

Greetings Synod, from your colleagues in the Learning Network,

As we approach the end of the 2023-4 connexional year, we look back on a year of transition within the Learning Network structure. We have established new ways of working as ‘one Learning Network team’ to bring easier access to all the wonderful resources on offer and greater consistency in the support available. We have said goodbye to some established members of our team: Wendy Allen, Nigel Pimlott, Michael Wadsworth and Ann Howlett-Foster. We have also welcomed some new colleagues: Roxanne Bainbridge, David Knight, Tim Annan and James Key. We have developed new partnerships with you in the districts and circuits as well as with other connexional colleagues. Change is a feature of life and this has certainly been a time of change, but we are really encouraged by the number of people who have independently affirmed the changes they are witnessing in the way the Learning Network is serving the wider church. Thank you to those who have fed back to us, we need your perspectives to ensure our changed ways of working continue to meet local and connexional needs.

In the Learning Network, we are excited to mention some of the new and developing areas of our work:

* [Who Cares?](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/learning-and-development/learning-and-development-courses/caring-and-wellbeing/), a newly launched training resource for pastoral care, available to all in the church
* Supporting churches towards Eco Church (read a story [here](https://www.methodist.org.uk/action/climate/your-stories/starting-an-eco-journey-with-your-church/))
* The growing Connexional communities of practice: Circuit Stewards, Lay Employees, the Eco Community, District Reconciliation Groups, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Officers and others involved in EDI work. These are spaces for conversation and learning from others in a similar role.
* Working with our digital communications colleagues to help churches, circuits and districts strengthen their digital skills and strategy.
* Opportunities to explore vocation through the [Encounter](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/vocations/discerning-vocation/connexional-vocation-exploration-opportunities/encounter/) and [Explore](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/vocations/discerning-vocation/connexional-vocation-exploration-opportunities/exploring/) programmes.
* An updated [Safeguarding Foundation Module](https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/training/foundation-module-2024-edition-participants/), developed alongside safeguarding colleagues.
* Self-guided Circuit Steward training, launched on our online learning platform, [MCBX](https://mcb.theologyx.com/).

Reflecting ahead, we look forward to extending the line management training resources; developing support for church stewards; supporting the awesome developments in God for All 2; and seeing the flourishing of the new online Eco-Community.

For more information, please visit our website, [www.methodist.org.uk/learning](http://www.methodist.org.uk/learning), or browse the [Learning Network brochure](https://www.methodist.org.uk/documents/13616/3694_Learning_network_brochure_2024_FINAL.pdf)

Thank you for continuing to engage with our [Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/thelearningnetwork) and the [Methodist Church Resources group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/792599736213453) where you can keep up to date with the latest resources and news. These are essential spaces for keeping your church and circuit in touch.

Thank you for all that you are and all you do - sharing in prayer, mission and ministry. We are privileged to work with you and we appreciate very much all that you give in the life of the church.

The aligned Learning Network officer for the Yorkshire North and East district is Graham Jones. Through Graham you have access to the entire Learning Network to provide the right support and development for your church community. Please contact Graham to discuss any aspect of the life of your church community where there are opportunities for further learning, development, conversation and sharing, at: jonesg@methodistchurch.org.uk.