



'And suddenly you know: it's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings'

Meister Eckhart

Hello and welcome to the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network newsletter.

Well....here we are, September 2021, and newly emerged from what we hope will be the last of a series of Covid lockdowns. We find ourselves standing at the beginning of something new. We are living in a different world, which brings with it new challenges and new opportunities. Whilst acknowledging there will be many of us who have lost loved ones; whose lives are radically altered; who have faced down incredibly difficult times. But we face a new chapter; all we need to do now, with God's grace, is to read it.

Take a look at our newsletter, and what's on offer. Perhaps you will find something with which to kickstart your new journey.

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Below are some of the events we are organising this Autumn. If you have new people in your Circuit Team, you might like to encourage them to sign up to this newsletter!

Two Good Things

Since our last newsletter, here's a couple of good things our team delivered that went down really rather well.



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Webinars

We have held several webinars covering different aspects of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, the latest being on racism. Conversations and stories have been so rich, and enlightening that we plan to continue our series in the coming new Connexional year. See the next section for more information on what's coming up next, and save the date.



Positively Rural

Since May 2020 Andrew Webb, Lorraine Brown and the Yorkshire Plus Learning Network have been running ecumenical rural webinars - there's been five so far, aimed at those who have hands-on involvement in rural churches and communities, lay and ordained church leaders, and active members of local churches, in the Northern Region. The strapline for these events is 'Sharing good practice, learning from experience, moving forward positively.' The most recent webinar heard from Rachel Hallos, West Riding National Farmers' Union County Chairman (NFU) and Louise David from the Arthur Rank Centre.

All the webinars centre their focus on how rural churches can be supported best, and tackling the issues they face in a rural setting.

What's Coming Up Next?

Scroll through our upcoming events below; there's bound to be something that takes your fancy. If you think we're missing a trick somewhere and that there's something we should be offering, please do get in touch.

All events are on Zoom unless otherwise stated.



Exploring Ordained Ministry

10am-12.30pm, 25 September 2021

Has anyone ever suggested to you that you would make a good minister? Have you ever felt God calling you to serve the church as a Deacon or Presbyter? Do you want to know more about the life of the ordained?

Why not join us on 25 September to explore the idea further? It's free and you can bring someone with you. To book, click [here](#).

If you can't make this date the day will be repeated on 21 May. Keep an eye out for booking to open [here](#).

Don't worry, attending this event doesn't mean you have to candidate - this is just an opportunity for you to put some feelers out.

HERDING CATS:

"A futile attempt to control that which is inherently uncontrollable."



Line Management Training

10am-3.30pm, 30 September

New to line management?

Join the Learning Network Yorkshire Plus team and:

Identify the key skills and qualities needed to manage lay employees

Gain clarity on the different functions of line management

Understand the manager's role in the employment cycle.

This training is available on multiple dates, which you can check in the 'Save the Date' section below.

To book for 30 September, click [here](#).



After the Storm: Coping with Covid 19 Grief and Loss

1.30pm-3pm, 7 October

So much has been lost because of Covid, and while some may be ready to move on and focus on the future, others are left behind in grief.

This webinar will look at the variety of losses we have experienced, and offer some practical ways in which we can support those who are still grieving.

The event is open to all, but ministers, pastoral visitors, pastoral workers and circuit stewards may find it of particular relevance.

To book, click [here](#).



Regional Lay Employment Community of Practice

10am-2.30pm, 8 October 2021

This is a regular gathering for Lay Employees across the Region. It's an opportunity for Employees to gather together, share best practice, and to access learning opportunities.

To book for 8 October, click [here](#).



Intentional Conversations

10am-3.30pm, 11 October 2021

Aimed at those who want to develop their experience in intentional conversations, this one day course is an introduction to how you might use coaching skills to facilitate them.

For more details contact:

Elaine Lindridge elaine@lindridge.org.uk

Rachel McCallam mccallamr@methodistchurch.org.uk

To book, click [here](#).



Positively Rural: Wellbeing

1pm-2.30pm, 15 October 2021

Alison Selward and Elizabeth Clark will talk about issues around rural isolation and introduce a new resource: Rural Table Talk.

To book click [here](#)



3Generate

29-31 October 2021

We are delighted to let you know that 3Generate, the children and youth assembly, will be going ahead at the NEC Birmingham. Coming back bigger and better, 3Generate will be welcoming 4 to 7 year olds and their parents/carers or significant adults.

If you want to know more, and to book your tickets, you can find all you need to know [here](#).



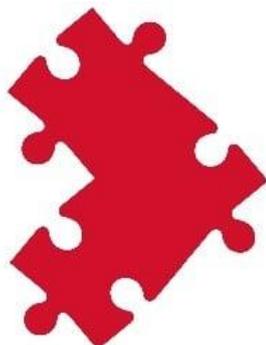
Lay Orientation

10am-3.30pm, 2 November 2021

The Lay Employees' Orientation Day comprises training for newly appointed lay employees working in a church context. It is designed to give a better understanding of the role of church worker, both in general and in one's own setting. The day's topics, and the opportunity to share together, will help develop a strong foundation of good practice.

If you want to know more, and to book your place, click [here](#)

**Worship:
leading &
preaching**



WLP 3.0 overview for Tutors, Mentors and Local Preacher Secretaries 3 & 10 November, 2021

Following a successful pilot when nearly 300 people attended over three sessions, we are pleased to announce a further opportunity to benefit from this ZOOM session, facilitated by the Learning Network.

This is a familiarisation course about the principles and structure of WLP 3.0, aimed at those new to any of the above roles, considering offering for one of these roles, or those with previous experience in role with Faith and Worship or V1/2 of the W@L&P course. There is no need to attend this course if you have been to a previous WLP 3.0 induction as a tutor or mentor or if you have been working with 3.0 for some time.

There are two sessions available - you only need attend one of them. To book, follow the links below:

For 3 November at 7pm, click [here](#).

For 10 November at 2pm, click [here](#).



Church at the Margins

7pm-8.30pm, 8 November

As a part of the Connexion's focus on Mission, our lead on Church at the Margins, Eunice Attwood, is looking to hold a webinar with the Yorkshire Plus team on how to work and worship on the margins. Anyone lay or ordained who is currently working in an economically marginalised community; those who are working alongside people with a passion for and commitment to walking with fringe communities; Mission Enablers; and lay & ordained colleagues called to support projects and initiatives, this webinar is for you.

Following the webinar we hope to begin a community of practice, and to signpost people towards training: 'How to Begin a CaM Community'.

This webinar is still in the planning stages, so keep an eye out for further details, along with a booking link, in your District's mailing.



Mental Health First Aid (Adults) **8 & 9 November, 2021**

We are delighted to announce that we are now offering training on Mental Health First Aid (adults). Whilst there is a number of opportunities to participate, places are limited so early booking early is advised.

Courses are in person or online. In person courses are over two days and you need to attend both days. The first date for in person is 8 & 9 November, and you can book [here](#).

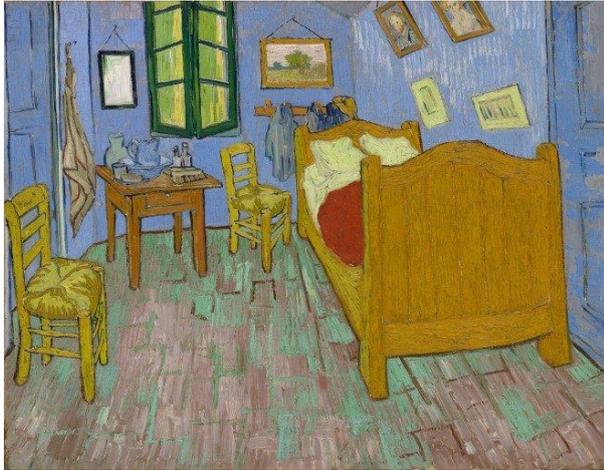
For further in person training dates, check out the 'Save the Date' section of the newsletter.

The online course is made up of four sessions, which will run from 7pm to 9.30pm for each session. Participants will need to attend all four sessions and complete approx. 1.5 hours of self-guided learning between sessions and ahead of session one. The first date for online is 29th November, followed by 2nd, 6th and 9th December, and you can book [here](#).

For further online dates, check out the 'Save the Date' section of the newsletter.

The cost of attending the course is £30. This covers the price of the course materials (which will be posted to your home address) and the Eventbrite fees. This training has a recommended retail price of £300, so the Methodist Church is getting this for a fantastic price. Make sure you get your place!

If you want to know more about Mental Health First Aid, visit the MHFA website [here](#).



Regional November Retreat: 'Wealth and Poverty in Art and Faith' with Debbie Lewer

16-18 November 2021, The Briery

Art is rich with symbolic traditions for expressing visually power and authority. It can also reveal profound value in the most impoverished material and the most desolating experiences. On this retreat we will explore a wide range of visual art, old and new, to open up some of the theological implications of what we value and where we find wealth. This is an opportunity to engage with creative ways of seeing and to reflect on our theological 'images' as people of faith today.

To book, click [here](#)

Please note this retreat is for presbyters, deacons and lay employees within the Methodist Church.



EDI Webinar: Class

1pm-2.30pm, 24 November

This webinar continues our series on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and covers Class. We will explore how people's life chances are affected by the class and social culture they are born into and the level of access to income, education and employment. We will also consider, through people's stories:

The social exclusion people experience as a result of class

The assumptions we make about people
How this impacts on everyday life.

To book, click [here](#).



EDI Webinar: Welcoming All **1pm-2.30pm, 8 February**

This webinar will draw from the EDI Toolkit (Equality Diversity & Inclusion) and through people's stories will include:

An acknowledgment that members of the LGBTQI+ have been unwelcome and have faced discrimination

Explore how churches can indeed 'welcome all'

Consider how Jesus welcomed – who not only welcomed people inclusively, but welcomed primarily those who had been made to feel unwelcome

Consider how the early Church learnt to welcome across boundaries of community and to include those who had been excluded.

To book, click [here](#).

The Regulars

Here you will find some of the things we're offering on multiple dates, or things you will find helpful to know.



Community Chaplaincy Coffee Drop-in 3pm, First Tuesday of the Month

If you're a community, or street, chaplain, or someone who does chaplain-ey stuff with your local community, why not hook up with folk who are doing similar work? It's an opportunity to share stories, experiences, perhaps feel a little less isolated.

You can access the link [here](#). Just scroll down the page to find the group you want.



Mission Planning Surgeries

If you and your church are thinking about writing - or rewriting - a mission plan for post covid times, you can access loads of help and information [here](#). There is a Mission Planning Toolkit, training on how to use it, and when you begin your mission planning, there are surgeries you can book on to where you can talk through any challenges or head-scratching moments you are facing.

If you've already begun planning your church's mission, and just need a surgery, you can access available dates [here](#), and book your place.

Stuff to Know

Here you will find things that are handy to know, or to give you a heads up about upcoming offers that are still a twinkle in the Region's eye.

Chaplaincy Everywhere Online

If you or your church are thinking about how to serve your community in post covid times, or thinking about mission (perhaps they're the same?!), have you thought about community chaplaincy as a way of doing so? Chaplaincy isn't all hospitals and prisons; it's also a great way of reaching out to your community, and supporting the people who live and work in the place where your church is.

We're planning to run an online Chaplaincy Everywhere course sometime in the first half of 2022, where you can join us to explore community chaplaincy, and then take Chaplaincy Everywhere back to your church to study together, before going out into the world, just as Jesus asks us to.

If that's piqued your interest, keep an eye out in your District's newsletter for further details.

Ministry with Older People Webinar Series

We're pretty passionate about ensuring Fourth Age people aren't forgotten in the rush to minister to children, young people and families. We ran a very successful series of webinars on different aspects of ministry with Fourth Age people, and will be building on that success from November 2021 through to June/July 2022 with a second series that will explore how you can include Fourth Age ministry in your church mission planning. We hope to cover most aspects of mission planning, with a further opportunity to take part in Mission Planning Training, if you want to know more.

Look out for the webinar dates in your District newsletter.

Mission Planning Training

Linked to the Ministry with Older People, we hope to hold Mission Planning training in the latter half of 2022. There are materials available online to help churches plan their mission, including a mission planning workbook and toolkit, which you can take a look at [here](#). But if you do take a look, and just feel overwhelmed, we can show you how to use it and what to do.

Keep an eye out in your District newsletter for details.

Save the Date

We have a few things coming up where the details aren't yet available, but you might want to reserve in your diary. So make a note of these dates, and look out for our next newsletter or your own District newsletter for updates.

October

14th

Line Management Training

November 2021

9th Line Management Training
30th (& 1st December) Mental Health First Aid (Adults) in person training

January 2022

12th Line Management Training
18th Positively Rural Webinar
24th & 25th Mental Health First Aid (Adults) in person training

February 2022

9th Regional Lay Employment CoP
22nd and 23rd Mental Health First Aid (Adults) in person training
23rd Line Management Training

March 2022

1st Lay Leadership
15th, 17th, 29th, 31st Mental Health First Aid (Adults) online training
18th Line Management Training
23rd Regional Retreat led by Inderjit Bhogal 'Hospitality and Sanctuary for All'

May 2022

11th 'Welcome' webinar: supporting people who have left prison
17th-19th Regional Retreat with Nick Helm

April

26th Line Management Training

May

9th Line Management Training
11th Webinar: 'Welcoming People Leaving Prison' with The Welcome Directory

June 2022

20th EDI Webinar: Gender
27th & 28th Mental Health First Aid (Adults) in person training

July 2022

14th Positively Rural Webinar
16th Line Management Training

