

North West &  
Mann Learning  
Network Region

The Methodist Church 

## Happy New Connexional Year!

This is a short newsletter to highlight two things...

1. The Belonging Conference on Thursday 13 September
2. Our new staff team and a reminder about how to contact us and ask those at Synod to look out for us and have a chat



The poster features the word "Belonging" in large blue font at the top. Below it, the subtitle "Including children and young people with additional needs" is written in a smaller blue font. The central image shows a row of colorful silhouettes representing diverse people: a child, a man, a woman, a child, a woman with a shopping bag, a person in a wheelchair, a woman, a child, and a family. At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text: "A one-day live streamed conference" on the left and "Thursday 13 September 2018, 9.30am-2.30pm" on the right.

After the great success of All Together last September, there is another live streamed conference, this time with a particular focus on including children and young people with additional needs. The event is on Thursday 13 September 2018.

How? Like last year, you can just log on and watch. Or you can get together with a few other people, register your get together and then others can find you and join you.

Where? Also like last year, the Learning Network are working with a few churches who are hosts and we encourage you to join them (click the location to send an email):

[Rosehill Methodist School in Ashton](#)

[Church House, Penrith](#)

[Cornerstone, West Derby, Liverpool](#)

[Swan Bank, Burslem](#)

[The Triangle Methodist Church, New Church Road, Bolton, BL1 5QP](#)

(Please note that Charing Cross in Birkenhead are no longer a host church as they will be in the studio!)

However you join in, either at home, or at a host venue, or in your own small group, please [register here](#) and then you will get all the joining info you need for a smooth experience.

What? There will be practical advice, speakers, lightening talks, stories from people on the ground, discussion space.

Why? We are loved and made in the image of God. Some of us find life very challenging due to physical disabilities, learning disabilities, mental illness and trauma. For us all, belonging in church is a precious thing. This day conference helps us all as church to explore ways to be sure that together we can all belong.

[Click here](#) for a flyer.

### **Who are the North West & Mann Learning & Development Team?**



[Alison Ransome](#) has an overall coordination role, acts as the point of contact for the Isle of Man. 07799 900474



[Brec Seaton](#) acts as the point of contact for Cumbria District, and leads on Positive Working Together (bullying & harassment, and conflict), pastoral care training, circuit vision and strategy, rural ministry. 07799 900469



[Jasmine Devadason](#) acts as the point of contact for Bolton & Rochdale District, and leads on Worship: Leading & Preaching, Candidates Support and Biblical Literacy. 07799 902560

[Kristie Legg](#) is new to the team, she acts as point of contact for Lancashire District, and leads on Local Lay Pastors, Lay Employees, and supports circuit vision and strategy. This is what she says about herself; growing up in Stoke in the 70/80s, I then went to university and chatted to lots of people about their faith for a PhD on sacred space for Muslims, Sikhs and Christians. Moving to Lancashire in 1999 to train young people as peer mentors to welcome diversity in schools, I then had children whom I continue to learn a great deal from. I enjoy many things but especially cake, trees and singing in a



gospel choir. I am a Methodist member and very involved in my local church. I have been volunteering since school days and comes to us after a decade of paid work coordinating volunteers for a charity. I'm very excited about this Learning and Development role and all the people I'm going to meet because for me relationships are of utmost importance, indeed I prefer the pseudonym of Kristie Lovelove as that's what I think it's all about.



[Melody Clarke](#) is new to the team and acts as point of contact for Liverpool District, and leads Fresh Expressions, ONE programme and Youth Participation. This is what she says about herself; my background is in children's work and for the last five years I have worked in multiple primary schools to connect them with faith and with their local church. I am passionate about making the Bible engaging and exciting for those who find it hard to know where to start! I studied drama and theatre at university and love putting these skills to use in my work. I am married and have an adorable toy poodle called Rey.



[Simon Sutcliffe](#) is new to the team and acts as the point of contact for Manchester & Stockport District, and leads on Theological literacy, Vocational exploration and supports Continual Development in Ministry. This is what he says about himself; I am a Methodist minister ordained at the 2005 Conference. I've served two Circuit appointments in the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District until 2010 when I became one of the first Venture FX pioneers. Since 2011, I have also worked as part time tutor for evangelism and church growth (later tutor for evangelism and pioneering ministries) at Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. I have also been part of the Pioneer Pathways design team. I'm passionate about belonging to a

learning church that can think theologically about the interface between church and world. I'm excited to be a member of the Learning Network team helping local churches engage more fruitfully with our theological tradition and their contexts. My spare time is mostly taken up by a large family, but every so often I get to escape to the mountains with a tent for a few nights or kayak down a river; and once a season I make a pilgrimage back home to watch Bradford City (lose).



[Alison Ball](#) is new to the team and works four days a week with us where she acts as point of contact for Chester & Stoke-on-Trent District, and leads on Discipleship resourcing and enabling Circuits to develop intentional discipleship strategies, Circuit steward training, pastoral supervision and 3rd Age Spirituality. 07799 902583.

A bit about Alison; she joins us from the South West Learning Network as she has moved further north. Alison was the coordinator in the SW so comes to us with a huge amount of experience and expertise. Alison has two dogs and loves adventures in her campervan.



[Edel McClean](#) works three days a week with us and leads on Spiritual life and enabling circuits to develop intentional discipleship strategies, and supports Continual Development in Ministry. 07799 902563

[Alison Hulse](#) works 2½ days a week with us and leads on the Children & Youth Work Enabler Project, is the point of contact for Pioneer Ministries. 07799 900480



### **How can you keep in touch?**

Please sign up to our newsletter to get the latest info and resources to support your ministry and Church life – to register please [visit our website](#) and sign up. There you will also find the events calendar and more detail on the ways we can support you.

Social media is how we share current and trending info:

- The [Facebook](#) page is where we advertise your events as well as those we are leading.
- [Twitter](#) is where we chat and ask questions, and tweet articles we think are of interest.
- [Pinterest](#) is an e-scrapbook where there are loads of sections and is a place to find good ideas and resources.
- The [YouTube](#) channel is where we put up mini films of people teaching and sharing testimony.
- On [Instagram](#) we visually record images, information and ideas.

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Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR 020 7486 5502 (Help Desk) [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

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