

How does the course work?

The course will be delivered by CMS and partner dioceses. This gives a rich mix of contexts and approaches. There are six module weekends: two experienced pioneer practitioners co-facilitate each module. The modules run from Saturday morning 9am to Sunday 1pm. Learning is hybrid - a mix of online, onsite and streamed over the year. The course is hosted by the local Hub leader and a chaplain offers pastoral care.



What are the dates for the module weekends?

17-19 January, 15/16 March, 10/11 May, 5/6 July, 13/14 September and 15/16 November 2025

Where do modules take place?

The first module will be held at Hilfield Friary in Dorset where all new students can get to know each other in person. Three modules will be streamed. You will be in your local 'hublet' group connected to the other groups via Zoom. One module will be entirely on Zoom from your own home. The final module will be 'in person', location to be confirmed at induction.

How will you evaluate my learning?

We set two tasks after each module. In them we ask you to demonstrate what you've learned in whatever way suits you best. You get positive written feedback on your work and advice on how to extend your thinking or practice.

How do I apply?

Register your interest as soon as possible with Jeremy Putnam (details below). If you want to talk to someone first who has done the course he will sort that out for you.

Register for our online **taster session**:
7th November: <https://bit.ly/3ZwmBd3>

Application Form Deadline: 15 November 2024

After you apply we will invite you for a conversation with the course leader and representatives of the Church Mission Society so we can discern together if this is the right course for you. If you are accepted there will be an **induction session on Sunday December 1st 10am—4pm online.**

If you would like a look at some outcomes from the 2022 course, go here: <https://prezi.com/view/WrlAY0wLZEs5gWsHxZmq/>

Want to find out more?

For more information contact:
Rev Jeremy Putnam
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CMS Certificate in Pioneer Mission

2025

“

...looking to Jesus, the pioneer and
perfector of our faith, who for the joy
set before him endured the cross....

Hebrews 12:2

”

What is pioneer mission?

- learning to pay attention to what God is doing in the world and joining in
- which means reading the local context and valuing the local culture, then
- sharing the gospel in appropriate ways
- and partnering with local people to create a new contextual Christian community for people who wouldn't normally join one.

Is the course for me?

Are you:

- someone who starts things?
- pioneering something?
- looking to develop your understanding of mission for your context?
- excited by the idea of sharing ideas and experience with other pioneers?
- looking for an opportunity to study locally?
- able to commit to six weekends and twelve evenings, as well as time for preparation, reflection and demonstrating your learning?

...then the course may be for you.

Inclusion

We try to vary learning activities to meet different needs and preferences. We hope you will find this out for yourselves, but let us know if you have particular requests or suggestions on what you will need to thrive or how we can improve our practice in this area. We have an Inclusion Adviser and you can contact her via Tina Hodgett (contact info overleaf).



Last year's cohort at the first module July 23

What will I learn?

The course consists of six modules:

- What is pioneer mission?
- The Bible in context
- Doing theology
- Mission spirituality
- Mission ecclesiology
- Pioneering in the rural church

You will be part of a small group where you can grow deeper relationships and a support network. This will meet on two evenings between each module and be facilitated by a pioneer practitioner.

Cost

The cost of the course is £250. This can be paid in installments by module if necessary. Students will also need to take account of travel and accommodation and meal costs, we try and keep these to a minimum as much as possible. Your local church may be willing to contribute.

How can I use what I've learnt?

When you have completed the Certificate you may feel called to be recognised by your local parish or benefice as a Local Lay Pioneer. This means you can pioneer in your local community under the oversight of your church leadership team following a short service of recognition in your local church or deanery. If this route isn't right, there will be others!

Meet a former student:

It's been such a valuable experience to look at mission in the local context. To take the written words out of the text books and apply that learning to the place that I live. It's opened my eyes to what's unseen in my community. Challenging my understanding of what it means to live on the margins of society. Learning about mission in a creative and inclusive way supported by like minded people has been an amazing experience.

Lindsay in her garden



'This course achieves more transformation in one year than most courses in three.'

Farhad Chermahini, MA researcher

'The course has helped me see as a church we don't know it all and we need to spend more time asking and praying so we can really know what's needed. Quite simply find out where God's at work already.'

Nathan Gale, church outreach leader, Bath