



Leading Worship and Preaching in the Scotland and Shetland Methodist Districts

These are exciting times for preaching and the leading of worship as we find ourselves working in new ways and broadening our approach. The task of forming worship leaders and preachers for the Methodist Church in Scotland and Shetland is something in which we can all be involved, whether or not we ourselves feel called to either of those roles. The course currently in use is called **Worship: Leading and Preaching**. It is a student-centred course, with most of the learning taking place online but regular meetings with the mentor, tutor and other students form an integral part of the training. Worship Leaders undertake selected studies from the first half of the course, Local Preachers complete the full course.

All of us can pray for those who lead worship and preach and pray that more may be called to these roles.

Members of all congregations can give helpful feedback to those who are in training in these roles. The course offers both short and long forms which can be used for this purpose and suggests ways in which feedback can be given helpfully, reflectively and constructively.

Mentors are needed to accompany both worship leaders and local preachers through their training period. Such mentors would normally already be accredited in the role for which they are mentoring. Training and guidance can be offered to anyone willing to be a mentor.

Tutors oversee the programme of study and are another vital part in the formation process. Ideally each circuit appoints a tutor, but we are also looking at ways of involving more people in tutoring which might cross circuit boundaries. An outline of the **Worship: Leading and Preaching** course can be found on the WLP pages of the Scotland district website (see below) or contact shetland.methodist@gmail.com from Shetland. This describes each of the 24 sections of the course; if you feel you could offer some tutoring in one or more of these, without taking on the full tutor role, that could be very welcome! Again, training, guidance and support are available.

Anyone sensing a call as a Worship Leader or Local Preacher would speak to their minister initially, and to the superintendent and would then be matched with a mentor and a tutor to guide them through a training course which is an ongoing journey of discernment, as well as learning.

Please consider prayerfully whether you may have something to offer to the formation of worship leaders and preachers in the Methodist Church in Scotland and in Shetland; perhaps you have another skill or area of expertise which could be shared with those pursuing their calling?

If you would like to talk further about anything here, do contact your circuit Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary or your superintendent minister in the first instance, or contact Lorraine Darlow in the Learning Network (darlowl@methodistchurch.org.uk), the District Local Preachers & Worship Leaders secretaries, Anne Baird and Carol Reeves (lpwl@methodistchurchinscotland.net) for Scotland or Rev Dr Andrew Fox revdocfox@gmail.com for Shetland or the District Tutors (for Scotland: Jill Baker ejillbaker@btinternet.com or for Shetland: Rev. David Lees david.lees@methodist.org.uk).

You can browse parts of the course at <https://elearning.methodist.org.uk/> and the summary of the course contents mentioned above can be found on the WLP pages of the Scotland district website at: <http://methodistchurchinscotland.net/worship-and-study/lpwl/>