

Worship Leader Training

Worship Leader training helps you develop:

- your faith, your spirituality;
- your knowledge and understanding;
- your skills in leading worship.

Worship Leader Training

- involves participation in a short course;
- invites you to reflect on worship and how it is conducted;
- helps you develop practical skills in leading worship;
- gives you helpful feedback and advice to improve your leading of worship.

You do not have to be bookish to study. The training programme includes:

- becoming familiar with the Bible, hymn and song books, prayer and resources;
- encouragement to think for yourself and learn from others;
- opportunity to grow in faith;
- reflection on your own experience.

What to do next...

If, after prayerful thought, you feel you want to find out more:

- Talk about your sense of call with a Worship Leader, Local Preacher, Minister or Deacon
- Accept that many people have hesitations and doubts about taking a step like this.
- Find out more about the training for Worship Leaders offered in your Circuit

You may need support, encouragement, or financial help in order to become a Worship Leader. Your Circuit is likely to be able to help you in these ways.



Who becomes a Worship Leader?

Across the Connexion, and among church stewards, all backgrounds, ages and races are represented. God reaches out to all people in love and invites us to respond as disciples of Jesus.

For some, part of being a disciple is to become a person who leads worship.

To answer the question "Is God calling me?" you and people in your Church Council consider the possibility prayerfully and then you will explore the call through participating in a training scheme and sharing in the leading of worship.

You do not have to be someone who loves the limelight to become a Worship Leader. It may help if you don't! Some Worship Leaders are still surprised that they have been called to ministry. They are amazed at how God has equipped them to do it!

What is a Worship Leader?

"God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

John 4:24 (NIV)

The role of Worship Leaders is an important ministry within the Methodist Church.

- Worship Leaders are members of the Church who have been appointed to lead worship in their local church.
- Worship is our response to God.
- Worship Leaders are closer to their congregation than many visiting preachers.
- Worship Leaders help a congregation to engage in worship
- Worship Leaders help to bring together the good news of the Christian faith and the hopes, concerns, needs and prayers of the congregation.

Is God calling you to serve your church in this way?

How are Worship Leaders different from Ministers or Local Preachers?

Worship Leaders help others engage in worship that is rooted in the context of the local community. They act as a catalyst for others, drawing out the gifts and skills of others in their community. Ministers and local preachers are responsible for public acts of worship, and work collaboratively with others to lead these acts.

What is Worship?

Those who lead worship seek to enable people to praise God, celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. They help others to recognise God's presence, through music, prayer, poetry, drama and in a range of other ways. You may find a desire to lead worship in your local church growing out of your desire to glorify God.

What do Worship Leaders do?

Worship Leaders are members of the Methodist Church who have been trained and commissioned to share in preparing and leading worship alongside the minister or local preacher appointed to lead an act of worship. Their role may include:

- choosing and leading music and prayers;
- reading Bible passages or other readings;
- facilitating dance or drama;
- any other aspects of the act of worship other than the sermon.

How they are involved will depend on the context and the gifts and skills of the worship leader and those around them. Their knowledge and understanding of the local context also enables them to shape worship that is appropriate for the congregation.

The minister or local preacher retains overall responsibility for the act of worship, but works collaboratively with others to prepare and lead it.

Once someone's call to lead worship has been tested and confirmed, and training is complete, they are commissioned as a worship leader. Through a service in their local church the worship leader commits themselves, with God's help, to continued development, and all the people promise to support them.