

North West &
Mann Learning
Network Region



"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" the woman at the well inviting her community to wonder with her about Jesus. This edition of the newsletter has lots of information to support preachers and worship leaders, children, young people, lay and ordained adults in leadership in local church who we hope all invite others in our communities to wonder about Jesus.

As is now the norm in this edition of the North West & Mann Learning & Development Network Newsletter, we have a variety of topics and it starts with an index so you can see what's in it and head straight to that or read it all. Please do share this with others and if they contact us we will happy add them to our mailing list too.

- **Resources for Local Arrangements and team/themed preaching**
- **Worship: Leading & Preaching – tutor training**
- **Transformative Bible studies and Bible month**
- **Positive working together – Growing through Conflict**
- **3Generate – very good news for this region**
- **Synod report and contact details**

Resources for Local Arrangements

On the Methodist Church website, there is an ever increasing section, under the heading '[Readers' Services](#)', of resources for use in Local Arrangements. These include an all age worship 5,000 Smarties act of worship, through to an Easter worship exploring 'the ultimate question'.

Also, there are some [new pilot materials](#) for use in Local Arrangements. If you use this, please do let us know the feedback.

Also, colleagues of ours in the Bristol and West Midlands region have produced some simple service outlines, or small group outlines to support four of the sections in the Holiness & Justice pamphlet that the President and Vice-President put together with Ric Stott. These appear below...

[A sense of holiness](#)
[A gift of holiness](#)
[Walking the path together](#)
[Holy living](#)

HOLINESS AND JUSTICE



Resources for team / themed preaching

There are lots of Circuits and Churches using some great materials for themed / team preaching; please do share those with us and we will compile them on the Pinterest account – search for Methodist Church DMLN and you will find all our boards, or use the #themedpreaching. The three below are what are currently on the Pinterest board so even if you're not on Pinterest you can access these three ideas...

Andrew Roberts "Holy Habits"; this book is useful as there are clear sections which can be picked up week by week. This is a useful resource for churches looking to become more outwork looking and intentionally missional.

Brian McLaren "Naked Spirituality"; again this is a good resource because it has sections which can easily be picked up week by week, and if people missed a week then they can still benefit. This resource is good for resources adults to deepen our spirituality.

Robert Schnase "5 Practices of a fruitful congregation"; again because there are, in this case five clear sections, one can be taken each week, although there is so much that can be said for each heading that you could do much more than one week on each. This resource is helpful for how we be a healthy gathered church community.

Groups of preachers have read the same book and then decided which parts of the book they will each preach. Some have team planned so that there is a range of approaches over the weeks for the congregations.

Worship: Leading & Preaching

There are 998 people currently registered across the Connexion on the Worship: Leading & Preaching course.



In this region, we have trained 119 people as either tutors or mentors over the last 18 months, and 46 people this Connexional year.

Tutor training: we will now start offering less tutor training sessions year on year

and we are training up people within Districts to take on that role because that team of volunteers will be more able to offer training days on demand and within the District. However, we still have five tutor training dates over the coming months and into the next Connexional year:

All sessions 10:00am to 4:00pm; please bring your lunch and booking essential via Rob at nwmannnetwork@gmail.com and more info from Jasmine devadasonj@methodistchurch.org.uk

Saturday 8 April 2017 at Sale Moor Methodist Church, M33 2PP

Saturday 17 June 2017 in the Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District

Saturday 23 September 2017 at Ashton Methodist Church, Preston, PR2 1DG

Saturday 13 January 2018 in the Bolton area

Saturday 9 June 2018 in the Manchester area

Mentor training: the mentor training resources have been sent to all Superintendents and District Local Preachers' Secretaries. You can use those resources either in an evening at a Preachers and Worship Leaders' meeting, or you can take parts of it and use a small section at a time in a meeting, or use it for a Continual Local Preachers' Development (CLPD) half day.

Top tips: our colleagues around the Connexion have put together film shorts of 'Top Tips' highlighting the key things for those involved in training people using Worship: Leading & Preaching and these can all be [found here](#).

Assessing portfolios:

Deadlines occur bi-annually and are the same as the familiar Faith & Worship Spring and autumn deadlines.

Submission deadlines for 2016-17 therefore were 30 September 2016 and will be 31 March 2017. And this is the general rule each year.

Portfolios should be submitted only after the tutor has completed the first stage of marking and has assessed the portfolio as 'criteria met'.

This is then moderated regionally after which there is Connexional moderation. Then there are dates regionally for all tutors who have a student who has completed a portfolio to hear feedback on the marking. However, over the next cycle we are opening these days up to all tutors, whether you have a student with a completed portfolio or not and we will use the time to build confidence about marking and giving both formative and summative feedback. 13 May 2017 | 11 November 2017 at Fulwood Methodist Church, Preston.

Transforming Bible Studies

This a new resource that offers a number of approaches or methods for reading and

engaging with the Bible. These sample Bible studies explore different ways in which preachers and ministers and other church leaders can explore Biblical texts, demonstrating how Scripture speaks to the social settings and experiences of everyday life. Each Bible study offers a different method and approach to interpreting the Biblical text, drawing on the insights of the latest thinking in experienced based or contextual readings of the Bible. We offer these studies as a means of deepening your engagement with and understanding of the Bible and its continued power to challenge and transform us, both as individuals and as churches.

120 people have attended one of the pilots for these six new Bible studies and these are now all written up and ready for you to take them and lead them for leaders in your context. In due course it may be possible to download but for now email [Jasmine](#) or [Anthony](#) for copies.

Bible Month is in June and this year the focus is the book of James. There are now [lots of resources](#) on the Connexional website to help you plan the month and resources to support preachers and small group leaders in teaching and preaching on the book of James.

Growing through Conflict

Growing through Conflict - Foundation Day for church leaders - lay and ordained. Consider your 'conflict style' and how you respond in difficult or tense situations. Explore how conflict escalates in a church context and begin to consider some tools to de-escalate conflict.

Venues and dates (all 9:30am to 4:00pm):
Wednesday 24 May at Court Hey Methodist Church, Liverpool, L14 3NU
Monday 15 May at Dukinfield Methodist Church, SK16 4LE
Saturday 17 June at St. Paul's, Blackburn, BB1 1DH
Monday 10 July at Lower Bebington, Wirral, CH63 2LW
Monday 9 October at Chorlton Methodist Church, M21 9JG

Bookings via Rob at nwmannnetwork@gmail.com or for more info about the day contact Brec at seatonb@methodistchurch.org.uk

There are two **Growing through Conflict - Further Skills Days** for those of you have attended the Foundation Days and want to further develop your skills: 22 June at Cheadle Hulme (SK8 7AL) and 3 July at Bamber Bridge (PR5 6ED), both from 9:30am to 4:00pm. As ever booking is essential via Rob at nwmannnetwork@gmail.com. Please [click here](#) for further details

3Generate: very good news for this Region!

3Generate 2017 will take place from 24 to 26 November at Pontins, Southport - a new LARGER venue and it is in this Region.



3Generate is an action-packed and inspiring weekend for hearing the voice of children and young people across the Methodist Church, focusing on fun, faith and friends. To

see what happened at the past events, including the most recent, visit the [YouTube channel](#).

Who is 3Generate for? If you're aged between 8 and 23, 3Generate is for you! There are lots of activities and entertainment for you to choose from, largely organised in three separate age streams: **8-11s** (school years 4-6), **11-18s** (school years 7-13) and **18-23s**.

There will be some other changes this year too...

For the first time, children and young people and their leaders can attend as a group.

Groups will stay in accommodation, together with their leaders, who will be responsible for their care throughout the event. Leaders will attend the event for free and only need to cover their travel costs.

Tickets for this year's event will go on sale on 24 April 2017.

In 2016, 3Generate welcomed over 600 children and young people aged 8 to 23 from all over the country. At the event, [Manifestoes](#) for 2017 were produced by each of the three age streams which present the areas of life the children and young people want to focus on at 3Gen but also in local church life.

3Generate is a weekend and it is also something which feeds in to the whole of the year. Therefore you are invited to put on a [3Gen Big Sleepover](#) whether your children and young people attended the weekend or not. There are resources to help you with the practicalities of that, ideas for games and worship and how to session plan.

Spring Synod Report 2017

Here is the [link](#) to our report to Spring Synod 2017.

Contact Us...

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