

North East – Brierley | Hemsworth | Monk Bretton | Ryhill | Staincross

South – Hoyland & Birdwell | Darfield Wesley | Great Houghton | Pilley | Wombwell

North West - Buckley | Dodworth | Emmanuel | Higham | Kexborough

Volunteering Outline - Role Description

Volunteer Role Title:	Connexional Local Preacher
Location:	The Methodist Circuit
Responsible to & supported by:	Local Preachers meeting, Ministers, Lay Workers, & Church & Chapel representatives

What is a Local Preacher?

A Methodist Local Preacher is a layperson accredited to preach and lead worship.

According to the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church Volume 2 SO 560 to 569 (also known as the CPD)

Preachers are called of God, to be worthy in character, to lead God's people in worship and to preach the gospel. This places duties on, and gives rights to, local preachers.

Becoming a local preacher requires a rigorous training process, governed by the Methodist Church. There are various stages & include On Note, On Trial & Accreditation. This Job Description refers to all Local Preachers On Note, On Trial & those who are Accredited.

The role of a Local Preacher

As to worship, it is the duty of local preachers:

- Lead worship and preach with knowledge, conviction and competence
- Preach nothing at variance with our doctrines
- Be available for an appropriate number of appointments each quarter
- Inform the superintendent of any occasion on which they cannot be available for appointments on the forthcoming circuit plan
- Fulfil all appointments given on the circuit plan
- If unable to fulfil an appointment, to arrange if possible for a suitable individual, informing the superintendent and a church steward of the change
- If unable through illness or other significant reason to arrange a suitable substitute, to inform the superintendent (or delegate) who shall arrange suitable substitute
- To take overall responsibility for an act of worship when appointed on the circuit plan
- To seek to work collaboratively with others in leading worship

As to fellowship and training, it is the duty of the local preachers:

- Attend all the Local Preachers Meetings – usually 4 per year (or tender an apology of absence to the secretary if unable to attend for good reason)
- Continue to develop in their personal spiritual life, in knowledge and understanding, and in preaching and leading worship
- Regularly review their ministry and to participate in a programme of continuing local preacher development which reflects the guidelines annually produced by the Ministries Committee
- Attend a class, housegroup, or similar fellowship if possible
- Attend an annual Service of Reaffirmation of their call to preach

As to membership, it is the duty of the local preachers:

- Must be & remain a member of the Methodist Church
- Regularly attend public worship and receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (normally in a Methodist church or an approved local ecumenical partnership)

What requirements are needed to fulfil the role of a Local Preacher?

- Completion of the Advanced module: Creating Safer Space: Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Course which takes approx. 4 hours (every 4 years) & passing on any observed or communicated concerns or worries relating to any person attending to the Circuit, the Circuit Safeguarding officer and / or minister.
- A satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) (every 5 years) – volunteers will be asked to provide all relevant documents for these checks. There is no cost to the volunteer for this check.
- Completion of the EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) Training Course
- Completion of the Unconscious Bias training (every 4 years)

This role outline was approved by Barnsley Circuit Meeting on 17th September 2026 and will be reviewed annually.

Please refer to the Circuit website for contact details of all chapel Leadership Teams, Church Council members, Circuit Meeting representatives & Circuit Leadership Team members.