has not been without its challenges. We have been continuously working on improvements to make learning more straightforward, taking account of the experiences of tutors, mentors and students.

Last year, we simplified the portfolio requirements, this year we have been working to improve the course website to make it much simpler and accessible for all users. We are now almost ready to release a brand new version of the website.

Key changes are:

1. New page design with graphics and colour, designed for use with computers, tablets and smart phones.
2. Easier navigation around the site – it's now much harder to get lost.
3. Book-marking is available within the Worship and Prepare parts so you can get straight back to where you were up to.
4. Easier and more efficient printing with less paper waste.
5. The course contents in Prepare have been re-organised into more logical blocks for learning.
6. The Extend parts have disappeared – these will reappear later as part of a Continuing Development library.
7. The Course Handbook has gone – the new Guide to Learning is available for download from the site.

**Note though that the contents of the course has not changed – only the way the material is presented.**

The technical details of the changes we've made are available [here](#). The switchover will take place next **Tuesday** morning, **16<sup>th</sup> July**. The site will not be available during the Tuesday morning. If you log onto Worship: Leading & Preaching after 12 noon, you will be redirected to the new site without needing to take any further action.

The website will initially look a little unfamiliar, but we suggest that you have a good look around to familiarise yourself. You should find your way around the new site more easily. Links will be provided to enable you to continue to use the old course for a while, although we hope that you won't need to.

We have prepared carefully to ensure the switchover happens smoothly. We're excited because we believe you will find that the new site transforms your experience of the course. However, things do occasionally go wrong. If anything unexpected should happen, we will keep the Methodist website updated [here](#).

Please don't hesitate to contact us for any clarification at [localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk).

*Bob Bartindale, Officer for Worship & Local Preachers, July 2019*