

# LEAD PIONEER MINISTER

## MAYBUSH LOCAL PIONEER HUB & SOUTHAMPTON PIONEER CONNECTION



Set in this vibrant and diverse city, Southampton deanery is taking the lead on pioneering within the Diocese of Winchester – where we are prayerfully imagining a future in which vibrant parochial and breathtaking pioneering ministry can flourish together.

Having recently secured strategic development funding to create a pioneer hub in Maybush, on the western edge of Southampton, we are now looking to recruit a Lead Pioneer Minister. The successful applicant will be invited to spend half their time pioneering in **Maybush**, and half their time co-leading **Southampton Pioneer Connection** with the Lead Pioneer for Sholing. This new initiative is under a Bishop's Mission Order and aims to resource and release lay pioneers to establish fresh expressions of church across the deanery.



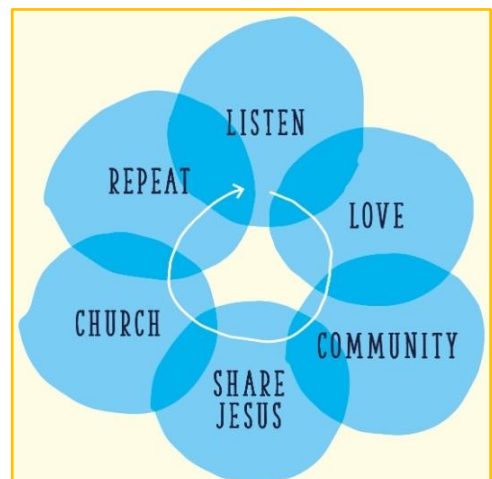
### PIONEERING IN MAYBUSH (50%)



With the support of the local Vicar/Pioneer Advocate, you will be invited to spend half your time pioneering in Maybush, on the west side of Southampton. The parish of Maybush incorporates a large urban estate with a population of 26,000 people, originally built to house those moving out of the city centre after Southampton had been extensively bombed during the Blitz. This area has significant levels of deprivation, where issues associated with poverty are common – including child poverty, social housing, single parent households and single occupancy households. This parish has the lowest attendance per capita in the diocese; two smaller congregations have recently joined a third to meet at St Peter's Church. All Saints' Church has a well-used community hall with good facilities, where a brand new café church congregation meets.

A three-bedroom house in Maybush, with study and garage will be provided with this post.

You will be offered space and freedom to develop pioneering ministry in Maybush, in response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the opportunities which emerge in the community – through which you will be expected to nurture and lead at least one fresh expression of church. Our approach follows the process recommended by the Fresh Expressions team, drawn from observations of pioneering across the UK. There is no expectation that all pioneering journeys will follow exactly the same pattern, research suggests that most fresh expressions of church:



- begin by **listening** to God and to their context;
- develop by building relationships through acts of **love** and service;
- create a sense of **community** in which evangelism can have its proper place;
- provide opportunities for people to explore becoming followers of **Jesus**;
- encourage new forms of **church** to take shape around those entering faith; and
- seek to **repeat** the process.

## SOUTHAMPTON PIONEER CONNECTION & MAYBUSH LOCAL PIONEER HUB (50%)

**Southampton Pioneer Connection (SPC)** is a new initiative under a Bishop’s Mission Order, supporting the development of twenty fresh expressions of church across the deanery. Our vision is to resource and release a network of lay/ordained pioneers, to grow and lead fresh expressions of church which emerge organically from within their contexts, as we engage intentionally, missionally and relevantly in our communities.

Your role will be to develop SPC in collaboration with the Lead Pioneer for Sholing, two Pioneer Advocates, and a team of lay pioneers. The idea is to gather people together to offer training and resources, enable mutual support, minimise isolation, and nurture a creative, challenging and inspiring community of pioneering practice. By drawing together the skills and experience of pioneers and supporters of pioneering, we hope to resource and release an empowered lay leadership and lay-led fresh expressions of church. We envisage this will include:

- Pioneer training;
- Coaching and mentoring;
- Community of practice;
- Advocacy and support;
- Accountability and oversight;
- Prayer and reflection;
- Quiet days and retreats;
- Social gatherings and more.



**Maybush Local Pioneer Hub** is the local expression of SPC on the west of the city, and will be mirrored by a local pioneer hub in Sholing on the east of the city. Each local hub will be resourced by a new pioneer community mission house (known as ‘Pioneer Pods’). Building on the success of a pilot project in Sholing, we will be recruiting up to four lay pioneers to live rent free in each new Pioneer Pod; living together in



community and spending half their week pioneering locally. Your role will be to support these volunteer ‘Associate Pioneers’ to develop a light-touch rhythm of life (including prayer, shared meals, discipleship, coaching, etc), to nurture a pattern of generous hospitality, to engage in the training and support offered through SPC, and—most importantly—to be released as lay pioneers in their local communities. Together with your Pioneer Advocate (the Vicar of Maybush, released 20% of her time to support local pioneering) you will be invited to oversee the Maybush Pioneer Pod and the wider team which gathers around it.

## THE TEAM



**Jon Oliver is Lead Pioneer for Sholing and coleader of Southampton Pioneer Connection.** He currently heads up a number of projects, including Monty's Community Hub (a community development charity, social enterprise and fresh expression of church all rolled into one). Jon loves clifftops, laughter and creativity – and is excited to support new opportunities across the city for innovation and collaboration with people and with Jesus.



**Jane Bakker is Pioneer Advocate for Maybush,** and is also Area Dean of Southampton, where she has spent five years promoting and advocating for pioneering in the city. She is committed to seeing an expansion of pioneer ministry in a vibrant mixed economy of church across the city. Jane has been based in Maybush for the past two years and is excited about the pioneering possibilities here.



**Greg Bakker is Pioneer Advocate for Sholing,** and is also vicar of Sholing; a large parish on the eastern edge of Southampton. Over the last few years, Greg has generously created space and opportunities for pioneering, including being the training incumbent for two pioneer curates. Greg is deeply committed to nurturing and negotiating space for pioneers and pioneering to flourish.



**Paul Moore is Visitor to Southampton Pioneer Connection BMO.** Paul has always been passionate to engage with people who don't do church, and together with his wife Lucy, was part of the team that started the first Messy Church for all ages. As Archdeacon for Mission Development, Paul is excited to work with pioneers to build vision and capacity to follow where the Spirit leads; growing new churches and new followers of Jesus.



**Jen Sissons is Community Development Enabler for the Diocese of Winchester.** Jen supports churches across the region to explore what sustainable community engagement looks like and how they can be equipped to be a catalyst for positive social change in their communities. She is working with the SPC team to help foster a culture of pioneering and community engagement throughout Southampton.



**Tammy Oliver is a pioneer ordinand,** due to start training with CMS following maternity leave. She is part of the leadership of Monty's (a community development charity, social enterprise and fresh expression of church) while also supporting various creative activist projects in the city. Tammy loves art, craft and dancing – and is passionate about people discovering their gifts and becoming who they were created to be.

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY & DEANERY

Southampton is growing, thriving city. With two universities, rich arts and music scenes, and an expanding economy, Southampton continues to attract growth – with a population increase of 9% over the last decade, to almost quarter of a million people. There is more to come, with large developments taking shape and more planned. The city is also growing more diverse and more prosperous – which is great news for some, but not all, as increased wealth highlights growing levels of deprivation. As elsewhere, the Church of England is struggling to keep up with this growth. Reflecting national patterns, some local churches have seen increased attendance, but overall the church is declining and the average age increasing.

Southampton Deanery is aware that our inherited model of ministry is showing signs of strain, and is working hard to encourage new models of mission and ministry. Primarily this is being driven through Mission Action Planning, focussing heavily on pioneer ministry in the city. This has attracted new resources and created excitement about fresh expressions of church in the deanery, awakening interest in doing things differently. We hope to build on this by nurturing a rich, diverse mixed economy of church in Southampton.



The Pioneer Hubs and Pioneer Connection have emerged from years of praying and pioneering in Southampton, where a growing number of lay and ordained pioneers and advocates have emerged over the last few years. Southampton current has five ordained pioneers (including two curates), a dozen lay pioneers (including a pioneer ordinand and four members of the pilot Pioneer Pod project), two Pioneer Advocates (parish clergy who 'get' pioneering, and are released 20% of their time to support local pioneers), and a growing community of clergy and laity who are excited about pioneering in the deanery.

## MISSION-SHAPED DIOCESE

The Diocese of Winchester is committed to being truly mission-shaped, and over the last few years has engaged in an ongoing process of strategic review and mission action planning. Starting with a new vision statement "Living the Mission of Jesus" in 2011, this was unpacked in three dimensions:

- **Passionate personal spirituality**
- **Pioneering faith communities**
- **Prophetic global citizenship**

Building on this vision, the Bishop of Winchester gathered together leaders and churchgoers from across the diocese to discern and agree our new strategic priorities:



1. **We grow authentic disciples**, going out as individuals passionately, confidently and courageously sharing their faith, and coming together as creative church communities of prayer and worship that live out Kingdom values.
2. **We re-imagine the Church**; intentionally connecting and engaging with our local communities in culturally relevant ways. We will rejoice in the richness of the 'mixed economy' of all ministry and proactively promote vibrant parochial and breathtaking pioneering ministries among 'missing' generations (eg, children, young people, under 35s).
3. **We are agents of social transformation**; using our influence as a diocese to transform public and personal life. We will demonstrate loving faith at work in local communities and across the globe bringing healing, restoration and reconciliation.
4. **We belong together in Christ**, practicing sacrificial living and good stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us. We will combine radical generosity, care and capacity-building with a clear focus on directing finance into the mission of Jesus. Sharing and multiplying local good practice, using people, buildings and other resources wisely, we will seek to boldly prune, plant and invest in building for the Kingdom.

More recently, through our bid to the Strategic Development Fund, we prayerfully imagined a future in which we can address historical under-investment in relevant engagement and mission activities in urban areas, develop new models for engagement with major development areas and student evangelism, whilst also seeking to revitalise rural ministry. One key strand to the strategic development plan is the creation of three new pioneer hubs, which will draw together the skills and experience of pioneers and advocates to resource and release empowered lay leadership and lay-led fresh expressions of church.



## INTENDED PROJECT OUTCOMES

We are incredibly excited about this new project – which will resource and release ordinary people to follow our extraordinary God into their pioneering vocation. Combining meaningful input and supportive community, our hope is that Southampton Pioneer Connection and the local pioneer hubs will provide the foundation needed to see the growth of countless pioneering projects and all sorts of new, creative, different, unexpected, innovative and fresh expressions of church in our city. Our intended outcomes are:

- *20 new fresh expressions of church (fxC) launched in Southampton within three years;*
- *each new fxC to include at least 20 participants;*
- *at least 35% of all participants at fxC to be unchurched;*
- *at least 25% of all participants at fxC to be under 30 years of age;*
- *at least 70% of fxC to be lay-led; and*
- *the support provided for new fxC by the Lead Pioneers and Pioneer Advocates to be consistently assessed as 'good' or 'excellent'.*

For an informal conversation contact Paul Moore,  
Archdeacon for Mission Development, on 01962 710964

Closing date: 6th January 2019  
Interviews: 3-4th February 2019