

#HOMELESS PASTORS

HOW TO TRAIN TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER & HOMELESS PASTOR



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Homeless Pastor. We work across the UK to get the homeless and rough sleepers off the streets, into community and equipped for life.

This document will explain everything you need to know in how to become a Homeless Pastor and what to expect from our training process.

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TRAINING OVERVIEW



We break our training programme down into four stages, with each progression seeing the candidate take on more responsibility. When each stage is successfully passed, you will receive a coloured lanyard, indicating your stage of progression. Each stage takes roughly four weeks to complete and training will only commence once a DBS check has been completed.



LIGHT GROUPS

Light Groups are an integral part of The Homeless Pastors Outreach programme. It is a tried-and-tested model of community group that tackles isolation and gets people back into the community. They deal with the spiritual and emotional burdens that members may be facing by exploring issues such as forgiveness and thankfulness. They are a place where people can encounter the love of Jesus and respond to the good news of The Gospel.

RECOVERY JOURNEY

In order to develop a strong faith in God, people need to build new foundations away from alcoholism and drug use. In addition, many people suffer from severe mental health related issues. The Light Group understands and appreciates these challenges and works with individuals to leave chaos behind and experience peace in supportive communities.

We use existing recovery resources and discussion points to help people maintain their journey but also consider rehabilitation and a life without drink and drugs.

We encourage people to further access church and work with local church leaders to develop constructive pathways.

'COMING TO THE GROUP IS HELPING ME FIND PEACE OUT OF CHAOS. IN THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS, EVERYONE CONTRIBUTES HONESTLY AND THERE'S A REAL SENSE OF FAMILY. I'M JUST BEGINNING TO DISCOVER THAT GOD LOVES ME.'

HALIFAX LIGHT GROUP ATTENDEE



LEVEL ONE

Level one lasts for four weeks and must be completed to graduate to the next level. Level one contains the following.

INTRODUCTION SESSION

This outlines our work with the homeless and a brief introduction to volunteering and outreach.

BOUNDARIES TRAINING

Having the right boundaries is essential, for both the homeless folks and yourself. This session will teach you how to build and maintain good boundaries.

INTRODUCTION TO OUTREACH

More detail about what to expect on outreach and includes scenarios training.

OUTREACH

Attend eight outreaches in a four week period.

LIGHT GROUPS

Light Groups are conversational groups led by a Homeless Pastor. These groups help create community and have a different theme each week. Candidates are required to attend two Light Groups over the four week period. More details on page 3.

ONE-TO-ONE WITH SENIOR MANAGER

A one hour meeting over coffee to find out how you are doing and to feedback.

GRADUATION

Once you have successfully completed these steps, you have graduated to level two.



LEVEL TWO

Level Two of your training lasts four weeks and must be completed before graduating to the next level. Level Two contains the following.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Safeguarding is really important. Our priority is to keep the homeless folks and the team safe at all times. This session last 1.5 hours.

FIRST AID TRAINING

Quality first aid training, giving you the wisdom and knowledge to save lives. This session lasts 2 hours.

INTRODUCTION TO HOMELESS SERVICES

Part of our success as Homeless Pastors is to understand what organisations are helping the homeless locally and to network and create relationships with them. This session will outline how to do that effectively.

OUTREACH

Attend eight outreaches. Four will be critiqued by the team leader.

LIGHT GROUPS

Attend two Light Groups over a four week period.

ONE-TO-ONE WITH SENIOR MANAGER

A one hour meeting over coffee to find out how you are doing and to feedback.

CHURCH TALK

Attend and participate in a church talk with a homeless Pastor.



LEVEL THREE

Level three of your training lasts four weeks and must be completed to graduate to the next level. Level three contains the following.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Understand more about mental health in our specially designed course. This session lasts 1 hour.

SUICIDE AWARENESS TRAINING

Knowing when people are struggling and suicidal will help save lives. This session lasts 2 hours.

FINAL OUTREACH WORKSHOP

In this workshop we will discuss what has worked over the last twelve weeks and look at real life scenarios of homelessness.

OUTREACH

Attend eight outreaches Four will be critiqued by the team leader.

LIGHT GROUPS

Attend two Light Groups over a four week period.

DROP-IN SESSION

Attend two drop in sessions at a local organisation helping the homeless.

ONE-TO-ONE WITH SENIOR MANAGER

A one hour meeting over coffee to find out how you are doing and to feedback.

ASSESSMENT

All candidates are required to complete an hour long oral assessment, in order to graduate to level four.



LEVEL FOUR

Level four of training lasts ten months and adds the spiritual and pastoral element of the training, with some of the practical skills to develop your own locality for homeless outreach and delivering Light Groups. Completion of this level will graduate you into becoming a Homeless Pastor

LEEDS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Attend Leeds School of Theology “Ministry in the Margins” course. (One evening per month for 10 months). Details on the following page.

LIGHT GROUPS

Lead two Light Group sessions (feedback given)

OUTREACH

Lead four outreaches with feedback given.

DROP-IN SESSIONS

Attend two drop-in sessions and give advice to the homeless.

SOCIAL MEDIA, BRAND & MARKETING

We will support you and help you to understand social media, the Homeless Pastors brand and how to promote and market it.

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

Develop your own local fundraising events using our tried and tested tips and knowledge.

LEVEL FOUR - LEEDS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Having a robust understanding of The Gospel and to clearly articulate it is central to what we do. The Leeds School of Theology provide sound theological training that inspires and equips you to engage with those on the margins in a way that looks and loves like Jesus. The course, will include passionate teaching which fuses together Biblical studies, theological reflection, interviews with people with lived experience, cultural analysis, historical case studies and cutting edge research on addiction and trauma to inspire and equip the church to engage with those on the margins. Topics include...

BUILDING COMMUNITY

LEADING ACCESSIBLE WORSHIP FOR

VULNERABLE ADULTS

WHY THE HELL DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

HELPING WITHOUT HURTING

TRAUMA: HOPE FOR HEALING

VISION AND VALUES OF HEALTHY THEOLOGY

MISSIONAL THEOLOGY FOR THE MARGINS

JUSTICE AND THE HEART OF GOD

THE IMAGE OF GOD

GRADUATION

After graduation we will develop your role in your local area, supporting you as you continue as a Homeless Pastor.

ONE-TO-ONE WITH SENIOR MANAGER

A one hour meeting over coffee to find out how you are doing and to feedback.

NETWORKING

A chance to connect and network with other Homeless Pastors sharing experiences, advice and support.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Additional training will be provided throughout your time as a Homeless Pastor to ensure the advice you are giving is up-to-date.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Every year we will meet together as a team to share encouragement, fellowship, pray and eat together.



GET IN TOUCH

We hope that having read through this document, you are inspired to get involved with our life-transforming work. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further with us - get in touch.

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