**Sharing Good News from the Learning Network!**

Our Calling as the Methodist Church is to “respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.”

The Learning Network is here to support, encourage, and inspire Methodist people in all aspects of Our Calling. Together we strive to be a church that is inclusive, justice-seeking, evangelistic, and growing and these threads run through all our work with you.

**How the Learning Network Works**

The Learning Network primarily works with both lay and ordained church leaders, helping you develop your skills so you, in turn, can equip others.

To equip and resource church communities, the Learning Network collaborates with other colleagues in the Connexional Team, and with many of you in District and Circuit leadership roles, and also at times with local churches.

**District Alignment: Support for Church Leaders**

Each Learning & Development Officer is aligned with a specific Methodist District. After many months working with the District to recruit, I am delighted to be able to share good news and announce that **Gemma Willis** will be joining the Learning Network at the end of April. Gemma will be your aligned officer for Northampton District. She will be at Synod in May, please can I encourage you to introduce yourself to her there. (Gemma says she likes “proper pies, mountains, the Shetland Isles and a good book” so I am sure you will find many things to talk to her about!)

**Connexional Learning & Development: Church-Wide Initiatives**

Alongside District-based work, Learning & Development Officers contribute to wider Connexional learning and development opportunities. This work is wide ranging, here are just a few examples:

* Planning, delivering, and evaluating learning and development opportunities across the Methodist Church.
* Collaborating with colleagues across the Connexion to create resources and events that support ministry and mission.
* Leading or supporting key Connexional projects, offering expertise in areas such as leadership, safeguarding, worship, pastoral care, and theological learning.
* Many of these are offered online, reaching, networking and learning with people across the Church.

We love for as many people as possible to know of our work, and there are different ways to remain connected with us. Hopefully, at least one of these will work for you;

**Newsletter**; this comes out monthly, direct to your inbox. [Sign Up for Newsletters - The Methodist Church](https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/sign-up-for-newsletters/)

**Facebook**; There is a closed group, currently with 1300 members, where you can join for conversation about learning and development in the Methodist church, and to hear first about upcoming opportunities. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/thelearningnetwork/>

**Eventbrite**; Join over 1000 people, find out what is on offer and book your place. [Methodist Learning Network Events – Over 30 Upcoming Activities | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/methodist-learning-network-39884288273?msockid=029dd8170a73682b0df5cbf50b546918) including learning events for circuit stewards, lay employees, line managers, supervisors. Find out about the eco-church community, learn about Unconscious Bias or how to respond well to bullying or harassment.

**Methodist Church Website;** There are many learning and development opportunities within the church, some we lead and some by other colleagues. [Direct link to the Learning Network pages.](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/learning-and-development/about-the-learning-network/)

As I write Gemma’s email (willisg@methodistchurch.org.uk) and telephone are being set in place. I hope these will be active before Synod and announcements will follow when they are live. It has been my pleasure to be with you over recent months and I thank you for your patience whilst recruitment has taken place. I know you will make Gemma as welcome as you have made me. Thank you.

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