



March 2013

Learning *Matters*

South-East District Training Office

Keeping you in touch with learning and training opportunities –
see also the Learning section of the District website www.methodistsoutheast.org.uk

Distributed to: S-E District Superintendents, Presbyters, Deacons, Lay Employees, Senior Circuit Stewards/Area Officers. Please share this with your leadership team. It is produced both as a Word-compatible and as a PDF document to overcome any compatibility issues. Should you wish to print or forward this bulletin, please use the PDF version.

Following positive feedback given last time, items **just** for those who are ordained come later in the bulletin. If you are a presbyter or deacon, please scan the early part too to encourage your congregations in their learning and ministry.

Remember the opportunity for lay members of your church to learn more about either ordained ministry or lay employment with The Methodist Church. Please encourage them to book for '**Journey**', the **south-east regional vocational exploration day** at Bromley Methodist Church, Sat 4 May 2013. Programme and booking form at <http://www.methodistsoutheast.org.uk/conferences>

Fresh Expressions and Pioneering– there are many useful resources and events encouraging ways of being church in the 21st century – click on <http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/> - to read about

- a new course, 'mission shaped info' (available to download),
- an international conference in Cambridge (1-6 Sep 2013) and
- the work of associate missionaries up and down the UK, many of them Methodists.

Are you aware of the **Methodist Church's Research Network?**

Visit <http://methodist-research.ning.com/> to see who is involved and what kind of subjects are being researched. It has an online forum and blog posts. A useful starting place if you are looking for a speaker for your church or event.

Methodist Small Groups national conference (with Cell UK) 7-8 May 2013 in Northampton. Contributors include Mark Wakelin, the President of the Methodist Conference, and Jenny Ellis, Evangelism, Spirituality and Discipleship Coordinator in the Connexional Team. Further details from esdadmin@methodistchurch.org.uk

‘Step Forward’, a discipleship resource for small groups.

Written by Rev Dr Mark Wakelin and produced by the Guy Chester Centre, this is being widely used around the Connexion. To find out more, click on <http://www.stepforward-training.org.uk> or, to know what’s happening locally, <http://www.methodistsoutheast.org.uk/resources>

The Methodist UK One Programme comes to Dover

Esther Salisbury, 17-year old One Programme Participant (OPP), writes:

‘I work alongside the youth worker, lay minister and volunteers at the Cross-Links Centre in Dover reaching out to young people, to provide a safe place and an area to relax, along with our well-known hot chocolate mountains,... I am also setting up a South-East 3Generate Facebook page for Methodist youth.

‘The opportunity I have been given as an OPP has allowed me to influence not only the lives of other young people and children, but its challenges have greatly impacted the way I think and live; growing me into a stronger disciple of God’.

To find out more about Esther’s work, visit The Well at <http://www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/worker/resources-workers/the-well/> or www.crosslinksdover.org.uk

‘Reflect’ – Methodists supporting spirituality and retreats. Check out this website <http://www.reflectretreats.co.uk/> for booking information for retreats and workshops. Places are filling up for 14th - 16th June 2013 – ‘Exploring Celtic Christianity through words and art’. Venue: Ladywell Convent, Godalming, Surrey GU7. Enquiries to Brian Sherrell - tel 01883 370945 - e-mail: brian-car@hotmail.co.uk

Wanting to study theology? The South East Institute for Theological Education (**SEITE**), in London and Canterbury, offers a variety of opportunities to study theology for Christian ministry at undergraduate level, by taking specific modules or working towards university awards. For more information, visit www.seite.co.uk or email administrator@seite.co.uk

Sarum College in Salisbury offers various short courses and Days of Spiritual Reflection, an MA in Theology, Imagination and Culture, and an MA in Christian Approaches to Leadership. Visit the website for more information or phone 01722 424800 for a brochure. NB. Dr Paula Gooder gives the 2013 Sarum Theological Lectures at 7pm on 9-12 July in Salisbury Cathedral. Her theme: ‘Encountering God with the whole of our being’.

Introduction to Biblical Care and Counselling Mon-Fri, 10-14 June 2013, Pilgrim Hall, East Sussex. For more information and their full range of courses, go to www.pilgrimhall.com/courses, <mailto:pilgrim@cwr.org.uk> or phone 01825 840295.

For preachers and worship leaders – there is a huge online library of resources, much of it free to download, at www.rootsontheweb.com

Worship Leaders training – at present the course recommended by the Methodist Connexion is the pack available from Methodist Publishing – see <http://www.mph.org.uk> It was written by David Burfield in 2000 and costs £10.00.

‘Joy in the moment’ - a learning day (for ministers, and lay workers with pastoral responsibility) will be held on Wed 27 November 2013 in Hassocks, near Brighton. Theme: pastoral care of those with dementia, in the context of church and home. Leader: Fran Ruthven, URC minister with special responsibility for Older People Ministry. Organised by our District and the URC Southern Synod. Further info and booking form at <http://www.methodistsoutheast.org.uk/training-events>

MediaLit13 is a one-week intensive course about Media Literacy, for anyone concerned to connect Christian faith with communication in a digital age. 17-21 June 2013, at St John’s Durham, hosted by CODEC and The Church & Media Network. Find out more at <http://bit.ly/medialit13> or by emailing the Codec Administrator at theresa.phillips@durham.ac.uk

With thanks to the Adult Education Friday Mailing (Church of England) for the following quote by Will Durant: *‘Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.’*

Grants for courses are available for both lay and ordained. Grant forms can be downloaded from <http://methodistsoutheast.org.uk> (click on ‘Grants’ in the “Oversight” menu). NB. The normal process for funding CDIM (for ordained ministers) is one third of cost by the minister or their Circuit, one third by the District and one third by the Connexion, up to a maximum of £300 pa. The Connexional contribution is administered by the District so an application needs only to be made to the District.

Making churches safer

The Methodist Church is undertaking a comprehensive review of **every safeguarding matter** it has dealt with over the past sixty years in order to learn the lessons of the past. The independent Past Cases Review will see letters sent to all church leaders throughout Britain asking them to share the details of all relevant cases, dating back to 1950. Find out more and check out the review timetable [here](#).

For presbyters and deacons

‘Effective leadership in a Methodist context’, a CDIM event for S-E District ministers Tuesday, 21 May 2013, The Friars, Aylesford Priory, Kent ME20 7BX. Probationers and those in first five years of ministry to meet the previous day as well. Click here for [programme and booking form](#). This also flags up the autumn CDIM day which will be on Fri 25 October 2013, on the theme of Discipleship.

‘Contemporary Insights into the Psalms for Preaching and Ministry’ – Summer School, joint with URC Southern Synod, at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Herts. 10-13 June 2013. With Rev Dr Peter Hatton, Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris and other speakers. Details at <http://www.methodistsoutheast.org.uk/training-events>

Portfolio Day, Wesley House Cambridge, Sat 29 June 2013 (for those already candidating for ministry). Further details from Ann Howlett-Foster, Training Officer, Beds, Essex and Herts District & East Anglia District. Email: ann.howlett-foster-to@ntlworld.com Tel: 07590 893950.

A Superintendents’ course will be run on 20-22 May 2013 at the Horwood House Hotel, Milton Keynes. Booking details at the connexional [Superintendents web page](#)

Preparation for Retirement courses | 2013-2014

The Connexional Team runs preparation for retirement courses for Methodist ministers approaching retirement. Ideally, we recommend that people attend this course 12-18 months before they are due to sit down. An external retirement consultant, along with a retired minister and his spouse, runs the course in conjunction with the Connexional Team's pensions and housing experts. Spouses are also invited to attend. At the time of going to press, places are available on

Tuesday 5 - Thursday 7 November 2013 at Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire
Tuesday 18 - Thursday 20 March 2014 Wydale Hall, Scarborough, North Yorkshire

To reserve a place on either of the above courses please visit the [online registration page](#). For any further queries about the retirement courses, please email cdim@methodistchurch.org.uk

This issue of ‘Learning Matters’ (March 2013) is produced by Sarah Middleton, South-East District Training Officer. Your feedback is welcomed. Thank you.

Sarah may be contacted at sarah.middleton@methodistsoutheast.org END