



# Learning Matters

South-East District Office

Keeping you in touch with learning and training opportunities

Distributed to: S-E District Superintendents, Presbyters, Deacons, Lay Employees and Senior Circuit Stewards/Area Officers. Please share with your leadership team.

*This bulletin is also attached as a PDF document to overcome any compatibility issues.*

Thank you to those presbyters who completed the Continuing Development in Ministry survey - your feedback was greatly appreciated. You have told us that you welcome reminders of upcoming events and you will find some listed below - as well as information about new opportunities.

## 'Lost in wonder, love & praise'

18 June 10.00am - 4.00pm at The Guy Chester Centre, Muswell Hill. Leader: Rev Michaela Youngson. A day for people who lead worship, formally and informally, including sessions on leading praise, creative prayer and being a worshipper as well as a leader.

## 'Theologians in conversation'

with Peter Selby at Sarum College (residential consultations, 27-28 June, 21-22 November) More info from Alison Ogden at Sarum College, Salisbury, on 01722 424826. Also at Sarum: MA in Christian Approaches to Leadership and many other shorter courses.

## Supervision training for superintendents

4-5 July (Block 1) & 7-8 November (Block 2). Contact: Dr Jocelyn Bryan at [j.m.bryan@durham.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.bryan@durham.ac.uk)

## 'Breaking the Growth Barriers'

The overall theme of 'Breaking the Growth Barriers' will look at issues such as:  
• Identifying and changing your church's culture • Authentic discipleship in a 21st Century society • Mission and community engagement • Developing leadership and mobilising volunteers. For ministers and other key leaders. The number of participating churches is strictly limited, so please do register your interest as soon as possible. For full details email: [info@leadacademy.net](mailto:info@leadacademy.net) visit the [district website](http://www.leadacademy.net) or [www.leadacademy.net](http://www.leadacademy.net)

Churches of 50 - 120 regular attenders - starts 12 - 13 July.

Churches of 120-200 regular attenders - starts 19 - 20 September.

## Candidates Portfolio Day (Regional)

Saturday, 3 September, 10.00am-4.00pm, Wesley House, Cambridge. A practical day for those preparing to submit a portfolio in 2011-12 or beyond, plus their mentors or supporting ministers. Last year's candidates found this a particularly helpful day. Please book by **20 August**, sending £5 to Ann Howlett-Foster who can give further details, email: [ann.howlett-foster-TO@ntlworld.com](mailto:ann.howlett-foster-TO@ntlworld.com)

## Mission Shaped Ministry

Are you passionate about the mission of the Church? Are you looking for fresh ways of sharing the gospel message in communities? Are you looking for some training that will help you to realise visions and ideas? Then the Mission Shaped Ministry Course may be just for you. In the Autumn there will be two MSM (Mission Shaped Ministry) courses being offered across Kent. One on Tuesday evenings (beginning on 18th October.) at St. Mary's Church, Kennington, Ashford and on Thursday evenings (beginning on 20th October) at Christ Church, Orpington. The course is run over 10 months with meetings once a month in the evening and one whole weekend, (2nd - 4th March 2012, for both groups). The Introduction day for both these courses will be at St. Justus Church, Rochester on **Saturday 24th September**. More details can be found on the fresh expressions website [www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk) or by contacting your local minister or Fresh Expressions rep.

## Diaconal Exploration Weekend

1-2 October, Birmingham

For those considering diaconal ministry within the Methodist Church. Cost £60, please send £30 deposit. Note that these weekends book up quickly. Further details from Amy, email: [office@mdo.org.uk](mailto:office@mdo.org.uk) or tel: 0121 440 2318.

## 'One Generation from Extinction' - children's ministry

Wed 5 October 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Caterham URC, Harestone Hill, Caterham CR3 6SX. A day with Rev. Mark Griffiths, author of the book 'One Generation from Extinction', to grapple with the Church's challenge to connect with unchurched children, learning lessons from successful children's ministry past & present. For ministers, youth & children's work elders and employed youth & children's workers.

Contact Nick White email: [cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcsouthern.org.uk) or tel: 01634 578003. Places will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Retirement Course

It is recommended that people attend this course 12-18 months prior to retirement. Spouses are also invited to attend. An external retirement consultant, with a retired minister and spouse run the course in conjunction with the Connexional Team's pensions and housing experts. The Connexion will pay for the course and reimburse travel expenses.

5 - 7 October 2011, Windmill Farm Conference Centre, Bampton, Oxon

9 - 11 November 2011, Abbot Hall Hotel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria

6 - 8 March 2012, Windmill Farm Conference Centre, Bampton, Oxon

Contact Susan Kirika email: [kirikas@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:kirikas@methodistchurch.org.uk), tel: 020 7486 5502.

## 'Living With The Wound'

Saturday, 8 October 2011, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Quaker Meeting Rooms, 43 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LW. A conference for Clergy organised by the society of Analytical Psychology. Email: [clericalofficer@thesap.org.uk](mailto:clericalofficer@thesap.org.uk)

## ArtServe's Annual Conference

28 -30 October 2011, The Hayes, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 1AU.

The programme will explore and celebrate a variety of art forms and media, in small groups, workshops and in plenary sessions.

## Children and Youth Assembly 2011

This year's Children and Youth Assembly event will take place from 4th to 6th November and will be held at the Pioneer Centre in Cleobury Mortimer (near Kidderminster). Tickets are £70. Three different age streams will be running at the same time: Session One for those aged 9 - 13 (Saturday Day tickets are available). Session Two for those aged 14 - 17. Session Three for those aged 18 - 23 (age on 31st August this year (i.e. school years). Contact Rachel Quinlan at [quinlanr@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:quinlanr@methodistchurch.org.uk) or tel: 07929 503937.

## Youth Assembly Needs Volunteers...

to help run and organise Youth Assembly. Opportunities include being part of the tech team, stewarding, being part of the worship or fun teams and more! Volunteers will receive a free ticket to Youth Assembly and, if you need help with your travel, you can apply for funding. This is an opportunity to learn new skills, develop your understanding of working with Children and Young People, and be part of delivering an event alongside experienced workers. Please pass on this request.

## An Old Testament Backdrop to the Journey of Lent

Thursday 1 December 2011 at East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP. URC Southern Synod ONET event Led by Rev. Dr. Kathy White, Old Testament Tutor at Northern College and formerly minister of Moat URC, East Grinstead. In view of the general interest and relevance of this event to their ministries, URC Assembly Accredited Lay Preachers (as well as ministers) and Methodist Ministers from the South-East District are invited to attend this event. Enquiries to URC Southern Synod Office email: [Glenys.Sibley](mailto:Glenys.Sibley).

## Ministers' Silent Retreat

20-22 March 2012 at Wychcroft. Further details will be provided by Wendy Cory in due course, email: [wendy.cory@methodistsoutheast.org.uk](mailto:wendy.cory@methodistsoutheast.org.uk).

## 'Diploma in Third Age Mission and Ministry'

Introduced in 2011, the Third Age Mission and Ministry diploma is a two year part-time/distance learning undergraduate diploma directed at those working with older people whether through church events, pastoral visitation, weekday clubs, care homes, social centres. For more information contact Rose Bourne, Undergraduate Administrator email: [undergrad@cliffcollege.ac.uk](mailto:undergrad@cliffcollege.ac.uk) or visit [www.cliffcollege.ac.uk](http://www.cliffcollege.ac.uk).

## E:Safety

Using ICT appropriately to communicate with young people. Visit the [South-East District website](http://www.south-east-district.org.uk) for guidance.

'Step Forward' is a new resource developed by the Guy Chester Centre for use in small groups, for people wanting to be challenged to grow not only in their personal life but also in their commitment to each other and to the developing of God's Kingdom around them. See website [www.stepforward-training.org.uk](http://www.stepforward-training.org.uk) for more information.

## 'On your marks for the 2012 games'

Two hours to help you get ready to run in response to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Join others from your area for a packed programme that includes: • The latest on the Games, More Than Gold resources and activities in your area • The impact it will have on your community and the role your church can play • Community Festivals • Sports outreach: An introduction to the choice of sports outreach resources and guidance on how to use them. Visit [www.morethangold.org.uk/onyourmarks](http://www.morethangold.org.uk/onyourmarks) for dates/venues and further details.

## The Guy Chester Centre, Muswell Hill, London

Runs an annual programme of retreats, courses and other workshops. For the full

programme call 020 8883 8204 or visit their [website](http://www.guychester.org.uk).

'Managing staff teams' 19 Nov 2011 or 26 April 2012

'Understanding loss, bereavement and grief' 29 Oct 2011

'You called? - exploring vocation', 7-9 Oct 2011

'Lay Church Workers' retreat' 8-10 Nov 2011

'What next?' - a one-year journey in response to a particular sense of call

**Spirited Arts Exhibition** is a powerful exhibition of 16 works of art by young people aged between 14-18. This resource can be used with young people as well as adults to challenge and provoke discussion. For information about loan of the exhibition visit [The Well](http://www.spiritedarts.org.uk).

**The South East Institute for Theological Education (SEITE)** In Southwark and Chatham, runs part-time courses in Applied Christian Theology.

**Centre for Continuing Development In Ministry** - a leadership course for Christian leaders of any denomination at Spurgeons College, London SE25.

**Mediation Skills Training** - a series of events run by Peaceworks in Bognor Regis.

The normal process for funding CDIM is one third of cost by the minister or their Circuit, one third by the District and one third by the Connexion, up to a maximum of £300 pa. The Connexional contribution is administered by the District so an application only needs to be made to the District.

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