

Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' News

The Methodist Church 

Welcome to the latest edition of Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' News. This newsletter is issued quarterly and is a key source of information for Worship Leaders and Local Preachers. Please encourage any friends and colleagues who do not receive this newsletter to sign up by clicking [here](#).

NEWS

Reviewing our Ministry?

The Methodist Conference of 2018 modified the Duties and Responsibilities of Local Preachers in Standing Order 563 and accepted a recommendation that "all preachers should undertake peer review of their ministry every three years". We have produced two Guidance Notes to help Local Preachers' Meetings to provide opportunities for us to review our ministry. They are available [here](#).

Why two Guidance Notes? The first, entitled "[Reviewing our Ministry](#)" explores what the Conference requires by "Reviewing our Ministry" and what the revised Standing Orders mean in practice. The second, called "[Peer Review](#)" for Local Preachers" looks specifically at how we can support and encourage each other through opportunities for review and feedback. Each circuit will need to work out the best process for them, but we are encouraged that those circuits who have already embraced peer review have found it a very encouraging experience.

Vocations Sunday

Ministries: Vocations and Worship are looking to refresh the materials available on the [Vocations Sunday](#) pages of the website. Do you have anything to share? It might be a draft of a whole service or a set of prayers, a reflection or sermon, a collect, or an exegesis of a reading that a preacher might use to prepare a service. All materials shared should be original material so that they can be used without copyright infringement. Please send your offers to mvw@methodistchurch.org.uk

IDEAS & RESOURCES



Talking of God

Do you want to be speak more comfortably about Jesus? Talking of God is a faith sharing course. It will help individuals and congregations to talk

Seeing the Spiritual: A Guide to the Methodist Modern Art Collection

The Collection drives us to think about what Christ means to us, and to look again at the Bible story: this has been the role of the visual arts as part of the

about their faith journey. It consists of all you need for four sessions for your church or home group. All the materials are free and available to download [here](#).



All We Can

Travel Lightly is a 6 week (40 day) resource of reflections, activities and prayers. Inspiring you, with others, to travel lightly as you reflect on the wilderness experience, which for many people in our world is a daily reality.

The Travel Lightly booklet can be followed daily by individuals or used in small groups. There are also engaging materials for a church service and children, youth and school resources.

Order and download Lent resources [here](#).



Hymns for Susanna

2019 marks the 350th anniversary since the birth of Susanna Wesley, who was born on 20 January 1669. Susanna was the mother of John and Charles Wesley, and a remarkable woman in her own right.

Methodist minister Andrew Pratt has written two hymns inspired by the anniversary. They are available exclusively to readers of the Singing the Faith newsletter. Why not take this opportunity to sign up for the newsletter [here](#).

language of the Church for most of its history.

How do the visual arts help you to delve deeper in your faith? Click [here](#) for more information.



Bible Month 2019

Bible Month 2019 focuses on the letter of Colossians. The magazine is now available to download and order, and includes Bible notes by James D. G. Dunn, ideas for small groups, and ways of engaging children and youth (including in intergenerational settings). To access the Bible Month magazine, and for information about running a Bible Month and Bible Month training days, visit the Bible Month website [here](#). Bible Month is a partnership between LWPT and the Methodist Church.



The York Lent Course featuring contributions by Rachel Lampard

The York Courses produce a course every year for Lent. The 2019 course includes contributions from Rachel Lampard, a Past Vice-President of the Methodist Conference.

York Courses are specially designed for groups of Christians to learn and share their experiences and understanding of the Christian faith together. To find out more and to get your copy for 2019 click [here](#) or download the flier [here](#).

Living Lent



Instead of giving up chocolate this Lent, could you take up one of six challenge which will help tackle climate change? Could you give up meat? Take up alternative forms of transport? Commit to living locally? Find out more and sign up [here](#). You will receive inspirational and practical daily emails, and join with others undertaking the same challenges.

EVENTS

Exploring Ordained Ministry

Have you ever felt that God is calling you to become an ordained Minister? Why not come to one of the newly designed Ordination Exploration days and find out more about the call to ordained ministry.

The days will be hosted by the Ministries: Vocations and Worship Team and will take place at Methodist Church House and Cliff College in Spring 2019

- Exploring Ordained Ministry – Cliff College – 2 March 2019 – click [here](#) to book.
- Exploring Ordained Ministry – Methodist Church House – 4 May 2019 – click [here](#) to book

Further dates will follow for late 2019 and early 2020 in other venues.

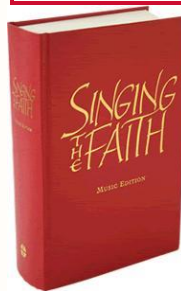
Young Local Preachers Event

Are you aged 16-25 and a local preacher? (You can be at any stage in your training, or even just thinking about it!) The Methodist Church and Cliff College will be hosting a weekend event full of inspiration, challenge and learning new skills, especially for you. The weekend will be held at Cliff College from 20-22 September 2019. More details about the Young Local Preacher event, including how to book, will be released soon. If you are interested then please sign up [here](#) and you will be emailed with more details when they are available.

Easter school for preachers and leaders



Wesley House, Cambridge is offering a course of in-depth teaching and personal development for preachers and worship leaders. The three-day course, with Graham McFarlane and Julie Lunn, takes place 15-17 April.



The Festival of Preaching

Festival of Preaching

CHURCH TIMES CANTERBURY PRESS
at Christ Church, Oxford

The Festival of Preaching aims to inspire, nurture and celebrate all who are called to proclaim the gospel today.

Featuring outstanding speakers from across the Christian Church, it offers a stimulating and varied programme of worship, lectures and workshops in the beautiful surroundings of Christ Church, Oxford. Book [here](#) for the Festival of Preaching from 8 to 10 of September 2019.

Worship:
leading &
preaching



WORSHIP: LEADING & PREACHING

WLP @ Cliff

In 2019 we shall be offering **two** residential schools at Cliff College in Derbyshire for those who are studying using Worship: Leading & Preaching. Each lasts from Monday to Friday and offers the Explore sessions from the appropriate modules, together with worship and fellowship in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside. Note that you will need to have completed the "Prepare" material before you arrive to make sense of the sessions.

Spring School takes place from 25 to 29 March (inclusive) and will offer the "Explore" sessions from Modules 3 & 4, 5 & 6 and 7 & 8.

Summer School will be from 5 to 9 August and will cover Modules 1 & 2, 3 & 4 and 5 & 6.

Both offer an opportunity to share together with other Worship Leaders and Local Preachers in training. For bookings, and more information, see the Cliff College website [here](#).

In addition, starting in September 2019, we are offering an opportunity to do "WLP in a Year". This will be based around the Spring and Summer Schools, plus three additional residential weekends. Students, who must already have a Note to Preach, will train in their local circuit with a tutor and mentor, coming to Cliff College for the Explore sessions. An alternative, fully residential option will also be available. Note that all students will need to be sure they can complete the Prepare material themselves within the required deadlines. To find out more, contact [here](#).

Training Process for Local Preachers

We have updated the table showing the process of formation and training for

Worship: Leading & Preaching on Facebook

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



Worship: Leading & Preaching on Twitter

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

A Date to Remember - 31 March 2019

This is the next closing date for moderation of portfolios. Well before then, you should upload your portfolio to Moodle and provide a copy to your tutor. Your tutor needs to download the Portfolio Assessment & Moderation Form, complete it and send it to the regional moderator and the Local Preachers' Office. Note that this form has been revised and renamed, but the old version will still be accepted.

Portfolios can be uploaded on to the Moodle site and sent to Tutors at any time, well in advance of this date. Please be kind and give your tutor plenty of time to complete their assessment. Note that the deadline is final, and any portfolios received later than 31 March will be deferred to the next moderation period.

Pilot Course

We shall be switching off the "Pilot" course at the end of February. If you are one of the few remaining users of this original version of the course and still require access, please contact us at localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk and we will enrol you on the current version.

Candidating for Ordained Ministry and still 'on trial'

Local Preachers, including the requirements for safeguarding training. Click [here](#) or look on the Methodist website for "Becoming a Local Preacher". We have tried to show everything, so the table is quite detailed. If you spot any anomalies, please let us know.

Please note that from 2020 you will need to have been admitted as a Local Preacher by February. Therefore you will need to submit your final LP units or portfolio by 30 September of your candidating year.



F&W Submission Dates

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

- **Spring - 31 March 2019**
- **Autumn - 30 September 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 31 March will be deferred to the next assessment period.

The very final submission deadline date will be 31 March 2021



FOOTNOTE

I look forward to Lent. Not that I don't love chocolate, but I am notorious in my family as the one who can make a bar of 85% pure luxury last for months. 40 days is actually not that long to refrain from luxury to concentrate on deeper things. I love Lent too because as a preacher, it presents me with different opportunities. We have permission to reflect with honesty on what is happening around us, to acknowledge the confusion, anxiety, fear and suffering that preoccupies so many, and to look together for the strength and the hope that is found in God. We know of course that Easter is coming, but let us not hurry there, but take time along the way to understand just what it took for Jesus to share our human life.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. Phil 2:5-6 (NRSV)

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