

Learning & Development Newsletter

Message from Alison Ransome

Welcome to the Learning & Development Newsletter.



A Methodist Way of Life might invite us to wonder, what we are learning about God through the roles we have, through the people we encounter and lives we live. Learning is the element of A Methodist Way of Life that we focus on in this newsletter.

In her 1982 classic book *The Color Purple*, Black American author and poet Alice Walker says "I think us here to wonder, myself. To wonder. To ask. And that in wondering about the big things and asking about the big things, you learn about the little ones, almost by accident. But you never know nothing more about the big things than you start out with. The more I wonder, the more I love."

Learning is so much more than 'knowing stuff', learning is about wondering, asking about the big things and learning about the little things.

What is God like?

That's a big question, and we can explore it for years and still not 'know', but along the way we will have learnt lots of little (and very important) things.

An example might be that as we re-member that God is love, we also encounter (and express) love in small actions in a multitude of ways - through the roles we have in church, and how we 'be' with our family, friends and in our inner dialogue with ourselves, our attitude at work etc.

Our hope in the Learning Network is that all the learning & development opportunities offered are some of the places where big and little learning can happen, because it all matters. So if it's a theological book club, or a 'how to be a' session, it is all learning, and we will always seek to create opportunities for you to 'wonder'.

Thank you for signing up for this newsletter, please do share it with others.

Thanks too to those who have joined us on [Facebook](#), there are some interesting conversations about learning happening there

Alison Ransome

Learning and Development Manager

3Gen 2023 – The brand new after movie is here!

After an incredible weekend of tuning in to God, speaking out on the issues that matter to them and having a whole lot of fun, here's a compilation of everything that took place at 3Generate 2023! Children and young people tell us how their time together inspires and makes an impact in their lives. Watch it [here](#).

Save the date: 3Generate 2024 at the NEC, Birmingham 4 – 6 October

Easter Offering 2024

This year the Easter Offering 2024 service, Let Justice Roll, tells stories of people standing for justice, persisting in the face of setbacks and taking up the challenge anew as circumstances change. Some stories show how people now have hope because justice has 'rolled' into their lives.

For more information and downloadable resources, please click [here](#).

Cliff College is an evangelical learning community which is rooted in God's Word and Spirit, for the purpose of equipping God's people for practical ministry and cutting-edge missional engagement.

Our new MA Theology and Mission* programme, available from September 2024, equips students to explore missional theology and practice in depth, to inform and enhance their own engagement in the work of God's Kingdom. Students can

choose from a variety of units including biblical studies, chaplaincy, Methodist and Wesleyan identity and leadership, alongside core Missional Theology and Missional Theology in Practice units.

This course can be studied either online or at our College campus in Derbyshire, full-time or part-time. Bursaries and funding are available for those in lay and ordained ministry posts in the Methodist Church. Applications are now open: [find out more and apply here](#).

**subject to approval from the University of Manchester.*

Genesis is the starting point for all Christian theology and explores many fundamental questions of life and faith: Who is God? What is God like? Throughout the book, we get to travel with many different characters as they wrestle (sometimes literally!) with finding answers to these questions.

Join us for the adventure and discover for yourself the life-giving truths that this wonderful book considers and shares.

We will be streaming this event live on YouTube. You can join us and participate in the activities in two ways:

1. Watch online at home - we will offer discussion spaces via Zoom.
2. Attend a local hub

Click [here](#) to book tickets to take part either at home or in a hub.

The Last Taboo? – Conversations on Death & Dying

Everyone will die. But how do we help people to think about, and plan for, their death? This practical course will help you grow in confidence around talking with people at all ages about death and dying.

- Saturday 17th February 2024, 10.00am – 12.30pm, at Christchurch, Bedford Road, Hitchin, SG5 1HF.
- Tuesday 27th February 2024, 9:30am - 1pm, at Bridestowe Methodist Church, 3 Brid Close, Bridestowe, EX20 4EJ.
- Wednesday 6th March, 10am – 12:30pm, at Holy Trinity LEP, Broad Croft,

Bradley Stoke, BS32 0BD.

For more information & to book, please click [here](#).

Unconscious Bias Training

Due to popular demand and the added date already selling out, here is another date for anyone who would like to do Unconscious Bias training on Zoom session, lasting 75 minutes. [Book here](#)



Local Preachers' Retreat

19 to 21 April 2024, at the Ammerdown Centre, Bath

Leader: Bob Bartindale, Connexional Officer for Worship and Local Preachers

More information at [Reflect | Retreats \(reflectretreats.co.uk\)](https://reflectretreats.co.uk)

[Training sessions for Beginning a Church at the Margins course facilitators](#)

Join a single **90-minute training session** for anyone leading a small group using the new Beginning a Church at the Margins resource. We will introduce the course and think about how you can share the materials in your context.

Click on one of the dates in 2024 to book your place.

- [Tuesday 12 March 7-8.30pm](#)

- [Tuesday 9 April 7-8.30pm](#)

If you would like to arrange an alternative time to run a session (for at least 6 facilitators) email [Eunice Attwood](#).

[Be a travelling companion: The journey of a lifetime \(morning\) – 6th February 2024 at 10:00am and 7:00pm.](#)

God loves you unconditionally, no strings attached. That's the good news. Nothing we do can make God love us more – but it can help us realise how deeply we are loved by God. We respond to God's love in Christ through the way we live our lives. We are on the train with other people. How can we help them get the most out of their journey? Join us for a webinar to explore together how we can best support people on the train. This session is part of a monthly series exploring A Methodist Way of Life, but there is no need to have attended previous sessions. They are designed to be small gatherings for the sharing of stories, reflections and ideas. At the end of the 45 minutes we will stay on the call until everyone has had a chance to hear their questions answered. Can't make the time? We're hosting another session at 19.00 on the same day.

Have something you want to see in the Midweek email?

The next newsletter is due to come out on Wednesday 21st February.

For any submissions, please email [Funmi Oyedokun](#) by **4pm Wednesday 7th February**.

To avoid delays, please include the following in your message:

- A paragraph of supporting text as you would like it to appear in the monthly mail
- Any and all links and email addresses that are required for readers to click for more information
- An image of the logo or anything related to the text, which should be clear and in jpeg format