

Local Preacher 's Report.

I have been involved in Local [Preacher training on and off since 1995. It has been a real privilege to act as tutor and watch the progress being made by students. Alongside this you witness the struggles as demands of work and family come into play and the real problem of being a solo student. This makes the course more difficult; I can remember all too well being on my own for much of my local preacher training. Being part of a group offers some motivation and your fellow students should provide a supportive community.

Faced with issues around a lack of tutors it was decided, through a series of consultations, to run a group for anyone interested across the District. The basic idea being that Circuits are responsible for the assessing of worship while the Worship Leadings and Preaching course, WLP to its friends, is overseen by a lead tutor but with the idea that tutors share the leading of sessions and assess the projects the students undertake.

Our first group using this pattern started this year. It has been a learning exercise. It took the Connexion a while to work out how such an approach might be possible and even longer to create the mechanism that allows all tutors to receive their projects they need to assess. After a struggle we are there and our small band of students are getting to grips with the course. Meeting via Zoom has both its advantages and disadvantages but the group is setting into the rhythm, and are producing some interesting and thoughtful submissions. We are still in the early stages but hope that we might find a mechanism that improves the quality of training and enables those responding to a call to flourish

Richard Atkinson