

# The Methodist Church

## Learning & Development Newsletter

### Message from Richard Armiger

Welcome to the Learning & Development Newsletter!

One of the things that I enjoy doing when I am not working is walking in the countryside or by the coast. I was recently able to spend some time on the south coast at Southbourne. I had taken my son down to Southampton University for him to attend a placement conference as he is currently in his third year at university and coming towards the end of his placement year. I dropped him off at Southampton University in the morning and knew that I had 3-4 hours to occupy before he would be finished for our journey back home. I chose to head to the coast and spent a couple of hours walking along the seafront from Southbourne to Mudeford Spit. The walk takes you along the promenade and then up to Hengistbury Head walking through the nature reserve before reaching the beach huts that line Mudeford Spit.



I am not sure about you but I am aware that whenever I am able to be by the sea I instantly notice that I feel more relaxed and calm. It offers me an instant de-stress that only takes a matter of minutes to notice. It doesn't matter what the weather is doing, if it is sunny, windy, raining or dry, in all weather there is something special about being by the sea and the beach. Along the way I was able to pause and enjoy the views, the wildlife and the sea as the waves rolled onto the beach. It offered an opportunity to take the time to notice some of the wonders and beauty of God's creation. It was an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, a chance to reset and recharge. There was also the opportunity for lunch at the Café at Mudeford Spit too! It was also enough time for the car to be fully re-charged ready for the return journey to collect Jacob from Southampton and then back home.

Whilst it was only a relatively brief time I recognise the need to make the most of the opportunities that are available to spend time in nature, time by the sea, time to replenish my energy levels.

I hope that you will have the opportunity to make time and space to engage in whatever offer you with an opportunity to relax, re-energise and notice the world around you.



Flourishing is the theme for this month and so it seems appropriate to encourage opportunities to engage with nature and God's creation as this often reminds and prompts us to reflect on how we are called to consider our individual and collective response in being called to care for creation and all God's gifts. You can find out more about this station on the discipleship journey [here](#).

The 'Pause for thought' prompt encourages us to reflect on the question:

**What would you do about caring for creation if you knew you couldn't fail?**

There is also a reminder that if you are interested in having conversations like this with your friends, neighbours and community? You can buy [Conversations Against Mundanity](#) now.

As you will already be aware The Methodist Church, as part of our commitment to care for God's creation, has set an aspirational target of becoming a net zero carbon emissions church by 2030. Many districts, circuits and churches have already begun to work towards net zero goals, an Eco District award, or other aims in caring for creation. You can find out more about the Action for Hope project, which provides more information on how we are working towards this target by 2030 [here](#).

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.  
*(traditional gaelic blessing)*

Richard Armiger  
**Head of Ministries and Learning**

A promotional poster for the 3Generate 2024 event. The top left features the logo '3GENERATE 2024' with a red cross icon and 'Methodist Children & Youth Assembly' below it. The text '4-6 October NEC Birmingham' is in white on a blue background. Below that, 'Join one of these three fabulous volunteer teams' is written in white. A smaller text block says 'Bring your gifts and help make 3Generate 2024 happen. With roles to suit all skillsets, join a fabulous volunteer team and have a weekend to remember.' A QR code and the website 'www.methodist.org.uk/3Genvols' are at the bottom left. The right side of the poster shows a collage of photos of volunteers. Three circular icons are overlaid: a purple heart for 'Care', a blue question mark for 'Help', and a green speech bubble for 'Engage'. A quote from a 2023 volunteer is at the bottom right: "Witnessing the entry of those children with their leaders and the caring way the team welcomed and prepared them was completely amazing." The text '2023 Volunteer' is below the quote.

**3GENERATE** 2024  
Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

4-6 October  
NEC Birmingham

Join one of these  
three fabulous  
volunteer teams

Bring your gifts and help make  
3Generate 2024 happen. With roles to  
suit all skillsets, join a fabulous volunteer  
team and have a weekend to remember.

Find out more about different roles  
and sign up below:  
[www.methodist.org.uk/3Genvols](http://www.methodist.org.uk/3Genvols)

“Witnessing the entry of those children with their  
leaders and the caring way the team welcomed  
and prepared them was completely amazing.”

2023 Volunteer

Volunteering for 3Generate Is now open! There are plenty of different ways to join the team and help make the event happen. [Here's Jude](#) sharing why volunteering matters.

There is a powerpoint slide show and A5 postcards available to help promote volunteering. If you'd value these resources to encourage people to consider joining the team please send us an [email](#).

Let's share the news far and wide and encourage the church to get involved. And why not consider the opportunity yourself too? Check out this link: [Join the Delivery Team](#) for further information.

### **Way of Peace: District Needs Assessment**

Do we live well with difference in the church? Tell us what you think!

To help us better support you and others in your District, we'd love to hear about your experience of disagreement and reconciliation in church life.

Please help us by filling out this [short survey](#) by **Friday 10 May**.

Your opinion is invaluable to us and will impact the work of Positive Working Together and the Reconciliation and Mediation Team in your area.

For more information, contact [Katie Bradley](#), Way of Peace Programme Manager:



# Are you a chaplain?

We want your views about **discipleship**...

## **Chaplaincy and Discipleship Research**

We are interested in exploring how chaplains' understandings of discipleship relate to their chaplaincy role and work, and what we might learn about discipleship in a range of contexts. As part of the research, we are initially inviting chaplains to respond to this survey, which will help shape our research. Complete the survey [here](#).

## **Prayers for NPNTs**

Join our [monthly online prayer](#) gathering to pray for the New Places for New People/Church at the Margins movement in the Methodist Church. Running from 6.30 - 6.50pm on the second Monday of each month.



Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

4-6 October  
NEC Birmingham

**Tickets on  
sale 16<sup>th</sup> April**

A weekend to remember for children and young people! Start making plans to bring a group to 3Generate 2024.

If you need help in planning your group, contact us at:  
[3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk)



“

“I kept describing the weekend as a calming balm. I was so encouraged by the wide range of different young people and their views. And that the focus was on helping them tune-in with God.”

**2023 Volunteer**

### 3Gen 24 ticket launch!

Tickets for 3Generate 2024 are now on sale! The Children and Youth Assembly is back at the NEC in Birmingham from 4 – 6 October.

Watch the brand-new [promo video](#)

Do be spreading the word and encouraging churches and circuits to make plans together so that as many children and young people from across the life of the Church can participate.

Click [here](#) to book tickets and further information.

## Opportunities at Cliff

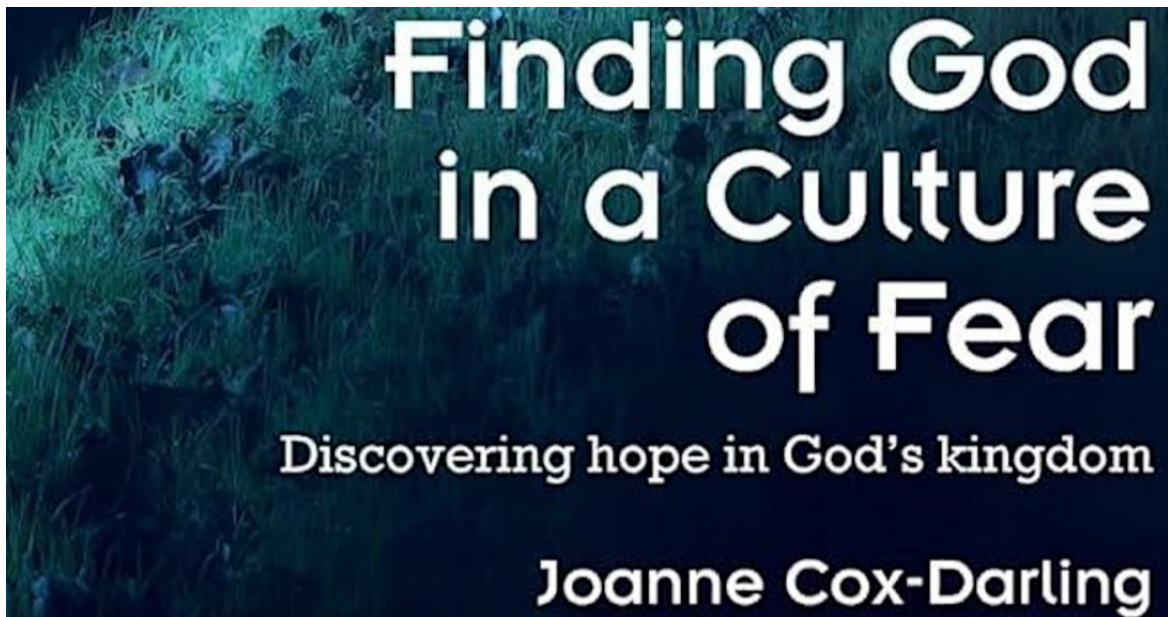


Cliff College's annual Festival is full of Spirit-filled worship, Bible teaching and activities for people and families of all ages. This spring, we'll be exploring our theme **Rerouted: Making Peace on the Journey** with the help of author, pastor and Bible teacher Matt Miofksy, and preachers including Rev Heather Morris from the Irish Methodist Conference and Nathan McGuire from JPIT.

As well as our morning Bible studies and evening worship services, we'll have a host of seminars and learning opportunities, with contributors including Elaine Lindridge, Christian Climate Action, 24-7 Prayer, Rachel Lampard, David Hardman, Clive McKie and the JustMoney Movement, as well as members of the Cliff College faculty.

More information and tickets are available via [the Cliff College website](#).

[Upcoming Learning Opportunities](#)



**Theology Book Club**

An interactive book club exploring theological themes in Jo Cox Darling's book 'Finding God in a Culture of Fear'

Click [here](#) to book and for more information.



## **Equipping for Equality: A development day for those passionate about Justice, Dignity and Solidarity**

Are you passionate about bringing about equality within the church? Want to be resourced and equipped? Are you in an EDI group? Thinking of being, or already an EDI officer? Maybe you're on the JDS committee or an EDI lead in any Methodist setting? In a solidarity circle? Want to influence change in the Methodist Church? Join us for this development day either in London or Lancaster or attend online.

### Aims:

- Equip one another to implement the strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity
- Share our experiences in EDI roles within the Church
- Inspire one another to bring transformative change to the Church

We will have opportunities to choose which activities we do. There will be a chance to:

- Learn from one another's experiences
- Improve our cultural literacy
- Develop our understanding of Equality Impact Assessments
- Discuss the implementation of the Inclusive Language Guide
- Enhance our skills in communications, social media and facilitating online gatherings
- Consider how to support and resource people for the continual personal learning aspect of the mandatory EDI training

8<sup>th</sup> June, 10.30-4 – [London or online](#)

20<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30 - 4 – [Lancaster or online](#)

Questions? Email [Stuart Watkin](#)





**What do you think?** Has God given you a gift of creativity; a passion for evangelism; or just lots of ideas about life and church? If you're aged 18-30 and interested in how the church serves you and you serve the church, [this online workshop is perfect for you](#). (And if you can't come, you can [fill in this short survey](#) and share your thoughts)



**[Social justice and evangelism webinar](#): Finding Jesus on the streets. 10 June, 7pm**

This webinar is for anyone interested in exploring the most sustainable and impactful ways to do mission. God invites all of us to join in with the work of Kingdom building in our local communities, what does that mean for us? Come along and hear stories, share stories, and explore how 'love in action' is at the intersection of justice work and evangelism. [Book your ticket](#).



## **Taking Action for Hope online events for children and young people**

### **Saturday 22 June or Tuesday 25 June 2024**

- Do you know children and young people passionate about the climate crisis?
- Can they be a part of the Methodist Church's plans to go net zero by 2030?
- Could they be passionate advocates for environmental justice?

The Methodist Church is working towards net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. It's a huge task but so important at this time of climate crisis, and we need everyone - no matter their age - on board!

Children and young people are invited to come and find out more about the Methodist Church's ambitious plans and how they, their friends and their families can get involved! We'd also love to hear about the different ways in which children and young people try to be Green Agents of Change.

- Sessions for 8–11 year olds will run from 10-11am on 22nd June or 5-6pm on 25 June.
- Sessions for 11-17 year olds will run from 11.30am-12.30pm on 22 June or 6.30-7.30pm on 25 June.

Tickets to the events will need to be booked on behalf of children and young people by a parent/carer.

Click [here](#) to book and find out more information.

## **Gather online to consider creation care and mission planning**

### **Tues 21st May 8-9pm & Sat 13th July 10am-3pm**

We all care about protecting our planet, and yet tackling huge global issues like climate change can feel overwhelming. But when we come together, all our small actions can add up to significant changes for the better. The Methodist Church has set itself the ambitious target of becoming a net zero church by 2030, and each of

our churches can play its part. You can find out about the baby steps you can take to becoming an Eco Church at [this webinar on 21st May](#). If you have more time, come along to the [online conference, Good news for all creation, on 13th July](#), and consider how creation care, justice and evangelism can come together in your church's mission plan.

## [Job Opportunities](#)

**From Eurovision to literary festivals, from sports events to music festivals** – we've taken the Methodist Church on the road. Now we're looking for someone with events experience, organisational skills, and an inclusive approach to faith to take on a new post of Festival Events Coordinator to continue this exciting work. Could it be you, or somebody you know? Find out more and apply [here](#).



**Have something you want to see in the Midweek email?**

**The next newsletter is due to come out on Wednesday 22nd May**

**For any submissions, please email [Funmi Oyedokun](#) by 4pm Wednesday 1st May.**

**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.

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