

## Not Sure

If you want to explore further what God may be calling you to, you need to:

**Pray:** take time to pray through what you are thinking and feeling. Ask others to pray for you and with you.

**Talk:** go and see your Vicar, who will want to talk this through with you. It will also be helpful to talk to local pioneers in your parish or deanery, or elsewhere in the diocese. Each Mission Community should have a local Pioneering Enabler who may be able to help, contact [nmc@carlisediocese.org.uk](mailto:nmc@carlisediocese.org.uk) to find some local people to chat to.

**Explore:** There may be a Vocations Day coming up, or a Fresh Expressions day where you can find out more. Link with the Northern Mission Centre Facebook group, or download the **Imaginative Mission in and Around Cumbria booklet** from the God for All website.

**Reflect:** upon the demands that this ministry, and training will place on your life, particularly if undertaking some Authorised training or an Ordained Pioneer Pathway. Share these reflections with your family or friends.



To find out more

email [nmc@carlisediocese.org.uk](mailto:nmc@carlisediocese.org.uk)

or visit our website

[www.northernpioneer.co.uk](http://www.northernpioneer.co.uk)

# Is God calling you to Pioneering Mission and Ministry?





## God can call us in dramatic or in the quietest of ways, directly or through other people.

All sorts of different people are called to Pioneering Ministry - youth workers, children's ministers, retirees and those pioneering whilst holding down jobs or managing family commitments. Full time, part time, and extra time, paid, underpaid, unpaid and self-funding through missional enterprise.

In Cumbria we are pioneering new ways to reach new people in new places, and Fresh Expressions of Church are growing quickly across the county. It's helpful to think of pioneering as a spectrum with people called to different aspects of ministry. Some people are starting brand new churches, Fresh Expressions or faith based community initiatives, others are taking an idea from one place and trying it locally, and there are ordained Ministers who may see their role as releasing people's pioneer gifting, or growing and planting new churches themselves.

In Cumbria there are Ordained pioneers, Authorised Lay Pioneer Ministers and local pioneers who are rooted in serving their community and church.

The national church defines Pioneers as 'people called by God who are the first to see and creatively respond to the Holy Spirit's initiatives with those outside the church; gathering others around them as they seek to establish new contextual Christian community.' With a strong track record of pioneering in Cumbria, we want to support EVERYONE across the spectrum to find their vocation and place in the church or community.

**Do you think God is calling you to pioneering?**

## What shape ministry might God be calling you to?

In Carlisle diocese we want all Christians to be pioneering as we seek to help Cumbria recognise God is for All. However, some people have a particular gift of seeing new opportunities, connecting with people beyond church, or just don't fit in with the established ways of doing things. Pioneering people often get involved in things like: -

**Community Connections** like Wellbeing Spaces, Lunch Clubs, Toddler groups.

**Social Enterprises** such as the Restore Shops.

**Fresh Expressions of Church** such as Messy Church, Walking Church, Network Youth Church, Eco Church.

**Church Planting and Mission Initiatives** and much more

Some people feel called to Ordained Ministry with a Pioneer Focus, but we are keen to support those who may want to explore any area of pioneering as part of their vocation.



## Support and Training

We have a range of networks and training spaces to support people. Cmpfire gathers 3 times a year for all pioneers in the county with local spin off network events. There's #FXCUMBRIA an annual day training event open to anyone in our networks or wanting to find out more.

Some people who explore Pioneer Ministry will be encouraged to start by doing the Certificate in Pioneer Mission course. This includes the option to become an Authorised lay pioneer minister in Carlisle diocese. You can find out more at [www.northernpioneer.co.uk](http://www.northernpioneer.co.uk).

If you are interested in ordained ministry from a pioneering perspective, and this is supported by your Incumbent, you will join a selection process to help discern your calling.

If you are recommended for training Carlisle diocese will normally sponsor your training with Emmanuel Theological College in Penrith. The length of training varies but is usually done in local placement contexts to ensure you get the breadth of experience needed for ordained ministry in the Church of England as well as nurturing your specific pioneer gift.

Finally, after you complete training you will be licensed for ministry at the discretion of the Bishop.

To find out about pioneering, Fresh Expressions and imaginative mission visit our website at

[www.northernpioneer.co.uk](http://www.northernpioneer.co.uk)