



Learning & Development Newsletter

Message from Rachel McCallam

Welcome to the Learning & Development Newsletter!

Ever since childhood, the summer has always meant holiday season to me. Having worked in education myself and now with family members still in teaching those weeks in late July and early August have become very special in our calendar. The sense of rhythm the summer holiday gives, along with Christmas and Easter, are significant moments in the cycle of my year. I can feel my body, mind and spirit preparing itself for the time away.

In Hebrews 4: 9-11 we are told that:

'There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest.'

Interestingly my camping holiday with the extended family is not in of itself very restful. In fact, it is very physical and that is without choosing to walk, run, swim and cycle. It is however, a complete rest from my day-to-day work and worries. There are no computers, T.Vs and barely any phone signal. It is a complete break from my work life, enabling me to spend time with family around the table and with God delighting in nature.

In her book entitled 'Sabbath', Nicole Slee describes Sabbath as simple, profound, radical, political, prophetic, revolutionary, a form of resistance. The cessation of our labours, the turning aside into another space, both physical and spiritual... a pause, an invitation into not-doing, not-knowing, not-intending, not-working, not-pursuing... a spiritual, physical, biological necessity; a positive and holy thing; another way of walking; a key that unlocks another world.

We need Sabbath to step back from the habitual round of absorbing activity – in order to bring us back to our senses, to enable us to recover our sense of ourselves: to hear our song and to sing it. Sabbath reminds us that we are made for joy, for beauty, for glory: to shine out with the particular glory that is ours and ours alone and that will reflect, in a way that no other life can, something of the glory of God.

For those of you looking forward to some time off in the next few weeks, I encourage you to embrace all that your Sabbath rest has in store for you.

Rachel McCallam

Learning and Development Manager

How will you take part?



Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

3-5 October | NEC Birmingham



Join one of our fabulous volunteer teams

 Care  Help  Engage

With roles to suit anyone, bring your gifts to a fabulous volunteer team and have a weekend to remember.

Find out more about the different roles and sign-up at methodist.org.uk/3GenYobs

Volunteer at 3Generate for a Journey of a Lifetime!

"A calming balm", "completely amazing", "one of the highlights of my year" - Testimonies from volunteers at 3Generate 2024.

3Generate, the country's largest Christian youth assembly, is back at the NEC, Birmingham, this October - and we need you to join our passionate team of volunteers! With over 25 venues to be a part of, alongside operational and care teams, there are roles for anyone regardless of experience, age or ability.

Join us to help children and young people tune into God and take the next step on their Journey of a Lifetime!

Find out more about the wide range of roles available and how you can join the team on our [website](#).

If you would like to order flyers to promote 3Generate in your local context, you can do so [here](#).



LWPT Tuition Grants – Supporting Bible-Based Ministry Studies

The Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust offers tuition grants for **Methodists** pursuing church-based ministry at UK institutions.

Funding Available:

- Up to £2,000 for tuition
- Up to £500 for books/resources

Eligible studies include certificate, diploma, and undergraduate degree programs that benefit church ministry.

Application Deadlines: October 3rd & May 3rd

To apply, email lwptoffice@lwpt.org.uk.

Download the application form [here](#).

Looking for fresh ways to connect beyond traditional church walls? This issue explores expressions of faith that meet people where they are featuring Steve Walton on Acts, Michael Moynagh on Fresh Expressions, and a look inside a 'wrestling church.' Plus interviews with Tyler Staton, Andrew Sach, and more.

Grab your copy (digital or print) [here](#).



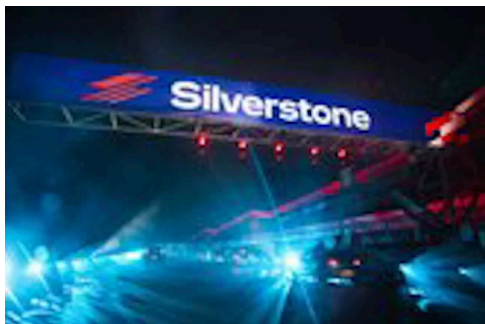


Interview Tyler Staton | (RE)Introducing the Holy Spirit | Preach Magazine's Andy Peck

LWPT is delighted to share two interviews that will enrich your communication of God's word in any context He places you.

Tyler Staton speaks on reintroducing the Holy Spirit through his book *The Familiar Stranger* [Watch now](#)

Andrew Sach unpacks the depth of 1 & 2 Kings in his new *Dig Deeper* volume [Watch here](#)



Evangelism at Silverstone

On the Woodcote corner of the F1 track at Silverstone, amongst all the F1 shops, Methodist volunteers ran a wellbeing and conversation space during the British Grand Prix. The Pit Stop offered a space to rest, reflect and refuel, free of charge, with comfy seats and conversation. With 160,000 people at Silverstone at peak times, it was a very loud and at times overwhelming environment. At the Pit Stop people could take a break, build Lego F1 cars, squeeze stress balls and chat with volunteers. Conversation went deep quickly, getting beyond "Hi, how are you?" and into the big questions of life. People brought the burdens of life with them and happily discussed them with strangers. Some used the prayer jar. At the end of each day, volunteers prayed for all the people they'd met. Elsewhere on site, an interfaith prayer room was very popular, particularly with Muslim guests, and a Methodist church outside Silverstone, on the way to the campsite, offered a drop-in with free phone charging and cake. The team were amazed at the wealth of opportunities to connect, and sometimes pray, with people who would never be seen in a church building on a Sunday morning.

What festivals are happening near you? Check out [these pages](#) for advice and resources to help you engage with unaffiliated people at your own local festivals

Certificate in **Coaching for Christian Leaders**

Monday 16th March to **CLIFF**
Friday 20th March 2026 **COLLEGE**

This short course is designed to develop coaching skills and will be useful for anyone who is coaching leaders. With a focus on pioneer church planters and fresh expressions leaders, the course is deliberately biased towards that setting.

The skills you will learn will also help in everyday conversations and in the way that you work with teams or in meetings. It will also be useful for anyone in Christian leadership.

COURSE TUTORS



Elaine Lindridge



Rachel McCallam

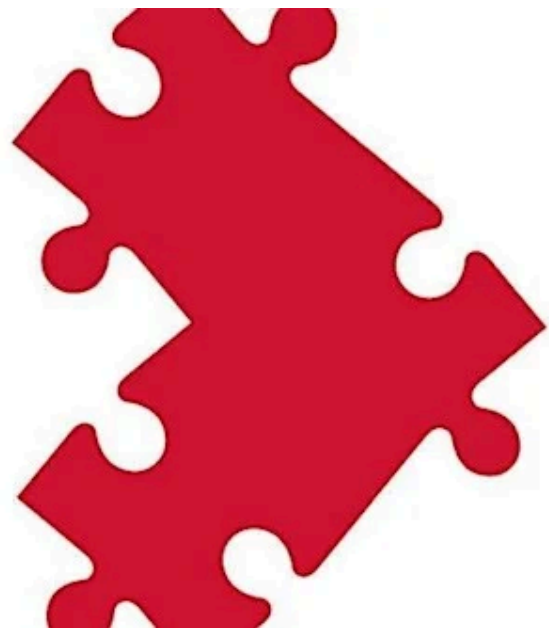


Andrea Vertigan

Visit the Cliff College Website for more information

<https://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/courses/onsite-short/coaching-for-christian-leaders>

Worship: leading & preaching



Local Preachers Secretaries Drop In Session

An opportunity to meet with others from around the UK to share ideas and concerns. The Zoom meeting will last 90 minutes and will include short introductions to topics of interest, time for informal

discussion, and time for Q&A.

Click [here](#) to book.



Explore is an opportunity for any member of the Methodist Church in Britain to take a breath, step back, and consider how they are called to respond to God's call through worship, learning & caring, evangelism or service. The taster evening allows you to meet the facilitators and get a sense of how the course is delivered.

Click [here](#) to book.



New to Reflective Supervision? Essential skills and info for first time supervisees

If you are about to receive Reflective Supervision for the first time, book in to one of these 3 hour sessions to find out more about it. During our time together, we'll explore what Supervision is, why it matters and how to get the most out of it so you're fully prepared for your first session.

This event is highly practical, offering you a chance to experience skills used in supervision, and to see a live demonstration.

Click [here](#) for upcoming dates.



The Leadership Year is an exciting opportunity for 18-30 year olds in the Methodist Church who want to invest time in developing their leadership abilities. It is aimed at those who may just be starting out in a leadership role, or who are wanting to be involved in leadership, either within or outside of the Church.

It includes 3 residential weekends (Nov, March, July), an option to meet with a mentor and being part of a small group. All details and application form are [here](#).

Applications close on 21st Sept.



Rural Mission & Ministry Course:

Only 8 spaces remaining on September's Rural Mission & Ministry Course. All Methodist delegates (lay & ordained) receive a 50% bursary. Please contact [Sarah Hulme](#) for further details, Dates for 2026 also now available to book, including a weekend option.



Foundations units from Cliff College – now available for £200 each

Cliff College's Foundations units are now available for £200 each to students who are training as Local Lay Pastors, supported by their local Methodist church, circuit or district. Explore high-quality online learning on a range of topics, including chaplaincy, biblical studies, leadership and children's, youth and family ministry. Each unit lasts 15 weeks and can be taken entirely online from anywhere in the world.

Units usually cost £400, but Cliff College has 50 subsidised places available for 2025-26 for students with a letter of support provided by their local Methodist church, circuit or district. For more information and to apply, [visit the Cliff College website.](#)



GET IN TOUCH !

The next newsletter is due to come out on Wednesday 20th August.

For any submissions, please email [Funmi.Oyedokun](mailto:Funmi.Oyedokun@methodist.org.uk) by **4pm Friday 1st August**.

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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