

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.

Please visit methodist.org.uk/learning/events

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Courses available through the Learning Network
methodist.org.uk/learningnetwork

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All Inclusive? Additional Needs Webinars

Collaborating with Urban Saints, The Torch Trust and MHA, All Inclusive focuses on three areas where the Church can move forward in its support and provision for individuals and families with additional needs:

- Children, youth and families with a range of additional needs
- People who have sight loss
- Support for individuals with dementia and their families
- Our partner organisations provide up to 20 sessions per year

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

02 | Manna And Mercy

Journey through the story of the Bible to understand biblical texts as they were first intended by the writers and heard by the first recipients.

Structured to deepen your theological skills, enhance your understanding of Scripture and strengthen your relationship with Jesus, Manna and Mercy would suit anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the Bible who is willing to be challenged and to grow.

This nine session course takes place online.

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

03 | Bible Book Focus

Join this course for a short tour through one specific book of the Bible with an emphasis on being close to the text and finding teachable, preachable points.

Suited to preachers, teachers and small group leaders for its thoughtful content for further teaching, this course would also suit anyone seeking a more in-depth Bible study.

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



04 | 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.

05 | 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. 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

06 | **RSVP: Responding to God's Call**

What is God's calling for you in a changing world?

RSVP is a course for anybody exploring any type of vocation within the Church (lay or ordained) or out in the world.

Sessions cover:

- Social justice and vocation
- The Bible and vocation
- God's calling and my identity
- Decision making

Each session stands alone – you can attend one or all or something in between.

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

07 | 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

08 | 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

09 | 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

10 | Lay Leadership Skills

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

11 | Leadership Essentials

Are you new to church leadership, or want to know more about leadership? Perhaps you have responsibilities, but don't yet feel like a leader?

These short four sessions will explore the essentials of church leadership, such as servant leadership, knowing who you are as a leader and facing challenges and change in leadership.

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



MHFA England

12 | 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 it's been subsidised to £50 (nonrefundable). 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

13 | Being a Supervisee

Every ordained minister and increasingly others with significant pastoral responsibility engage in supervision. These courses aim to prepare supervisees with varying levels of experience to make the most of this opportunity.



*Very interesting – I didn't know what to expect.
Now I'm looking forward to supervision.*



Being a Supervisee: Essential skills for new supervisees

An introduction to the process of supervision in the Methodist Church and the supervisees' role in enabling a fruitful supervisory experience for people brand new to supervision.

This training takes place in two parts: preliminary learning tasks and a single online event.

Being a Supervisee: Getting the most from your supervision

This is for anyone experienced in supervision who is interested in improving their supervision experience. Come along and refresh your understanding of the purposes and methods of supervision and look at ways to stimulate new ideas to bring to supervision.

This online training takes three hours and is offered twice a year at the start of the Connexional Year.

To find out more visit
methodist.org.uk/supervision

14 | 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

15 | 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

16 | 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

17 | Thinking Theology

Packed with ideas, tips and theories for facilitating theological enquiry with people in our churches, Thinking Theology is an opportunity to think about how we do theology in order that we can help others to 'think theologically'.

If you lead worship, Bible study groups or fellowship groups – this might be for you!

Focussing on feasts and festivals, in particular some theological work on the lesser festivals, this online course is run over three two hour sessions, one per term.

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

18 | Theological Reflection in Practice (TRIP)

Open to anyone, but particularly relevant to those in ministry, TRIP is an opportunity to reflect theologically on various aspects of ministry. Topical and timely, the sessions are directed by and respond to whatever is happening on the ground at the time. Ministry is its own unique adventure, so why don't you join us on a TRIP!

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

19 | 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

20 | 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-minutes session includes some preparatory material and follow up afterwards.

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

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Worship Leading and Preaching Support

WPL Support: Induction for students

Are you 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/wpl

WPL: Tutors and Mentors

Supporting tutors and mentors of WPL 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/wpl

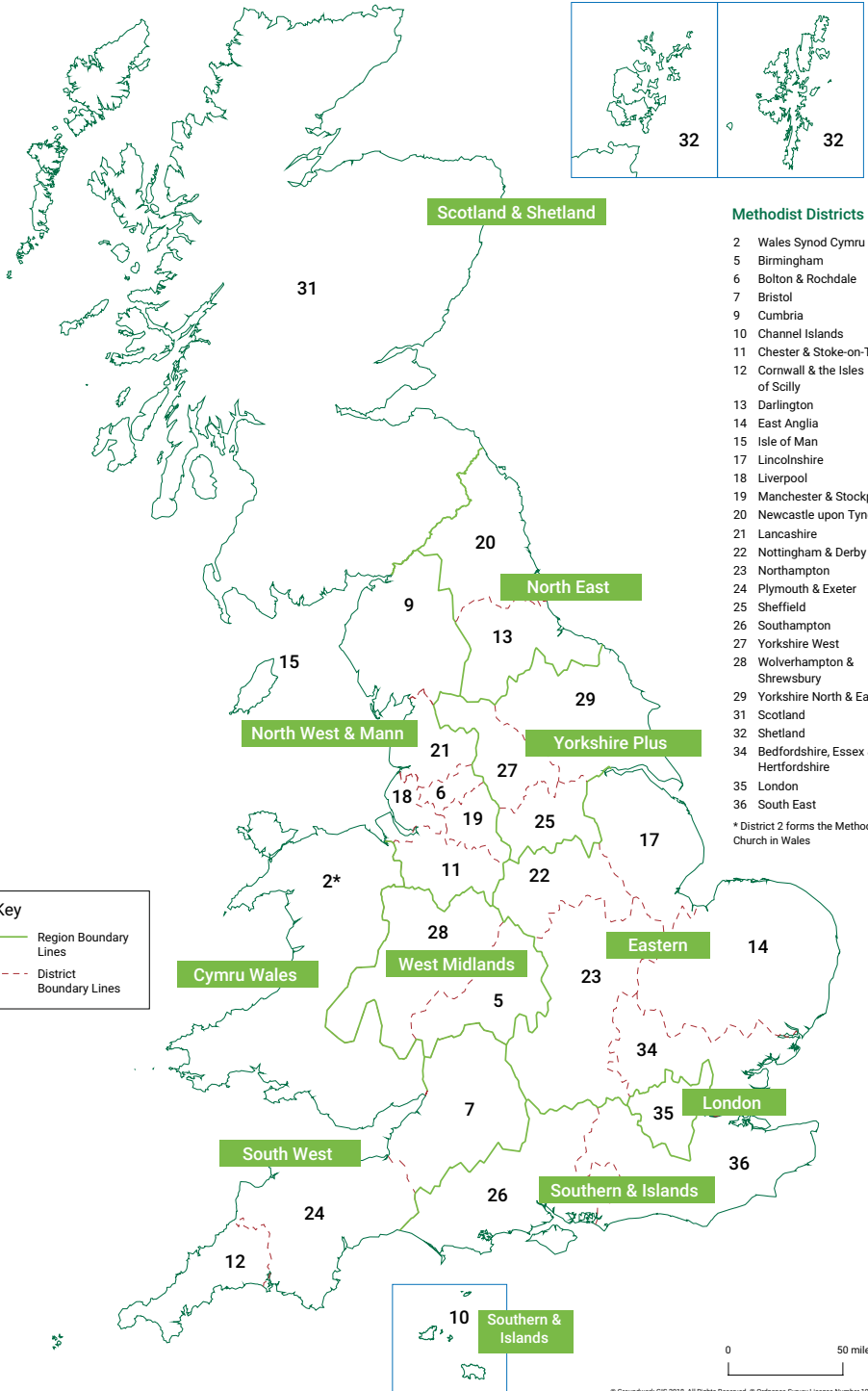
The Learning and Development Team

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 in regions, districts and circuits.

There are 10 regions, each with a Coordinator and a team of Learning and Development Officers offering a range of ways of learning and developing.

To discover your Learning Network region, or to share an idea for an event in your region please contact your region coordinator by visiting **methodist.org.uk/learningregions**



Key

- Region Boundary Lines
- - - District Boundary Lines

Methodist Districts

- 2 Wales Synod Cymru
- 5 Birmingham
- 6 Bolton & Rochdale
- 7 Bristol
- 9 Cumbria
- 10 Channel Islands
- 11 Chester & Stoke-on-Trent
- 12 Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly
- 13 Darlington
- 14 East Anglia
- 15 Isle of Man
- 17 Lincolnshire
- 18 Liverpool
- 19 Manchester & Stockport
- 20 Newcastle upon Tyne
- 21 Lancashire
- 22 Nottingham & Derby
- 23 Northampton
- 24 Plymouth & Exeter
- 25 Sheffield
- 26 Southampton
- 27 Yorkshire West
- 28 Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury
- 29 Yorkshire North & East
- 31 Scotland
- 32 Shetland
- 34 Bedfordshire, Essex & Hertfordshire
- 35 London
- 36 South East

* District 2 forms the Methodist Church in Wales





The **Methodist** Church



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