

What to do next...

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

- Talk to your Minister, your own Pastoral Visitor or Pastoral Secretary.
- Pastoral Visitors' responsibilities are set out in S.O. 631 of the constitution of the Methodist Church, the Constitutional Practice and Discipline, which is known as the CPD. To find out more about this go the Methodist Church website

www.methodist.org.uk

Harrow & Hillingdon Circuit of the Methodist Church



Who becomes a Pastoral Visitor?

Across the local churches, and among pastoral visitors, all backgrounds, ages and races are represented. God reaches out to all people in love and invites us to respond as disciples of Jesus.

The role of the Pastoral Visitor is to be:

- Supportive
- Caring
- Friendly
- Trustful

You will need:

- A current DBS check;
- Effective and appropriate communication & listening skills
- To be able to keep confidences
- To be willing to work in a voluntary capacity
- To be willing to undertake training and development
- To attend pastoral meetings
- To like people!

What is a Pastoral Visitor?

Within the life of the Church the role of the Pastoral Visitor, also known as a Class Leader, is one of the most significant. Its importance has several facets, because the visitor is part of the structure of the Church which enables members and followers to sense that they belong to a Christian community. Therefore, part of the responsibility is to be a channel of communication, linking people together and keeping them in touch with what is happening in the life of the Church. The visitor is also significant in providing pastoral care to one or more individuals (their pastoral group), by demonstrating an interest in their lives and providing support and encouragement at particular times of need.

As a member of a wider team, visitors can offer not just their own time, skills and resources, but those of the Church as a body. The visitor also has a role to play in assisting others to grow in their faith and discipleship, through listening to their experience, discussing concerns and providing encouragement.

Is God calling you to serve your church in this way?

What do Pastoral Visitors do?

Pastoral Care is implicit in much of what we do as a Church and characteristic of who we are as a community. Pastoral care is not the province of the professional. We are all naturally involved in caring.

Different churches set up their pastoral care system in different ways but the Pastoral Visitor is usually assigned approximately 8 church members to their care and traditionally the role involves:

- Keeping in contact with the members of their pastoral group through home visits and telephone conversations, ensuring that their personal details on the church's data base are kept up to date, and informing the Pastoral Secretary of any changes;
- In collaboration with the Minister, distributing the annual Methodist Church Membership Tickets to the members in their pastoral group;
- Distributing Church Newsletters, Pastoral Letters (Harvest, Christmas and Easter), Christmas gifts and other information to those in their group unable to attend worship regularly;
- Offering support and encouragement to the members in their pastoral group, particularly in times of special need;
- Advising the Pastoral Secretary or Minister when additional support might be appropriately provided by the Minister, particularly in times of crisis;

Being a member of the Pastoral Committee and assist the Minister and Pastoral Secretary.