



What to do next...

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

- Talk about your sense of call with a Local Preacher, Minister or Deacon
- Accept that many people have hesitations and doubts about taking a step like this.
- Read *"Called to preach?"* which explains the steps involved in becoming a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church. This is available either from your Minister or from the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk

Helpdesk
Methodist Church House
25 Marylebone Road
LONDON
NW1 5JR

Telephone
020 7486 5502

e-mail
helpdesk@methodistchurch.org.uk



You may need support, encouragement, or financial help in order to become a Local Preacher. Your Circuit is likely to be able to help you in these ways. For example, it will pay for training materials.

Further help may also be available from The Leaders of Worship Preachers' Trust:

LWPT
89 High Street
RICKMANSWORTH
WO3 1 EF

Telephone
01923 775856

e-mail
lwptoffice@twpt.org.uk





God calls people

through:

- inner promptings
- frustration and anger
- challenge
- questioning
- invitation
- another person
- a need
- a desire
- a longing to proclaim the faith within you
- a leaflet like this

God calls people to be Local Preachers

- Local Preachers are members of the church who have been accredited to lead worship and preach.
- Worship is our response to God
- Preaching is proclaiming the Kingdom of God and relating it to daily life.
- Local Preachers bring an understanding of the workaday world and a working knowledge of scripture and theology
- Local Preachers seek to relate the gospel and everyday life.



Is God calling me?

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 and preaches.

To answer the question “Is God calling me?” you and people in the Circuit who have become Local Preachers consider the possibility prayerfully and explore the call through sharing in the leading of worship and (eventually) preaching.

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

It is possible that this exploration leads to a realisation that the call is to a ministry other than being a Local Preacher. That is fine! There are many ways to serve God.



Training...

Local Preacher training helps you develop:

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

Local Preacher training:

- Is part-time (about 10 hours per week)
- Is a mix of study and practical experience
- Is supported by a local tutor and a mentor
- Involves studying at home and attending tutorials
- Involves gaining experience in leading worship and preaching with the help of a mentor
- Is assessed

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

- Guided Bible study
- Encouragement to think for yourself
- Opportunity to grow in faith
- Reflection on your own experience
- Reflection on other people's experience now and in the past.