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Learning & Development Newsletter

Message from Lorraine Darlow

Welcome to the Learning & Development Newsletter!

I'm always conscious when it gets to August, amidst the juggling of school holidays and summer breaks, that the last weeks of summer are to be relished. It's been a typical rainy summer in Scotland so far, with more cooler than warmer days – something I am grateful for when some days seem uncomfortably hot, especially when travelling.

My favourite thing about summer is the light early mornings, where the peace of the day offers some quiet moments to breathe in the freshness of the day and take in the wonders of God's glorious creation. Autumn will approach quickly, and the colours will change, signalling a new season, when daylight hours will reduce and we will begin to prepare for a season with different rhythms to our days.

For the Church, we'll have the opportunity to reflect on the year gone by, celebrating all it brought and all we have learnt to take into the next Connexional year. And in the Learning Network, we'll say goodbye to wonderful colleagues and welcome new ones into our team.

With changing seasons and transitions, the wonderful ebb and flow of the glory of God in all of creation is to be marvelled. I look forward with excited anticipation about the darker nights as they approach and bring cold, grey days that will take us to winter, where our home will become a cosy haven from the wind and rain but still filled with the wonder of the next season. There is always glory to be found all around us, despite the changes we see, for God is always right there with us, showing us the potential to touch the world with something quite glorious.

I wonder how you see the glory of God in the everyday?

A friend reminded me of this prayer recently by George Macleod, founder of the Iona Community and one of the most important and unconventional ministers of the Church of Scotland in his day. I found it helpful to pause and see God in my day and circumstances. I hope it might be helpful to you too.

Almighty God

Sun behind all suns, soul within all souls.

Show to us in everything we touch and in everyone we meet

the continued assurance of thy presence round us, lest ever we should think thee absent.

In all created things Thou art there.

In every friend we have the sunshine of Thy presence is shown forth.

In every enemy that seems to cross our path,

Thou art there within the cloud to challenge us to love.

Show to us the glory in the grey.

Awake for us Thy presence in the very storm till all our joys are seen as Thee

and all our trivial tasks emerge as priestly sacraments in the universal temple of Thy love.

George MacLeod, *The Whole Earth Shall Cry Glory: Iona Prayers* (Wild Goose Publications: Glasgow), New edition 2007, 13–14.

Lorraine Darlow

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.

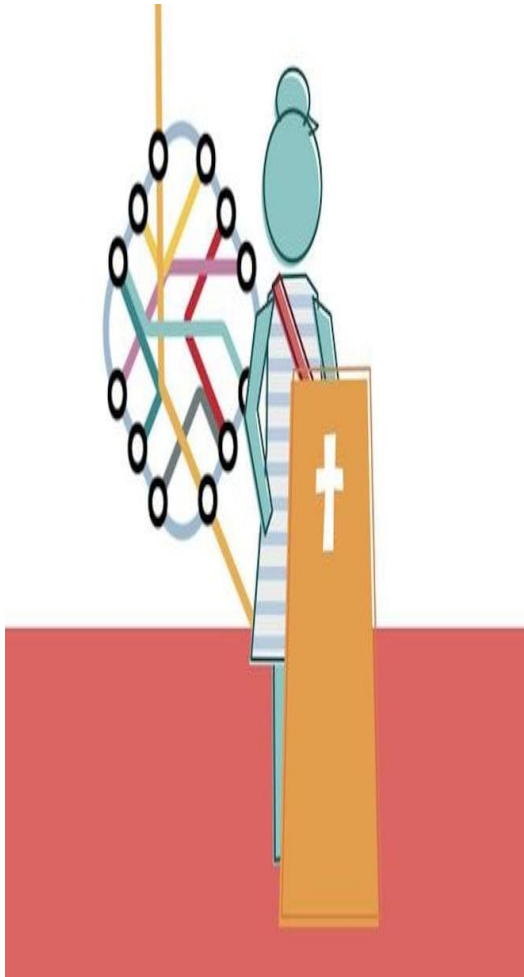
Find out more about the different roles and sign-up at methodist.org.uk/3GenYols

Join the 3Generate Delivery Team today!

Want to be a part of a passionate team of volunteers helping children and young people take the next steps on their Journey of a Lifetime? Then the 3Generate Delivery Team needs you!

Join either our venue, operations or care teams and make a huge difference in the spiritual development of children and young people from across the Connexion. With roles for any age, experience or ability, there is a place on the team for everyone!

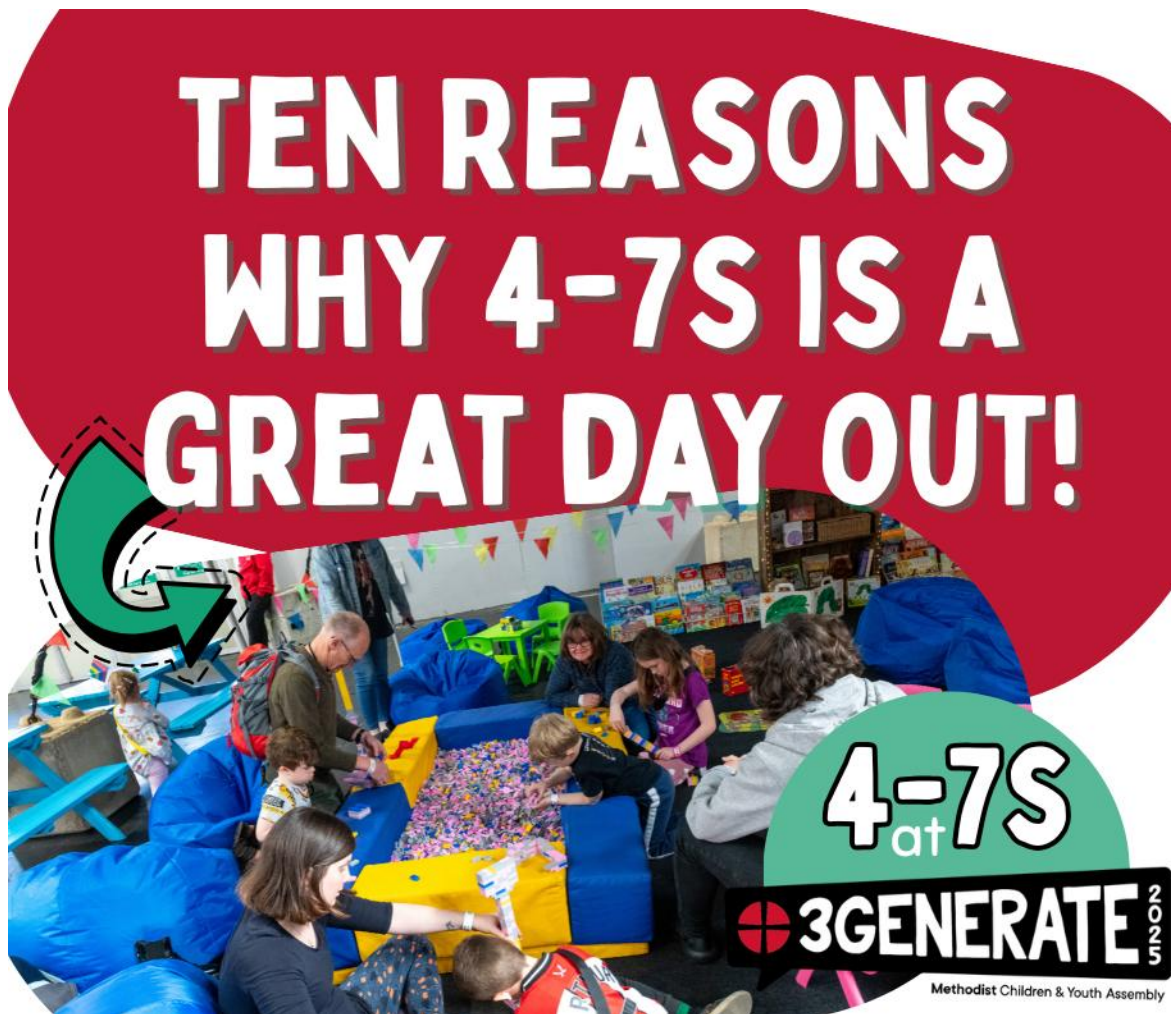
Find out more about the roles available and sign up [here](http://methodist.org.uk/3GenYols)



New discipleship series

Do you have a Local Arrangement coming up this summer? Explore our four new, editable discipleship outlines, designed to encourage and challenge worshippers to consider who God is, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus in every moment of our lives.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Join in 4-7s at 3Generate

There is still plenty of time to book places in the 4-7s venue at 3Generate on **Saturday 4th October**. A special place for younger children to join in with their significant adults (whether that's parents, carers, grandparents or others they know well!). Do you have contact with families with younger children through your Messy Church, a local school or new housing development? Why not gather a group and bring them along. A chance to grow connections and friendships, explore faith and build community together.

If you're already coming to 3Generate, why not organise for families and households to come for the day? Do speak with a District Ambassador or District staff to find out more about financial support and making travel arrangements.

What can you expect when you come along?

10 Reasons why 4-7s is a great day out:

1. A wealth of different activities to explore faith and have fun
2. Active, busy times as well as quieter, restful ones
3. Learn song and dance moves with ISingPOP
4. See and hear interactive stories and the bible brought to life with B Tales
5. Spark the imagination with role play in Little City
6. Choose what to take part in from timed sessions to free-play rolling programme activities
7. All meals and refreshments
8. Children's tickets are £50 and adults come for free!
9. Support for children with additional needs
10. A Meet Up Space to hang out with others at 3Generate!

Find out more and book tickets [here](#)

Upcoming Learning Opportunities



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

The **Methodist** Church 

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.

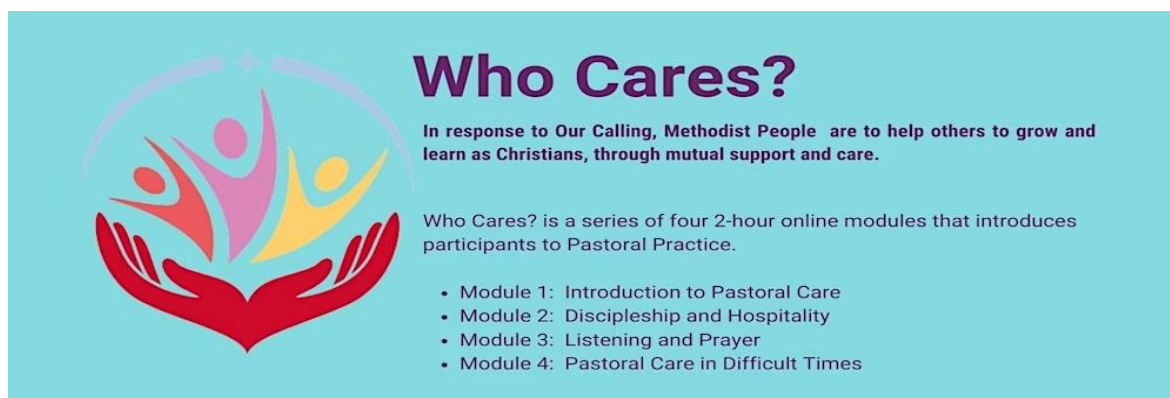
Click [here](#) for upcoming dates.



AI and Theological Education

Exploring Digital Lunchtime Learning is back with a series exploring the place of Artificial Intelligence in life and ministry.

Click [here](#) to book.



Who Cares? An intro to pastoral care

Who Cares? is a series of four 2-hour sessions that introduces participants to the possibilities of pastoral care – creating appropriate environments and developing practices that welcome, support and care for others in their role.

Click [here](#) to book



Lay Orientation Training Day

A day for new Lay Employees to meet, explore their role, understand Methodism and get to grips with key employment practices and much more!

Click [here](#) to book.

Leadership Learning Space 2025/26

Applications are now open for *Leadership Learning Space (LLS)*, an enriching initiative from the Methodist Church, designed to equip both lay and ordained leaders with practical skills and spiritual insights.

LLS runs across eight Monday evening sessions, each carefully curated to explore key aspects of leadership, including vision casting, decision-making, nurturing others, and personal growth.

To express your interest in the cohort beginning in October 2025, please [email us](#) by 31 August 2025.

The poster features a green background with a black polka-dot pattern. At the top left, a calendar shows 'September 9 Tuesday' and 'October 14 Tuesday'. To the right, the text '7-9^{BST} PM' is displayed, with 'sign up now' written in red cursive below it. The title 'wholehearted monthly' is at the top right, with a red heart icon above the word 'whole'. A curved banner across the middle reads 'online and immersive' and 'monthly spiritual series'. Below this, a white banner says 'with special guests'. The names 'Jaz Ampaw-Farr' and 'Steve Chalke' are written in white on black banners over their respective photos. At the bottom left, it says 'Hosted by The Methodist Church open to all' with a small red cross logo.

September 9 Tuesday

October 14 Tuesday

7-9^{BST} PM

sign up now

wholehearted monthly

online and immersive

monthly spiritual series

with special guests

Jaz Ampaw-Farr

Steve Chalke

Hosted by
The Methodist Church
open to all

Wholehearted monthly mission series

We'll be joined by **Jaz Ampaw-Farr** (9th September) and **Steve Chalke** (14th October) - both passionate advocates for children and young people.

What is *Wholehearted monthly*? Think community organising rally meets immersive spiritual laboratory. It's for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" - and a desire for both to flourish. Each month, testimony from local innovators, input from a renowned guestspeaker, and wisdom-sharing in networks around Gospel justice, inclusion, evangelism, and growth.

Click [here](#) to register.

Exploring Theology

Exploring the Bible

Autumn term

23 Sept to 25 Nov

Tues eves online 7 to 9pm

£100/£200 with essays



Sarum College

Would you like new tools to read and encounter the Scriptures faithfully and fruitfully in everyday life?

Explore the Bible with our friends at Sarum College, starting with an introduction to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the New Testament during the Autumn 2025 and Winter 2026 terms. The third term in Spring 2026 covers the various ways in which we read, interpret, understand, and make meaning of the Bible.

There is an option to submit two assignments for feedback. This option includes two study skills sessions. Contact the programme leader, [The Revd Anna Bishop](#) for all essay enquiries.

For more information, click [here](#).

To see what else Sarum College has on offer this Autumn, click [here](#).



Have something you want to see in this monthly email?

The next newsletter is due to come out on Wednesday 24th September.

For any submissions, please email [Funmi Oyedokun](#) by **4pm Wednesday 10th September.**

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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