



### Training for Worship Leaders

Worship Leaders in Methodist Churches are involved in leading worship in many different ways. For some, their calling is public reading of the Bible, the leading of prayers or as musicians. You don't need to be appointed as a worship leader to do these things, but you are encouraged to engage in training if you wish.

Some people take responsibility for shaping and leading worship in their local church, working with ministers or local preachers. Some are involved with co-ordinating local arrangement services, or in leading musicians in worship week by week. If you are involved in these roles, being a recognised worship leader is appropriate. The training and formation this involves will help you in your ministry and enable you to be the best you can be for God and for the church. Anyone can join the training to be a worship leader if they are keen to learn more about worship in the church.

Worship leader training is based on the **Worship: Leading & Preaching** course, which is also followed by local preachers in training. Modules 1 to 4 are shared, local preachers continue with modules 5 to 8.

### Learning Options

The training for Worship Leaders is designed to be:

- **Flexible** – to enable it to fit around busy lives and church commitments, and be appropriate for the wide variety of local churches and worshipping communities
- **Thorough** – reflecting that worship is for God and at the heart of our identity as church
- **Modular** – to enable people to add to their skills and knowledge progressively as their involvement increases and other commitments change

In summary, there are three levels of training:

Level	What you study	Notes
Bronze	Worship: Foundations WLP Module 2	The minimum level of training required to be recognised as a Worship Leader. Can be led and assessed locally.
Silver	Worship: Foundations WLP Module 2 Plus other WLP material from modules 1, 3 and 4	Building from the Bronze level, this allows for further study from the WLP material. Can be led and assessed locally.
Gold	Worship: Foundations WLP Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 Assessed by portfolio	Assessed and moderated connexionally. Completion Certificate awarded. Students who complete Portfolio A (Modules 1-4) can continue to train as local preachers if they receive a Note to Preach.

## Worship Leaders

### 2: TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT

The decision regarding the level of training that is appropriate for a particular person should be a matter for prayerful conversation between the prospective Worship Leader, the Minister and the Local Preachers' Meeting. Ultimately, it is the Church Council who decide the training they require before appointing the person as a worship leader to serve in the church.

Here are more details about the three levels of training:

### Bronze Level

**Worship: Foundations** is a workbook which guides the reader through the basic steps involved in preparing an act of worship. The workbook is available free to all students who enrol on the Worship: Leading and Preaching course and can also be downloaded at [www.methodist.org.uk/wlp](http://www.methodist.org.uk/wlp).

Worship: Foundations should be used by the worship leader in conversation with their Mentor. It can also be used as study material for small groups, or for continuing development for those involved in leading worship, as well as training material for those involved in leading Local Arrangements.

**Module 2 of *Worship: Leading & Preaching***, called ***Encountering God in the Life of the Church*** contains core learning material for Worship Leaders. It consists of three sections:

***Encountering God in the Bible***

***Encountering God in the Church***

***Focus on Worship***

Each of these sections introduce essential knowledge and skills for those leading worship.

The **Learn** material is designed to be accessed online by the student, and consists of a variety of video, audio, visual and reading material, together with exercises to consolidate learning. Each **Learn** section is designed to take 10 hours of personal study.

One **Explore** session (nominally 90 minutes) is envisaged per section, normally facilitated by the circuit local preachers' tutor. Ideas for facilitating these sessions are provided.

Assessment of learning progress at Bronze Level is normally locally arranged. There is a suggested project with each of the three sections for students to complete but other projects can be substituted if preferred.

However, if students choose to produce their projects online via the WLP website, these can build towards a Portfolio for Modules 1 to 4 in due course.

### Silver Level

Students who complete WLP Module 2 often wish to continue their studies. Anyone enrolled on the WLP course is free to make use of the material for modules 1-4. Module 3 provides an ideal next step, and is focussed on prayer and spirituality.



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### 2: TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT

As with Bronze Level, the training can be organised and assessed locally, but students at Silver Level should consider doing their projects online as this will contribute to a Portfolio A, should they choose to complete the Gold Level.

### Gold Level

Completion of WLP modules 1 to 4 and Portfolio A is the “gold standard” of training for Worship Leaders, and is highly recommended for those who take a significant and regular part in the planning and leading of worship in their local church.

The requirement is completion of **Worship: Leading and Preaching** modules 1-4 and Portfolio A. This portfolio must be assessed online by the Tutor and moderated formally by the Learning Network.

A Certificate of Completion is awarded on completion.

### Formation and Assessment

Training of worship leaders happens under the oversight of the Circuit Local Preachers’ Meeting, who need to provide a tutor and a mentor for each trainee. The tutor may or may not be an existing local preachers’ tutor, and (especially at bronze and silver levels) be an experienced local worship leader or preacher who convenes a local group aiming to develop their skills in worship.

The mentor will generally be a worship leader or local preacher based in the student’s church or who can share worship there with the student from time to time.

Leading the worship of the People of God is a huge privilege, and can be daunting! Worship Leaders need time and practice to develop their approach to preparation, practice their skills and receive constructive feedback.

Normally this is done through regular opportunities to lead worship in their local church, starting with simple contributions, and gradually building to the level of involvement expected. Working with another Worship Leader, Local Preacher or a Worship Team or Band provides excellent practice in working collaboratively, and learning from others.

Assessed services should be provided periodically during the training, at which someone provides structured feedback on the worship. The Worship & Preaching Feedback form, which can be downloaded from [www.methodist.org.uk/wlpresources](http://www.methodist.org.uk/wlpresources) should be used to record feedback for the assessed services. The assessor can be a Local Preacher, Worship Leader, Steward, or local church member with a working knowledge of worship.

Local Arrangements can also provide excellent opportunities for Worship Leaders in training to develop their ideas and skills and work collaboratively with others.

For those working towards Gold Level, we recommend that they follow the same practice as local preachers in training, with quarterly assessed services arranged by the Local Preachers’ meeting.



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### 2: TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT

### Recognition as a Worship Leader

Once the specified training is complete, as confirmed by the Local Preachers' meeting, and the Church Council is satisfied that the Worship Leader has gained sufficient experience during their formation, they can appoint the worship leader. It is appropriate to celebrate this in worship either in the local church or at a Circuit service.

In circuits where the Local Preachers' meeting is open to worship leaders, they are warmly encouraged to attend and play a full part as valued members of the worship leading team in the circuit.

Worship Leaders are appointed for a three year period. After three years, the Local Preachers' meeting conducts a review and gives their recommendation to the Church Council, who may choose to reappoint the worship leader for another three years. All worship leaders (and local preachers) are encouraged to review their own continuing calling each three years as part of their continuing development.

### More Information

The Worship Leader page on the Methodist Church website at [www.methodist.org.uk/wl](http://www.methodist.org.uk/wl) contains more information about Worship Leaders.

Section 68 of Standing Orders applies to Worship Leaders. Current Standing Orders can be downloaded at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/governance/cpd/>.

For any further information, please contact the Local Preachers' Office at [localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:localpreachers@methodistchurch.org.uk) or ring 0207 467 3774.