

North West & Mann Learning Network Region

The Methodist Church 

Welcome to the November edition of the North West & Mann learning and development region's newsletter.

An older Methodist couple said to me last year "we're not clever enough or holy enough to go to one of the church house groups".

In this newsletter we are focussing on learning and development opportunities that can equip leaders to resource people like that couple and others in our communities.

There are four areas of Ministry highlighted in this newsletter, feel free to skip to one or two or read them all. Also we remind you of upcoming learning and development opportunities under the umbrella of the NWM L&D Forum and ways to stay in touch with the DMLN team.

- * [Theological Literacy](#)
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- * [Upcoming events \(Safeguarding, Connecting Disciples, Vocation Exploration\)](#)



Stimulating "ordinary theological thinking" amongst Methodists

Public - Hosted by North West & Mann Learning & Development Network

Theological Literacy

An event for church leaders (lay and ordained) to learn about a theological literacy course which has grown out of a Circuit and is making waves.

One woman said “this is life changing; why has no one told me this before”.

On the day you will;

- * Receive a starter teaching package
- * Increase in confidence to teach theology
- * Be enabled to help adults learn
- * Be encouraged to stay in touch and share your stories and resources.

6 March in Warrington

13 March in Lancaster

The Methodist church has always placed great emphasis on faith development; enabling people to discover a God who is real to them. Methodism’s distinctive gift has been its emphasis on spiritual, intellectual and social growth. The importance of living a distinctive life committed to God, seeking to make a difference with the people we meet remains important.

In seeking to serve the present age we cannot rely solely on what we have known or understood in the past. In order to meet the challenges of the present it is necessary that we equip people to think critically about faith and God, helping individuals and churches to better connect with and serve those around them. We are hoping to bring together a group of people who are committed to the learning and development of others.

The day(s) is led by Simon Sutcliffe and Anthony Reddie. Simon is a published theologian and he teaches our student Ministers at Queens Foundation and he has started to teach some of that content, at that level to others in Circuit. “Why has no one taught me this before?” asked Glynis and she echoed the thoughts of the rest of the group. Anthony Reddie is a member of the DMLN and published theologian as well as a teacher and story teller.

This day will take you through the process Simon has used and to share with you some materials to kick-start an ordinary theology group in your context.

Who the day is for: people lay and ordained who have a theological education (formal or informal) and would like to facilitate sessions in your own context for others. So maybe you are a local preacher, or an ordained Minister, or a lay person who reads lots of theology books and watches lots of theology YouTubers. If so this day could be for you.

Like the [Facebook event](#) for updates and bookings as usual by emailing Rob at NWMannNetwork@gmail.com

BIBLE MONTH

Getting Ready for Bible Month 2018

Saturday 3 March

This day is going to be amazing. There will be a musical performance by David Benjamin-Blower (who you may have seen at Greenbelt this year) of the book of Jonah and a conversation with him as Jasmine Devadson, old testament scholar, unpacks with him how he sees this book as one which teaches us how to love our political enemies.

In the afternoon we have two more theologians, Caroline Wickens and Michael Thompson exploring the book of Jonah through different lenses and considering ways to use the various Bible month resources.

Who is this for?

- * All who will be preaching in June in Bible Month
- * All who will be leading children and youth ministry in Bible month
- * All who will be leading Bible studies and house groups in Bible month

There is a crèche at this event if you book in time.

Venue: Knutsford Methodist Church

Time: 10:00am to 3:00pm

Bookings via Rob at NWMannNetwork@gmail.com

Like the [Facebook event](#) for updates



Pastoral Care

During the next twelve months, a small group will gather to consider how Pastoral Carers in our churches can be supported.

Some areas we may choose to consider are:

Prayer in Pastoral visiting, Discipleship, Extended Communion, Mental Health Issues, Loss and Bereavement, Domestic Abuse, Scripture and Pastoral care

These conversations will lead us to consider:

- * How to further support and equip those offering pastoral care
- * How we share good practice from across the region
- * The challenges and needs of Pastoral Care
- * The joys and opportunities of Pastoral Care
- * How to grow in leadership and discipleship through Pastoral Care

If you have an interest in Pastoral Care, and also in enabling others to learn, you are invited to join Paul Martin, Chair of Bolton & Rochdale District, and Brec Seaton (DMLN), for an initial meeting on the evening of Thursday 18 January 2018 in Bolton.

Please email Brec Seaton with your intention to join us on this evening, and for full details of the meeting times and address: seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk



3rd Age Spirituality

We have now had two day conferences exploring this area of Ministry. Both have been really well received. The question now, is from here what is the best way to resource and support those with a ministry to enable older people to explore their spirituality.

If you would like to join a small group to consider this then please contact John Squares, as he is bringing people together to consider best ways forward: squaresj@methodistchurch.org.uk

CREATING SAFER SPACE

Coming Soon: Training the Trainers for Creating Safer Space - Foundation Module

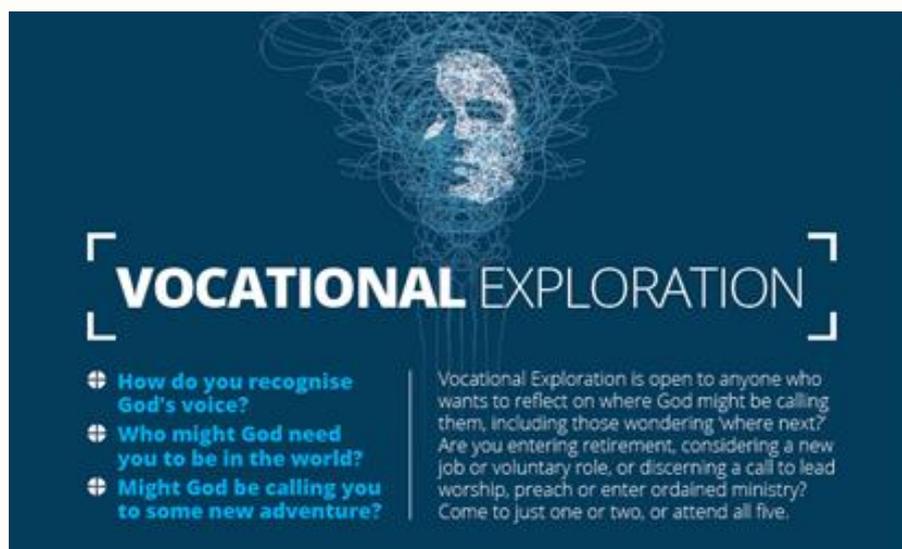
Saturday 2 December at Walkden Methodist Church

This is the only training day for this role this Connexional year, so if you think you will need more trainers please invite them to this day event.

Attendance at a safeguarding training the trainer's day is subject to a suitable reference from the Circuit Superintendent Minister, and attendance at the day is to explore the role.

It may be that some of the training decide this is not the role for them, or we may advise that we do not think it is the role for them.

Bookings via Rob at NWMannNetwork@gmail.com and more info from Alison Ransome ransomea@methodistchurch.org.uk



Vocational Exploration

Saturday 27 January

The theme this coming session is Understanding Vocation.

If you are exploring a new sense of calling, or wanting to revisit a calling, please do book on to this day.

The venue will be fixed to suit those who have booked in in good time.

Time: 10:30am to 3:30pm

Bookings via Rob at NWMannNetwork@gmail.com and more info from Jasmine devadasonj@methodistchurch.org.uk



Connecting Disciples

Learning and development events for lay employees, all with space for prayer, reflection and getting to know people with a job like yours.

Connexional:

The theme this year is "Living Faith"

5 to 7 March 2018 at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesden, Hertfordshire or
1 to 3 June 2018 at Cliff College, Derbyshire

Come and join us to explore how to rejuvenate and refresh your own discipleship under the banner of "Living Faith" while picking up ideas and approaches to use in your context along the way.

The new look CD2018 takes a holistic approach to learning. Over the three days, there are opportunities to worship, pray, think & learn not to mention have a little fun.

Bookings will open no later than 1/12/2017 and more info at www.methodist.org.uk/connectingdisciples

Local:



We host one day Connecting Disciples Local Days closer to home for lay employees.

The event for Liverpool and Chester & Stoke-on-Trent was last month and was really well received with workshops, a Bible study and Love Feast.

For those in Bolton & Rochdale and Manchester & Stockport, the date is Monday 12 February. More info direct to your inbox or contact David at picklesd@methodistchurch.org.uk

For lay employees in Cumbria and Lancashire, a date to come in March. More info direct to your inbox or contact David at picklesd@methodistchurch.org.uk

How to contact us:

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[YouTube](#)

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Bookings:

Email Rob at NWMannNetwork@gmail.com