

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: **House Group or Bible Study Group Leader**

Location: Barnsley Methodist Circuit

Responsible to & supported by: Ministers, Lay Workers, & Church & Chapel representatives

What is a House Group or Bible Study Group?

House Groups or Bible Study Groups are an increasingly vital part of a vibrant and dynamic church community. Whilst gathering the whole church together on a Sunday continues to be essential, more and more we are seeing the importance of smaller groups. They are essential for developing friendships within a church, encouraging people to stay in the church & encouraging members to grow in faith.

These usually have 6-12 members (but can be more or less) who meet periodically from once a week to once a month, or can be on an ad hoc basis at certain times of the year eg: Easter or Advent.

House Groups or Bible Study Groups meet in people's homes, at chapels or on Zoom to

- Study God's Word & think about how to apply it in day-to-day life
- Allow people to support one another in practical & prayerful ways

What is a House Group or Bible Study Group Leader?

A House Group or Bible Study Group is a person who is responsible for organising and leading the gathering, ensuring a suitable space is available or booked, that they have the necessary resources & that everyone feels welcome, respected, valued & included.

The role of a House Group or Bible Study Group Leader

Ensure the following takes place:-

- People are made welcome and feel able to engage with the session as they are able
- (Where necessary) ensure material is prepared before meeting
- Lead a structured meeting
- Lead prayer and offer others opportunity to pray
- Ensure safeguarding concerns are logged and reported appropriately
- Arrange future meetings

Skills Required

- Knowledge of the material being studied
- Encourage all to participate
- Ability to lead & participate in prayer
- Communication Skills
- Friendliness
- Enthusiasm

Time / Commitment Required

- 1-2 hours preparation
- Duration of House Group or Bible Study Group – usually 1-2 hours

What requirements are needed to fulfil the role of a House Group or Bible Study Group Leader?

- As a minimum - Completion of the Foundation module: Creating Safer Space: Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Course which takes approx. 2-3 hours (every 4 years) & passing on any observed or communicated concerns or worries relating to any person attending the chapel to the 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.
- Recommended but not compulsory - completion of the EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) Training Course.
- Recommended but not compulsory - completion of the Unconscious Bias training.

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.