

Learning Matters

South-East District Training 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.

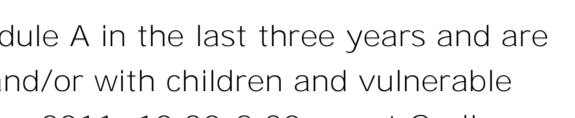
This bulletin is also attached as a PDF document to overcome any compatibility issues. Should you wish to print or forward this bulletin please use the PDF version.

Greetings at the start of this new Methodist year.

Advance notice: Methodist-URC Summer School, 10-13 June 2013, High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. More details to follow.

BIBLE SOCIETY New on the website this month is a link to The Bible Society's free weekly email "Newswatch" which will keep you up to date with news from the Christian and world media.

Visit inspire to find out about a network of people who are committed to the growth of mission and spirituality in the leadership and life of the Church.



Foundation Module (replaces Module A) - Safeguarding of Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

Intended for those who have not done Module A in the last three years and are working in senior positions in the church and/or with children and vulnerable adults - but all are welcome. 24 September 2011, 10.30-2.30 pm at Garlinge Methodist Church, Margate CT9 5JP. Please bring a packed lunch. For further details contact Rev Colin Telfer, District Safeguarding Coordinator (Adults). Email: colintelfer@gmail.com Tel 01843 448705.

'Happy Media?' - Using Technology in Worship' Learning Day for ministers - joint with URC Southern Synod, 6 March 2012, Crawley URC, 13 Belloc Close, RH10 3DA. Further details to follow.

'Journey' - a day of vocational exploration hosted by the South East Methodist Region. 28 April 2012 at Bromley Methodist Church, BR1 3NS. For all considering lay, diaconal or presbyteral ministry. £5.00 contribution with booking. Further details from Lydia Goodchild. (see foot of bulletin for contact details).

Ministerial Development Review (MDR) events: ministerial briefings on 6 October at Trinity Church, Woking, 19 October at Cade Road United Church, Ashford and 30 November at Haywards Heath Methodist. Training day for lay contributors 19 November at Haywards Heath Methodist. If your Circuit/Area has not yet identified lay contributors, please do so as soon as possible, contacting Rev Joan Edwell (District MDR Rep) at joan@edwell.org.uk

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) Launch of this new movement at Westminster Central Hall, London, 18 September 2011. See www.mwib.org.uk for further details.

'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 visit the District website or www.leadacademy.net Churches of 120-200 regular attenders - starts 19 - 20 September 2011.

fresh Mission Shaped Ministry. In the autumn there will be two MSM (Mission Shaped Ministry) courses being offered across Kent. The Introduction day for both courses will be at St. Justus Church, Rochester on 24 September 2011. More details, including a free download of the course intro can be found on the Fresh Expressions website www.freshexpressions.org.uk/missionshapedintro

Diaconal Exploration Weekend 1-2 October 2011, 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 or tel: 0121 440 2318.

Preparation for Retirement courses 5 - 7 October 2011 and 6-8 March, Windmill Farm Conference Centre, Bampton, Oxon. 9 - 11 November 2011, Abbot Hall Hotel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria. Led by an external retirement consultant, a retired minister and spouse run the course in conjunction with the Connexional Team's pensions and housing experts. They recommended that people attend this course 12-18 months prior to retirement. Spouses are also invited. More info from Discipleship Ministries (CDIM) Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR Email: cdim@methodistchurch.org.uk

'You Called?' Exploring vocation Guy Chester Centre weekend retreat 7 - 9 October 2011. £120. This weekend retreat workshop is for people who want some space to reflect on the Lord's calling on their lives, and time to foster a closer personal relationship with God. For those particularly interested in ministry within Methodism, there'll be sessions with information on what is available and the process involved. Visit Guy Chester Centre website

'Living With the Wound' conference 8 October 2011 10:00 - 16:00, Oxford. Ministers today face many challenges, both intellectual and emotional, in a church increasingly fractured by deeply-held convictions. Many are literally 'living with the wound' as they carry the painful divisions which the Church cannot integrate. Two speakers, a Jungian Analyst, Rev Chris McKenna and Methodist Theologian, Rev Dr Jane Leach will address this theme. Cost £65. Some bursaries towards the full cost may be available upon application. To register for the conference, please contact: Claire Hazelwood at Society of Analytical Psychology, 1, Daleham Gardens, London NW3 5BY. Email: clericalofficer@thesap.org.uk

Quiet Day-Colours of life-prayer in words and colour Guy Chester Centre. 15 October 2011, 10am - 4pm Donations accepted, suggested £25. This day combines prayerful reflection and creativity. As we ponder our life experience we take time to consider what God is saying and express this using colour in creative card making and journaling. Leaders: Maureen Stringer and Sandra Channon. Visit Guy Chester Centre website.

ArtServe's annual conference - Discovering Gifts Discovering God 28 October - 30 October 2011, Hayes Conference Centre, Derbyshire. Following the appearance of *Singing the Faith* comes *Singing the Faith Plus* which is a programme to maintain and inspire the development of contemporary church music. Visit www.singingthefaitplus.org.uk. Comprehensive details of the conference are at www.artserve.org.uk

Children and Youth Assembly 2011 This year's Children and Youth Assembly event will take place from 4 - 6 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 or tel: 07929 503937, visit the children and youth web page.

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.

Theologians in conversation With Peter Selby at Sarum College (residential consultation, 11-22 November 2011) More info from Alison Ogden at Sarum College, Salisbury, on 01722 424826. Also at Sarum: Postgraduate and short courses in Christian Spirituality, Liturgy and Worship, Theology and Culture, Leadership and Ministry and The Arts at Sarum College, Salisbury. Visit www.sarum.ac.uk

Being Church for the Boomer Generation? 23 - 25 November 2011, High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. This ecumenical conference is to help regional church leaders understand the distinctive sociological group known as Baby Boomers, enabling them to set and resource a Boomer mission agenda for local churches. Visit www.baptist.org.uk

An Old Testament Backdrop to the Journey of Lent 1 December 2011, URC Southern Synod Ongoing Education and Training 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 office@urcsouthern.org.uk

Connecting Disciples Conference 5-8 March 2012, High Leigh Conference Centre. Keep checking the website for further details www.methodist.org.uk/connectingdisciples. Booking available from October 2011.

Those who attended last year said-"... the whole conference is a real blessing personally and for my job. Thank you."



"I have been coming to this conference for 11 years. All have been brilliant. This has been the most inspirational for me."

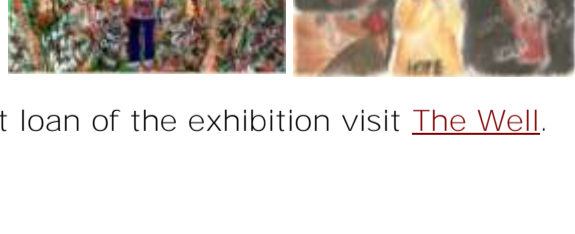
Ministers' Silent Retreat 20-22 March 2012, further details will be provided by Wendy Cory in due course. Email: wendy.cory@methodistsoutheast.org.uk

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, worship clubs, care homes, social centres. For more information contact Rose Bourne, Undergraduate Administrator. Email: undergrad@cliffcollege.ac.uk or visit www.cliffcollege.ac.uk

'Step Forward' Is a new discipleship resource for small groups developed by the Guy Chester Centre. Please see website www.stepforward-training.org.uk and contact Sarah Middleton (see foot of bulletin) if you are interested in being a facilitator for this.

On your marks for the 2012 games Get the latest on the Games, More Than Gold resources and activities in your area. Visit www.morethangold.org.uk for further details.

'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.



The Guy Chester Centre Runs a programme of retreats and courses such as 'Managing staff teams' (19 November 2011 or 26 April 2012) and 'Understanding loss, bereavement and grief' (29 October 2011). For the full programme call 020 8883 8204 or visit Guy Chester Centre website.

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

Certificate in Christian Mentoring and Coaching at Cliff College, Derbyshire. For anyone involved in mentoring and coaching who want to increase their skills and be more effective in what they do. It will address issues around volunteer mentoring and also those around people who are paid for the mentoring they offer. Visit www.cliffcollege.ac.uk

Centre for Continuing Development in Ministry at Spurgeons College, London www.spurgeons.ac.uk

Ministry Today UK - an ecumenical institute which aims to provide a supportive resource for all in Christian leadership. Visit ministrytoday.org.uk.

Grants for courses are available for both lay and ordained. Grant forms can be downloaded from the District Website (click on 'Grants' in the 'Oversight' menu). 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 Connexion contribution is administered by the District so an application only needs to be made to the District.

We welcome your feedback. Please contact Lydia using the contact details below with any comments.

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