



Forming preachers and worship leaders: A strategy for Scotland and Shetland

The course currently in use is called **Worship: Leading and Preaching**. It is engaged with both online and in person, through regular meetings with the mentor and tutor. Worship Leaders undertake selected studies from the first half of the course, Local Preachers complete the full course. The following pages give a summary outline of the course contents.

Worship: Leading and Preaching

- You can find out more about the course by going to <https://elearning.methodist.org.uk/>
- Please note that a new version of the course has recently been released (Version 3 or 3.0) – this greatly simplifies the mechanics of the course, with fewer forms to complete, and one piece of work (project) to be completed at the end of each of the sections. Current students should, if at all possible, transfer to 3.0 at a convenient point in their studies.
- If you wish to take a look at WLP 3.0, log with the username guestwlp3, password Guest-wlp3. (Note that you may have to override your existing username and password if your browser has saved these for you). If you have problems, consult the further information about Version 3 on the Methodist Church website [here](#).
- For more information about Worship Leading and Preaching visit the relevant pages of the Connexional website [here](#).

The course has 8 modules, each divided into three sections, as follows, along with the aims of each:

Module 1	Encountering God... groundwork	
1.1	Focus on discernment	To introduce the format of the course, options for delivery, and model of assessment, and enable students to develop effective study skills. To explore understandings of calling and vocation, and support students in a process of discernment. To explore the roles of Worship Leader and Local Preacher as exercised within the Methodist Church.
1.2	Introduction to theology	To explore the communal character of theology, the range of sources used to construct theology and some tools and methods of theological – reflection. To acknowledge the contextual nature of theology, and enable students to understand factors which have influenced their own theological approach;
1.3	Introduction to reflective practice	To introduce reflective practice as a key skill for life and ministry.

Module 2	Encountering God... in the life of the Church	
2.1	Encountering God in the Bible	To offer an introduction to the Bible and its authority and to lay foundations for a theologically informed reading and interpretation of the Bible.
2.2	Encountering God in the church	To consider the God we meet through the life, worship and doctrine of the Church and how God is represented and expressed in our language, imagery and praxis; to explore the nature and mission of the Church, focussing specifically on Methodism.
2.3	Focus on worship	To develop an understanding of worship as an act of the whole people of God, reflecting on the significance of context, and the role of the leader of worship and to develop skills in practical preparation, engagement with Scripture, all-age worship, multi-sensory worship and in the use of technology in worship.
Module 3	Encountering God... in daily life	
3.1	Encountering God for myself	To develop knowledge and understanding of spirituality and discipleship, introducing a variety of devotional practices and disciplines. To explore different theological approaches to the nature of prayer;
3.2	Encountering God in the world	To develop understanding and awareness of God's presence and activity in the world, and our participation in God's mission. To explore whole-life discipleship, with particular reference to daily life and work, serving others, and stewardship of creation.
3.3	Focus on prayer	To consider different types and styles of corporate prayer, and how this is shaped doctrinally. To develop principles of leading and enabling others to pray.
Module 4	Encountering God... in unexpected places	
4.1	Encountering God in difficult times	To explore response to loss, failure, anger and lament in theology, Scripture and human experience. To develop pastoral awareness and sensitivity when leading worship for those experiencing trauma.
4.2	Encountering God through the eyes and ears of others	To consider difference and diversity in a local societal context in Christian denominations, global Methodism and in relationship to other faith traditions.
4.3	Focus on reflective practice and continuing development	To introduce techniques to enable personal and corporate reflection when faced with difference and the unexpected. To review and consolidate learning from modules 1-4 and identify interests and priorities for further development. To encourage students to revisit their sense of call.

Module 5	Ministry of the Word	
5.1	The bible – a bird’s eye view	To explore how the Bible has developed and been interpreted; introduce major theological themes of the living tradition, such as creation, covenant, exile, restoration, kingdom, salvation and hope.
5.2	The bible – close up	To develop Biblical exegetical and hermeneutical skills. To develop a theologically informed understanding of specific books of the Bible (i.e., the letters attributed to Paul; and John’s Gospel).
5.3	Focus on preaching (part 1)	To demonstrate an understanding of the nature and purpose of preaching. To develop skills in public speaking and in care of the voice.
Module 6	Living faith	
6.1	A new kind of kingdom	To explore the kingdom of God in the teachings of Jesus, developing an understanding of its origins, development, and contemporary significance as a theme in Christian theology. To develop a theologically informed understanding of how the kingdom of God relates to the Church.
6.2	Kingdom ethics	To develop a theologically informed understanding of specific books of the Bible (Wisdom literature). To enable theological reflection on ethical issues, developing an understanding of the way both faith and context shape ethical values.
6.3	Focus on preaching (part 2)	To consider the place of ethical reflection and teaching in preaching; consider a range of different sermon models; develop skills and understanding for preparing, delivering and evaluating sermons in different contexts.
Module 7	Understanding our story	
7.1	Salvation history and the life of Christ	To consider a range of theological understandings of God’s interaction with the created order, including atonement theories and the work of Christ – including Methodist understandings of salvation (prevenient, justifying, sanctifying grace, assurance, perfection). To develop a theologically informed understanding of specific books of the Bible (Torah & Luke-Acts).
7.2	Church history and the story of Methodism	To provide an overview of the story of the Church from New Testament times until the present day, focussing on the emergence of Methodism. To explore the identity of Methodism today, and ways in which it may develop for the future;
7.3	Focus on preaching (part 3)	To consider our changing world and how this may affect the task of preaching and make for various forms of innovative worship and to explore different styles of preaching.

Module 8	Voices from the margins	
8.1	Prophets and prophecy	To explore the nature of prophecy, introduce some biblical and contemporary prophets, and consider prophecy as a work of the Spirit. To develop a theologically informed understanding of specific books of the Bible (i.e., selected biblical prophetic writings).
8.2	Theologies and cultures after modernity	To consider some voices from the margins, particularly those presenting theologies and methods of biblical interpretation that challenge the mainstream. To explore ways in which the church may be called to be a prophetic community;
8.3	Focus on continuing development	To review and consolidate learning from the whole course, identifying interests and priorities for further development. To enable students to revisit their sense of call, and equip them to navigate processes for admission as a Local Preacher.

Please consider prayerfully whether you may have something to offer to the formation of worship leaders and preachers in the Methodist Church in Scotland and Shetland.

- It is hoped to form a team of folk who can contribute to the training process across the two districts, with levels of involvement varying to suit what individuals can offer.
- We envisage each circuit having a 'lead tutor' who will be the main point of reference for any tutee, but to support the work of those lead tutors we hope to find others across both districts who may feel they could prepare one or more section of the course and be willing to tutor trainees on that section. Such additional tutoring does not need to be local, but can be done online.
- Under the W:LP course, mentors continue to work with tutees throughout their training. New mentors are always welcome; ideally mentors should be local to the tutee.
- Training for both roles will be offered, along with the support of a Community of Practice where we can share together.

If you would like to talk further about anything here, do contact :

- your circuit Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary or your superintendent minister,
- or Lorraine Darlow in the Learning Network (darlowl@methodistchurch.org.uk),
- or the District Local Preachers & Worship Leaders secretaries, Anne Baird and Carol Reeves (lpwl@methodistchurchinScotland.net) for Scotland or Rev Dr Andrew Fox revdocfox@gmail.com for Shetland
- or the District Tutors (for Scotland: Jill Baker ejillbaker@btinternet.com or for Shetland: Rev. David Lees david.lees@methodist.org.uk).