SPOTLIGHT

Minako Hall

Minako is a Lay Pioneer who leads a Fresh Expression for Japanese people in the Woolwich Area. This involves a monthly discussion group and monthly Bible study for those wanting to go deeper.

Project Spotlight: Popcorn and Ponder

'Popcorn and Ponder' is a weekly group run by Jules Atkinson, a licensed Pioneer at Springfield Church, Wallington. Participants work through a Gospel by watching a chapter of the LUMO videos, which are verbatim accounts from the NIV Bible and filmed in the Middle East, and then have the chance for an open discussion. It has become a safe space for people talk about the difficult questions and how what they see connects with the world and the struggles of today.

Project Spotlight: SoulSpace

SoulSpace is a project run by Katherine von Schubert, a licensed Pioneer in the Kingston area. It aims to build a bridge between church and those who might be spiritual but not religious. Using inclusive and minimal language for people, SoulSpace offers a guided 20-minute mid-week meditation with silence, music and wisdom from different traditions.

NEXT STEPS

If you think you might be called to serve God in Lay Pioneer Ministry, talk with your incumbent or chaplain. They will be able to help you discern God's calling. If you would like to have an informal conversation about your sense of call to Lay Pioneer Ministry, please email layministry@southwark.anglican.org and someone from the Discipleship and Ministry Team will contact you. They will tell you more about training and guide you through the discernment process.

Find out more about Lay Pioneer Ministry in Southwark on our website.

FIND OUT MORE

What is my vocation?

The discernment process

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The Diocese of Southwark

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The Diocese of Southwark

PIONEER MINISTRY

Are you called to build new Christian communities?

Christ Centred

Outward Focused

Are you someone who:

- is passionate about the Gospel?
- wants to reach those outside the Church's traditional structures?
- is creative and likes taking the initiative?
- is willing to try new things?

If the answer is yes, God might be calling you to ministry as a Lay Pioneer.

"Pioneers are 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 ministries." – Church of England

Pioneers spend most of their time with people outside the Church – the unchurched and dechurched – working with them to build new ecclesial (church) communities.

Becoming a Lay Pioneer gives you:

- affirmation of God's call by the wider Church
- tailored training and ongoing support for your ministry
- a learning community of others doing the same thing
- an opportunity to reflect as you go.

Lay Pioneers seek new ways to reach out to communities and groups of people who need to know the love of Christ. This will often mean forming a Fresh Expression of Church — a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet formal members of any church.

Examples include café church, a new church on a housing estate, Messy Church, eco-church and many more.

There are three pathways for Lay Pioneer Ministry:

1. Affirmed Lay Pioneers

Members and local church leaders within parish team Fresh Expressions or Estates Lay Pioneer Ministry may be affirmed. They work alongside their parish priest and may also participate in Lay Pioneer training courses like Magnify or Greenhouse groups.

2. Commissioned Lay Pioneers

Commissioned Lay Pioneers focus on cultivating new Christian communities such as Fresh Expressions or New Missional Communities through contextual mission in a local setting. They will normally be based within a parish, working under the supervision of the incumbent or other staff members. The discernment and selection process for Commissioned Lay Pioneer Ministry is coordinated by the Discipleship and Ministry Team in collaboration with the Pioneering and Fresh Expressions Team.

Training is practically based using an apprenticeship model. It usually involves doing two things. The first is either the Mission-Shaped Ministry course or the Greenhouse Programme. Each lasts a year and covers subjects such as the Gospel in context; fundamentals of mission; developing new communities; and working with people. They are followed by a year of leadership development and reflective practice, with coaching and mentoring.

'Popcorn and Ponder'

3. Licensed Lay Pioneers

Licensed Lay Pioneers are leaders engaging in mission in a specific context to develop new Christian communities. While they may work in a parish setting, they may also work across multiple contexts or develop a new community outside the existing parish structure. They may be supervised by their incumbent or by the Dean of Fresh Expressions (or a person assigned by them).

The discernment and selection process for Licensed Lay Pioneer Ministry is coordinated by the Vocations Team in collaboration with the Pioneering and Fresh Expressions and Discipleship and Ministry Teams.

Training consists of a CertHE (Level 4) course, usually taken part-time over two years through St Augustine's College of Theology, or another equivalent further education institution (CMS, Sarum college have offered alternative creative courses) followed by further practical training and reflective practice for 1-2 years. The CertHE includes biblical and theological studies as well as courses in contextual mission and ministry and creating new Christian communities.

Note that all those discerning a call to Lay Pioneer Ministry will have to undergo a DBS check and safeguarding training.