

Open Learning Course.

The new Local Preachers' Training Pathway for new participants started in September 2018 and is based on three Opening Learning Courses and a Worship and Preaching portfolio.

The Open Learning Courses are run in conjunction with Open Learning at Queen's University. They are accessible and interactive, and each of them includes practical assessment work. The course delivery is carried out through a mixture of workshops, self-study, on-line learning and guided tutorials in local Hubs. There are local learning hubs in Belfast, Longford, Cashel and Claremorris.

Over a two-year period the Local Preachers in training will complete three courses, at a cost of £140 each course. The Local Preacher Connexional Committee suggest that the student should contribute $\frac{1}{4}$ and the circuit or society $\frac{3}{4}$ (the students will be expected to purchase books). Circuits would need to obtain a commitment from the student that the cost of the course would be refunded by the student in the event of failure to complete.

The Portfolio will give students an opportunity to examine Methodism and reflect on their own worship and preaching as well as that of others, throughout the two years. There will be tutorials to support the students through their portfolio.