



## Learning & Development Newsletter

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### Message from Tricia Mitchell

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Welcome to the Learning & Development Newsletter!

What comes to mind when you hear the word 'power'?

Perhaps it is a song, a book or an electric current!

I admit it is a word I have shied away from and certainly not 'owned', often feeling I don't have power and indeed don't want power! More recently I have come to recognise that I need to look at power more closely, as with so much in our contemporary context the situation is more complex and less binary!

We live in a world where all too often we see power being abused or misused. A world when sometimes we can feel powerless to make a difference in the face of war, climate change, politics... A world where those who once didn't have a voice are speaking up and challenging the imbalances in power which were once accepted as the norm.

In worship we sometimes use a blessing which commissions us to 'go in the power of the Spirit to live and work to the glory of God'. This is a power rooted and grounded in love. Not a power to enforce, but a power to equip. It is the power which was gifted at Pentecost, freely given, generously offered. Faced with the struggles of life, do we remember the power of God within us?

What might this look like in reality? The confidence to change, to try something new in response to where we see God at work in our community? The call to speak truth to those in power? The passion to stand up for those who are still under-represented? The faith to take the risk of listening when we feel we may not know the answers to questions we may be asked?

We can feel insignificant, and we can feel inadequate to the task or that the obstacles in our way are too great. St Paul pleaded with God to remove the difficulties he wrestled with, but heard God's assurance "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12: 9). He continues in verse 10 "for when I am weak, then I am strong". Strength which comes not from human powers, but from our focus and reliance on God.

Perhaps power is, after all, a song. "The Power of Love" singing deep in our hearts which empowers us to be bold in God's strength. What do you think?

What is coming up which might help us to harness that wonderful power and work in partnership with God in the world? Here are two suggestions.

Spiritual abuse is one expression of the abuse of power. If you would like to explore what this looks like and how we can respond well and build healthy cultures you might like to register for the online training day in September (see below).

Everyone welcome or some inadvertently excluded? – How might our language make more people feel welcome? Join Kristie and Stuart for a Guide to the Inclusive Language Guide to think more about how small changes in language can make a big difference. [7 July, 7pm](#)

Whatever the delights and challenges before us as we move into the summer months, may we indeed go in the power of the Spirit to live and work to glory of God.

Tricia Mitchell

**Learning and Development Manager**



**3GENERATE** 2025

Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

**3-5 October 2025 | NEC Birmingham**

**Join the 3Generate Delivery Team now!**

Whether you're a 3Generate veteran, new to the event, or have never volunteered before, we want you on our delivery team!

There are roles for everyone, from welcoming children and young people to our venues, to helping them engage with your vibrant and fun-packed programme, or working behind the scenes to support other volunteers with refreshments and a friendly smile.

This year we are introducing a WhatsApp Community for our delivery team, to ensure you can connect with your team and get to know each other before the event, sharing any key pieces of wisdom or asking questions you may have, so you feel as comfortable as possible in the run-up to the big weekend.

Check out the range of roles available and sign up [here!](#)



### **Reawakening Sacramental Living**

How do we lead lives that are outward and visible signs of God's grace in a broken world?

Join us for our Summer Online Retreat, taking place from Friday 18th July 7pm – 8.30pm to Saturday 19th July 9am – 1pm.

The retreat will be led by Rev Dr R Sidwell Mokgothu, Bishop of the Limpopo District of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in Pretoria. A passionate trainer, speaker, coach, and retreat leader, Sidwell has presented at international platforms. He is a former liberation struggle activist and an ecumenical leader committed to social justice. His spirituality seamlessly blends contemplation with prophetic action.

Registration is open until 30th June. Attendance is free, though we encourage participants to consider a donation of around £10 to support the Community.

For more information about the Community for Spiritual Formation and further details on this retreat, please visit our [website](#).

To register, email the [registrar](#)



### **Action for Children Sunday – Fundraise in your church!**

Sunday 13th July is Action for Children Sunday, a day to draw attention to and fundraise for the wonderful work Action for Children does to improve the lives of vulnerable children across the UK experiencing poverty, homelessness and other issues.

We are encouraging local churches to get involved however you can, holding fundraising events big and small to support all that Action for Children do. In past years, churches have held more traditional events like coffee mornings and bake sales, but also jigsaw puzzle races! See what unique skills and gifts those in your church community can offer to the fundraising efforts!

You can find out more about Action for Children and download resources to support with your worship and fundraising events [here](#).

We're pleased to announce that the **May Mission Committee** has approved funding for **New Places for New People (NPNP)** and **Church at the Margins (CAM)** initiatives in the following districts:

- Chester and Stoke-on-Trent
- Nottingham and Derby
- South East (Gibraltar)
- Darlington



You can read more about the funded projects [here](#). For further details on **New Places for New People**, visit [methodist.org.uk/nppp](https://methodist.org.uk/nppp).

To stay updated, **subscribe to our newsletter** [here](#).



#### **4-7s at 3Generate!**

The 4-7s area is back at 3Generate this year and even bigger than ever! With a whole new, larger space, your little ones can play, dance and create as they come together in worship.

This year, are delighted to announce a meet-up area for those with family or friends at the main 3Generate event, meaning you will be able to spend some time together and share your 3Generate experience across a whole family!

Find out more and buy tickets [here](#)!



### **NPNP/CAM/MPP campaign**

The Methodist Church in Britain is growing in creative and unexpected places as pioneers and their teams, imagine what a new Christian community might be in a new place. Here are some [stories](#) from across the UK of new life springing up and join our movement to start New Places for New People (NPNPs).

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### **Upcoming Learning Opportunities**



Environment: The power to make a difference in our world – join the Eco Community Network and share ideas for living lightly in a world faced with climate change. Meeting again on Wednesday 17 September at 7pm: [Eventbrite - Edit Methodist Church Eco Community Network](#)

# Spiritual Abuse Awareness Training

Developed by the Methodist Church Safeguarding Team, Learning Network and Survivors Group in conjunction with Dr Lisa Oakley, Chester University & Thirtyone:eight



## Course overview:

- What is spiritual abuse?
- What is the impact of the experience
- How to build healthy cultures

How can we guard against abuse of power in the church context? The next Methodist Spiritual Abuse Training Course, developed in conjunction with Dr Lisa Oakley, Chester University & Thirtyone:eight, takes place online on 16th September. Come and explore:

- What is spiritual abuse?
- What is the impact of the experience of being spiritually abused?
- Features of a good response
- Building Healthy Cultures

Click [here](#) to book.

## The Staffroom For Lay Employees and Volunteers July

Friday  
18th July

11-11:45am  
Online

The **Methodist** Church  
Learning Network

### The staffroom, for Lay Employees and Volunteers

A 45 minute online space for lay employees and volunteers in the Methodist Church to catch-up.

There's no agenda, but each time we'll have a different conversation starter.

Click [here](#) to book.



Are you connecting with new people? Could this be the start of a new Christian community? If your district has already started its New Place for New People, join our online 60-minute conversation to explore how to start an [NPNP in your circuit](#), particularly amongst low-income communities.

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#### Opportunities at Cliff



## Cliff Festival 2025 – Bible studies and seminars

Cliff Festival 2025 (23-26 May) explored the theme of 'Holiness Calling' – what it means to be called, transformed and sent out by a holy God to be his holy people. Our Bible studies with Dr Ben Pugh took a deep dive into Isaiah 6, with the prophet's vision of God in the temple and the cleansing and calling he received. We also hosted two hybrid seminars, the first looking at the story of Hagar in Genesis 16 and the second considering how hospitality is part of the mission of the church. You can watch all of these sessions [on the Cliff Festival YouTube channel here](#).

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**Have something you want to see in this monthly email?**

**The next newsletter is due to come out on Wednesday 23rd July.**

For any submissions, please email [Funmi Oyedokun](#) by **4pm Wednesday 9th July**.

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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