

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Lay Pastoral Assistant -</b> Lay Employee in the Bishop Auckland & Shildon Methodist Circuit
<b>Location</b>	County Durham, UK

This is a new opportunity for a motivated and experienced church worker to take on a newly created role in the Bishop Auckland & Shildon Circuit of the Methodist Church. The role provides an opportunity to build and strengthen pastoral relationships within the local church families and create opportunities for growth and outreach into the communities served by these churches.

The Bishop Auckland & Shildon Circuit is situated in County Durham. It has churches in the three main centres of population in Bishop Auckland, Newton Aycliffe and Shildon and smaller rural chapels embedded in their local communities.

The restrictions of the last 18 months have shown the strength of the existing pastoral care systems in the churches throughout the Circuit. This new role seeks to build upon this firm foundation in the section of the Circuit under the pastoral care of the Superintendent Minister.

The work will mostly be undertaken from two locations:

- a) Newton Aycliffe Methodist Church – strengthening the pastoral care system, pastoral visiting and creating new opportunities for pastoral work and outreach based in and from the church.
- b) Woodhouse Close Church, Bishop Auckland (a Methodist / Church of England LEP with a Letter of Welcome to former members of a local United Reformed Church) - working alongside the two volunteer Authorised Pastoral Assistants to strengthen pastoral and community links and to encourage involvement of the wider community in the life of the church.

The remaining hours will be allocated on a 'project' basis with other churches in the pastoral care of the Superintendent Minister.

You should have previous experience of working in a similar role, either as an employee or volunteer, be energised about working alongside churched and non-churched people from a variety of backgrounds, and willing to share your faith with them. You must be compassionate, empathic, a good communicator and able to work both collaboratively and on your own initiative. A recognised authorisation to lead worship is desirable.

The role is part-time (16 hours per week, including some weekend and evening work). The post is expected to be funded for at least 3 years, but is not a fixed term appointment. The rate of pay will be £9.50 per hour and reasonable approved expenses will be paid. The starting date is 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter. You must be eligible to work in the UK.

For an informal discussion about the role please contact the Superintendent Minister:  
david.payne@methodist.org.uk

Full details of the post can be found on the Circuit website: [www.basmethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.basmethodistcircuit.org.uk)

To apply, please download the application form and return it as specified.

**Timescale:**

*Deadline for applications: 12.00 noon Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Shortlisting: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.*

*Interview date: In early December 2021, either in-person or online, depending on Covid-19 restrictions.*

*It is an Occupational Requirement for the post holder to be a professing and practising Christian (Equality Act 2010).*