



Welcome...

...to the first issue of our new-look newsletter. Please encourage everyone you know who is involved in worship and preaching to sign up for the newsletter [here](#). And if you know of events, ideas or resources that others might like to know about, please let us know.

News

Service of Reaffirmation of Call

Local Preachers are required to attend an annual service of reaffirmation of our call to preach. The Faith & Order Committee is currently preparing a liturgy for use. This will be approved by Conference and be ready for use at Local Preachers' meetings in September.



From a Mother's Pen

This year marks the 350th anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley, best known as the mother of John and Charles Wesley. To commemorate this special anniversary, a celebratory book entitled *From a Mother's Pen: Selections from the spiritual writing of Susanna Wesley*, is available from [Methodist Publishing](#).

Two [new schemes have been launched](#) to continue the ongoing commitment of the Methodist Church in reducing its impact on God's creation. The new Eco Circuit and Eco District awards have been developed to support the successful Eco Church scheme.



Ideas & Resources



Thy Kingdom Come

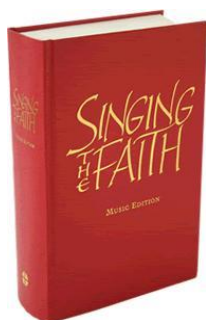
Have you planned your worship service for Pentecost yet? Why not use this Methodist worship service for [Thy Kingdom Come](#) written by the Revd Hilary Cooke (30 May – 9 June 2019).

Bible Month 2019 focuses on the letter of Colossians. See the Bible Month website [here](#) to download or order the magazine, and for many other Bible Month resources. Vice-President Designate Professor Clive Marsh has recorded some fascinating videos on Colossians and Popular Culture, watch them on the Methodist Church website [here](#). **Apologies to Professor Marsh, whose future role was described incorrectly in the first edition of this newsletter.**



Flu pandemic commemoration

Wolverhampton Circuit are making plans to mark the centenary of the 1918-19 influenza pandemic, and would like to share worship resources with any others. Please contact Sue Readshaw on wv19191@outlook.com for information.



It's always worth checking [Singing the Faith Plus](#). Take a moment to check out [Touching the wind: how we describe the Holy Spirit](#).

Action for Children Sunday is on 14 July this year, (although you can celebrate it on any Sunday you choose). This year they have produced a booklet of worship ideas in English and Welsh. You can find it [here](#).



Events

Young Local Preachers Weekend

Cliff College 20-22 September 2019 (6.30pm on Friday until lunchtime on the Sunday).

The Methodist Church and Cliff College invite you to a weekend full of inspiration, challenge and a chance to develop new skills. This weekend is for anyone aged 16-25 who is a local preacher, or at any stage in the training, or even just thinking about it. Tickets cost £75 and can be bought via the Eventbrite link [here](#). We would encourage young people to ask your church to support you financially.

Exploring Ordained Ministry

Wanting to explore a call to ordained ministry? Maybe someone has suggested you should. The days will be held at the Methodist Church House in London and more information can be found [here](#).



An opportunity for Spiritual Formation

If the idea of five days living in Community following a broadly Benedictine rhythm with excellent teaching, regular worship, periods of silence and daily small listening circles appeals, the [Five-Day Community for Spiritual Formation](#) taking place at Cliff College from 24-29 November might interest you. This year the theme is 'Divine Darkness, Divine Light', the perfect preparation for Advent and Christmas. The registration form can also be downloaded [here](#).

[ArtServe](#) is for anyone interested in creative arts contributing to Christian worship including music, dance, drama, visual arts and creative writing, especially preachers and worship leaders. Their



10th anniversary festival takes place from 18-20 October 2019 at The Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire. The packed programme includes opportunities to explore creative activities in smaller groups and for sharing ideas. To find out more or to booking, click [here](#)

A Date to Remember - 30 September 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 and complete the Portfolio Assessment Form, and send it to both the regional moderator and the Local Preachers' Office. Portfolios can be uploaded on the Moodle site and sent to Tutors at any time before this date. Please give your tutor plenty of time to complete their assessment. Note that the deadline is final, and any portfolios received later than 30 September will be deferred to the next moderation period.

Important Note: anyone intending to Candidate as a presbyter in the 2019-2020 connexional year must complete their final WLP portfolio by September 2019 in order to be admitted as a Local Preacher by February 2020.

Exploring Together

In March we held our first Spring School at Cliff College, 25 worship leaders and local preachers in training met to work through the Explore sessions for two modules together. Click [here](#) for more information about future Spring and Summer Schools.

Summer School 2019, 5-9 August. Note that there will now be four streams, covering all modules. Click [here](#) for more information.

Spring School 2020, 23-27 March 2020.

Summer School 2020: 3-7 August 2020.

In addition, starting September 2019, we are offering an opportunity to do "WLP in a Year". Students will attend Spring and Summer Schools, plus three additional residential weekends. To qualify you must already have a Note to Preach and a tutor and mentor in your circuit, and will come to Cliff College for the Explore sessions. To find out more click [here](#) or contact Chaplain David Hunt on 01246 584226 or chaplain@cliffcollege.ac.uk.

Progress and Development

We continue to be encouraged by the stories of people who are exploring their call and developing faith through Worship: Leading & Preaching. The statistics are encouraging too: 85 portfolios were uploaded for moderation this spring. Increasing numbers of churches and circuits are using Worship: Leading & Preaching locally as a resource for training and development.

We have been working hard on a major refresh of the course website, and will be releasing more information shortly about this. Remember, if you need help or guidance, the Learning Network is there to help you, or you can contact the Local Preachers' office at localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk.

Worship: Leading & Preaching on Facebook

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

Reminders for Faith & Worship Students

Well done to students and tutors who are continuing to work through the Faith & Worship course. 49 Faith & Worship portfolios were submitted for the spring deadline this year. The remaining deadlines for submitting portfolios are:



30 September 2019

31 March 2020

30 September 2020

31 March 2021

Note that these deadlines are final, and submissions received after the dates will be deferred to the next assessment period.

31 March 2021 is the final submission date for Faith & Worship.

Candidates for Ministry

Please note that the September Moderation date is the final submission date for this year's Candidates for Ministry.

Footnote



Pentecost is just around the corner. It's sometimes called the "Birthday of the Church" and it's a great opportunity to refocus on the heart of who we are Church, and what we're here for. The account of those momentous events in Acts 2 tells us how the new-born church to the Holy Spirit's power released among them. They discovered community life, sharing everything to ensure no one went without. This itself must have attracted people who wanted to part of this new way of living. But it says also this: *"...they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home ... praising God and serving the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."* (Acts 2:46-47)

brand-new church was gathering around the praise of God: there was no gap between their revolutionary lifestyle and their passionate worship. People saw this, it was irresistible, and they queued to join in. Later, Irenaeus would say that *"The glory of God is a human being fully alive, and the end of being human is the glory of God."* This Pentecost let's celebrate the essential bond between generous lives and passionate worship, and lead with confidence and grace as the church gives glory to God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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