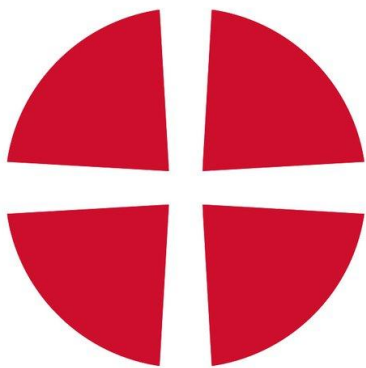




Job Information Pack

Pioneer Worker for Children & Families

Thirsk and Northallerton Methodist Circuit

20 hours per week, 3-year fixed term

A faith is an essential requirement for this role and in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010 it is and will remain throughout the life of the employment contract an occupational requirement that the successful applicant is a practising Christian.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Thirsk and Northallerton Methodist Circuit is at an exciting stage of its life. This past year we became a two-church circuit made up of St James Green Thirsk, and Vale of Mowbray Church which is made up of 6 worshipping/missional communities from across the Circuit. We have recently appointed a Mission Enabler and Community Engagement Pioneer.

We are seeking an innovative and prayerful individual who can help us pioneer fresh ways of engaging with children and young families. This means listening carefully to local communities, noticing where God may already be at work, building relationships beyond existing church activities, and shaping new opportunities for faith, belonging and support under the guidance of the Superintendent Minister.

Job title:	Pioneer Worker for Children & Families.
Location:	Working with local communities and the Circuit to pioneer new openings alongside children and families. Office space is available at Northallerton Methodist Church.
Employing body:	The Thirsk and Northallerton Methodist Circuit.
Responsible to:	The Superintendent Minister.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

The pioneer aspect of the role will require curiosity, courage and flexibility: listening to children, families and local partners; identifying gaps and possibilities; trying small-scale initiatives; learning from what emerges; and helping new expressions of Christian community take root. (see <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/evangelism-growth/new-places-for-new-people/called-to-pioneer/>)

80% of the role will focus on pioneering new work alongside children and families: discerning needs, testing fresh approaches, forming relationships within the local communities across the Circuit, and developing sustainable opportunities for faith exploration. This may include planting one or more NPNP projects. The remaining 20% of the time will be committed to supporting and encouraging already established groups.

- To enable children and families to participate fully in the life of Christian Faith.
 - To encourage already established groups, supporting those involved in leading them.
 - To work on collaboration with the Mission Enabler and Community Engagement Pioneer.
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DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Under the supervision of the Superintendent Minister, the successful applicant will be responsible for children and family work across the Circuit, helping worshipping communities to explore New People for New Places opportunities. To pioneer new ways of working alongside children and families in the community, developing creative, accessible and context-sensitive opportunities for people to encounter Christian faith.

Main Duties:

- The initial phase of the appointment will involve listening, mapping and discernment: identifying opportunities within local communities where new pioneer work with children and families can be established.
- Mapping what is already established within the circuit (i.e., Open the Book, Messy Church, Sunday schools, Godly Play, toddler groups, etc.).
- Develop and assist children and families to explore the Christian faith in creative and dynamic ways, pioneering new forms of mission that may include community-based projects, intergenerational activities, outdoor or sports-based engagement, and other locally shaped initiatives.
- Keep records of contacts and work undertaken in compliance with GDPR legislation.
- Utilise available Circuit, District and Connexion resources including Pioneer Networks.

Safeguarding

- Work with the Superintendent and the Circuit Safeguarding Officer to ensure compliance with the Churches' Policy on Safeguarding, creating a safe space for all.

Financial

- Manage and administer an agreed budget to enable the ministry to develop.

Other requirements:

- Be an active and engaged participant in [Reflective Supervision](#).
- Report regularly to the Circuit Leadership Team.
- Prepare written reports/maintain records as asked to do so by your Line Manager.
- Attend meetings and gatherings as asked to do so by your Line Manager.
- As requested by your Line Manager, undertake other reasonable duties that support the evolving vision and mission of the Thirsk and Northallerton Methodist Circuit.
- Link in to the Districts New Places for New People network and New Streams Circuit as required (<https://www.yorkshiremethodist.org/our-work/new-places-for-new-people/>)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Contract type:	Part-time, fixed term (3 years)
Working hours:	20 hours per week
Rate of pay:	£17 per hour (£17,680 per annum)
Working pattern:	A flexible working pattern, to include evening and weekend working.
Annual leave:	132 hours, inclusive of public holidays.
Probation:	Appointments are conditional on the satisfactory completion of a 3-month probationary period. (We reserve the right to extend this).
Training:	Any appointment is and will remain conditional on the successful completion, at the earliest opportunity of: - Methodist Church Foundation Module Safeguarding Training. - Methodist Church Advanced Module Safeguarding Training. - Methodist Church Unconscious Bias Training. - Signing up to the Methodist Church Pioneering Pathways. - Ministry essentials for Children, Youth and Family Ministries.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

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Responsible to:	The Superintendent Minister.

	E	D	A
Training and Qualifications			
Nationally recognised qualification in Children's, Youth or Community work. <i>Or equivalent professional work experience.</i>	Y		A,I,Q
Training in Pioneer work such as Pioneering Pathways, or Faith Rooted Community Organising.		Y	A,I,Q
Qualification in Biblical, Theological or Mission studies.		Y	A,I,Q
Knowledge, Skills and Experience			
Experience of working/volunteering with children and families in a church context.		Y	A,I
Experience of working with and supporting children and families from a diverse range of backgrounds and needs.	Y		A,I
Experience in planning, leading and delivering family activities and events.	Y		A,I
Experience in leading worship.		Y	A,I
Working knowledge/understanding of Safeguarding procedures and protocols.	Y		A,I
Good all-round knowledge of the important issues and an understanding and appreciating of the current needs that affect families in today's society.	Y		A,I
Good knowledge of computers and social media platforms, able to think creatively about interacting and developing relationships with families.	Y		A,I
Qualities and Aptitudes			
Able to pioneer new activities that attract and serve families, fostering participation, belonging and faith exploration in ways that are responsive to local community needs.	Y		A,I
Able to recognise and develop the gifts of others, recruit and develop volunteers.	Y		A,I
Demonstrate good communication skills across all aspects of their work and adapting the style accordingly.	Y		A,I
Able to work with competing priorities with excellent organisation skills.	Y		A,I
Able to develop and maintain appropriate boundaries, demonstrating integrity and a commitment to confidentiality.	Y		A,I
Able to work effectively within a team and alone with minimum supervision.	Y		A,I
An active listener, friendly and sensitive, with excellent interpersonal skills.	Y		A,I
Any Other Requirements			
A robust and well-developed Christian faith.	Y		A,I
Awareness of and a sensitivity to issues of equality, diversity and inclusion.	Y		A,I
Committed to work irregular hours, to include some evenings and weekends.	Y		A,I
Due to the rural location, hold a current driving licence and have access to a car.	Y		A,I
A satisfactory enhanced disclosure from an enhanced DBS check.	Y		DBS

Assessment: A: Application form; I: Interview; Q: Proof of Qualification; D: DBS Disclosure

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Recruitment Support and Adjustments: If you have any questions about our hiring process, please email hr@sheffieldmethodist.org using the subject line "Recruitment Support" so we can get back to you as quickly as possible. We are committed to being an inclusive employer. If you require any reasonable adjustments or accommodations due to a disability, neurodivergence, or health condition, please let us know how we can best support you during the application or interview stage.

Experience, Knowledge, and Skills: The person specification lists the requirements for this post. To ensure a fair process, our shortlisting panel will only consider information written directly on your application form against these criteria. Please note that CVs will not be used to make shortlisting decisions.

Right to Work in the UK: Any job offer will be conditional on you demonstrating the right to live and work within the United Kingdom, as required by the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. If an employment offer is made, you will be asked to provide official evidence of your entitlement before starting.

References: All job offers are conditional upon receiving satisfactory references. One referee must be your current or most recent employer, and the second should be from a previous, relevant work experience. Both referees must be able to comment on your suitability for this specific role.

Criminal Convictions: Anyone who applies to work with us will be asked to disclose details of any unspent convictions during the recruitment process. Having a criminal record does not automatically bar you from working with us; it depends entirely on the nature of the job and the conviction.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: Our aim is to have a workforce that reflects the diverse talent and abilities within our communities. In line with the Equality Act 2010, recruitment decisions are made solely on the basis of ability and merit, except where an explicit Occupational Requirement applies.

Data Protection: The information you provide will be held in the strictest confidence and processed in line with our [Privacy Policy](#). By submitting an application, your data will be managed securely in accordance with these guidelines.

NEXT STEPS

General enquiries and informal conversations about the role are actively encouraged. Please direct these by email to [Rev Kim Hurst](#).

As part of safer recruitment all applications must be received on a Methodist Church application form.

Anticipated timeline:

Closing date:	28th August 2026
Interview date:	19th September 2026

We reserve the right to close the vacancy earlier than this date should a sufficient number of applications be received.
A flexible start date is available for this post and will be discussed at interview.