**Learning Network Report**

East Anglia

The Learning Network exists to support, encourage, and inspire Methodist people in all aspects of Our Calling. Together, we strive to be a church that is inclusive, justice-seeking, evangelistic, and growing.

**How the Learning Network Works**

The Learning Network works with both lay and ordained church leaders, helping you develop your skills so you, in turn, can equip others.

We collaborate with other colleagues in the Connexional Team, as well as many of you in District and Circuits leadership roles, as well at times with local churches to equip and resource church communities.

**District Alignment: Support for Church Leaders**

Each Learning & Development Officer is aligned with a specific Methodist District, and Jenna and I are aligned to the East Anglia District. Support we can offer includes:

* Accompanying lay and ordained church leaders, supporting their growth and ministry.
* Enabling church, circuit and district leaders to access lifelong learning opportunities
* Facilitate growth and mission planning for the district and circuit.

Both Jenna and I work part time with our skills and interests complementing each other. Areas which I am involved in includes Worship Leading and Preaching as well as Rural Ministry; and Jenna Co-Leads on Church Stewards and Circuit Stewards.

**Connexional Learning & Development: Church-Wide Initiatives**

Alongside District-based work, we also contribute to wider Connexional learning and development opportunities. This includes:

* Planning, delivering, and evaluating learning and development opportunities across the Methodist Church.
* Collaborating with colleagues across the Connexion to create resources and events that support ministry and mission – including training and learning and development opportunities for Circuit Stewards, Church stewards, those involved with worship and digital mission
* Leading or supporting key Connexional projects, offering expertise in areas such as leadership, safeguarding, worship, pastoral care, and theological learning.
* Many of these initiatives take place online, reaching a broad audience across the Church.

We love for as many people as possible to know of our work, and therefore there are different ways to remain connected with us. Hopefully one of these will work for you;

**Newsletter**; this comes out monthly, direct to your inbox.  [Sign Up for Newsletters - The Methodist Church](https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/sign-up-for-newsletters/) (Just remember to check the box “Learning and Development News”).

**Facebook**; There is a closed group, currently with 1300 members, where you can join for conversation about learning and development in the Methodist church, and to hear first about upcoming opportunities. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/thelearningnetwork/>

**Eventbrite**; Join over 1000 people, and receive emails from time to time promoting new Learning and Development opportunities. [Methodist Learning Network Events - 36 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/methodist-learning-network-39884288273?msockid=029dd8170a73682b0df5cbf50b546918)

Courses and events we offer include: Circuit Stewards Training, Lay Orientation Training, Reflective Line Management, The Discernment Course, Bible Month, Encounter, Explore, Equality Diversity and Inclusion Support, Worship Leading and Preaching Development, Caring and Wellbeing (including *Who Cares?* and *The Last Taboo*), Supporting Rural Ministry and Mission, Supervision Training, Ministerial Wellbeing, and Positive Working Together.

**Methodist Church Website;** There are many learning and development opportunities within the church, some we lead and some by other colleagues. [Direct link to the Learning Network pages.](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/learning-and-development/about-the-learning-network/)

We currently have a vision planning day scheduled in October with St Andrews Methodist in Sheringham, and we are currently planning a day at Haverhill Methodist in November to encourage aspiring leaders in the church. If this is something you’re interested in please get in touch.

Many blessings,

Seb and Jenna



**Seb Bell Jenna Thorne**

*Learning and Development Officer  Learning and Development Officer*

 bells@methodistchurch.org.uk thornej@methodistchurch.org.uk

07984638360