

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: Pastoral Visitor

Location: Barnsley Methodist Circuit

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

What is a Pastoral visitor?

Pastoral care is at the centre of the church's mission and ministry. A Pastoral visitor is a person appointed by the Church Council (or relevant committee) to exercise pastoral care over those committed to their care. Pastoral visitors support others in their faith and discipleship journey.

Skills Required

- Caring & understanding
- Encourage & nurture
- Listening & non-judgemental attitude
- Be a member of the Methodist Church
- Be appointed by the Church Council. A conversation with the minister and/or Pastoral lay worker prior to church council appointment is recommended to ensure the role is fully understood.

The role of a Pastoral worker

- Exercise pastoral care & support
- Act as a link to keep people together & in touch with church life
- Maintain a regular contact, either by seeing them in church, visiting them, telephoning or texting (as appropriate to the need of the people concerned)
- Encourage members to fulfil their commitment as members, and adherents to seek membership if relevant
- Inform the minister / layworker of any special needs
- Distribute membership cards, notices & information, particularly to those unable to attend chapel regularly
- Offer support & encouragement
- Pray for them regularly

Time / Commitment Required

- Variable depending on volunteers time
- A single visit can last between 15 – 90 minutes
- Telephone calls can last between 10 – 30 minutes
- Appropriate record keeping takes 5 minutes per visit
- Attending the Pastoral meeting, held once or twice a year, takes 2 hours

What requirements are needed to fulfil the role of a Pastoral Visitor?

- 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 Pastoral Lay Worker, Safeguarding officer and / or minister. However, the Advanced module is preferred, but not essential at the moment.
- 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.