

LEAD PIONEER MINISTER (ORDAINED) MAYBUSH, SOUTHAMPTON



THE VISION

Southampton Deanery is taking a lead on pioneering in the Diocese of Winchester. We are prayerfully imagining a future in which both vibrant parochial and breath-taking pioneering ministry can flourish. This ambitious and exciting journey will grow a diverse range of fresh expressions of Church (fxC) across the city.

Our vision is that, within three years, twenty pioneering initiatives will have started their fresh expression journey. Through these diverse initiatives we aim to prioritise the unchurched; to engage the missing generations; to nurture lay leadership; and to develop excellent support structures.

Southampton Pioneer Connection is a new Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) set up to provide a framework for resourcing lay pioneers and growing fresh expressions of church across the deanery.



This vision will be resourced by:

- **Two Lead Pioneer Ministers** – based in Maybush and Sholing (east and west of the city) who will collaborate to support pioneering across the city;
- **Two Pioneer Advocates** – local clergy who 'get' pioneering and have a proven track record of supporting pioneers, who each have 20% of their time allocated to advocate for pioneering;
- **Eight Associate Pioneers** – volunteer lay pioneers, who commit 2½ days a week to local mission;
- **Existing lay pioneers and local missional leaders;**
- **Supportive clergy and ecumenical partners;**
- **Southampton Deanery** – focussed on and committed to pioneering in Southampton.

For more information about these roles, see below.

THE ROLE

With pioneering activity thriving in the north and east of the city, we have recently secured strategic funding for pioneering in Maybush on the west of Southampton. We are now looking to recruit a Lead Pioneer Minister for this role. The successful applicant will be invited to:

1. **Engage in fresh-start pioneering in Maybush, and grow a fresh expression of Church;**
2. **Oversee a small residential community of trainee lay pioneers based in Maybush;***
3. **Share the leadership of 'Southampton Pioneer Connection' (SPC).**

* Please note the residential community will be housed separately from your own accommodation.

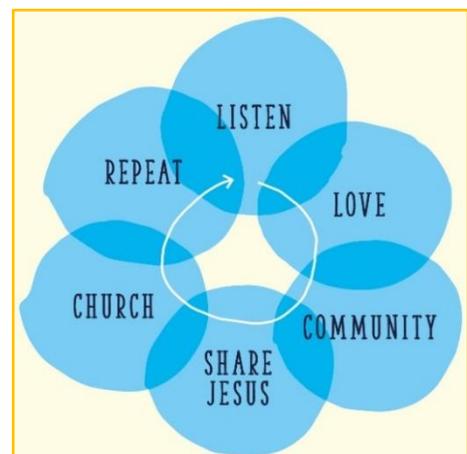
1. PIONEERING IN MAYBUSH

You will be invited to pioneer in Maybush – engaging with the community, exploring opportunities for mission and growing a fresh expression of Church. Half of your time will be ring-fenced for fresh-start pioneering. You will be supported by the vicar, who is also Area Dean and Pioneer Advocate for Maybush. She has been supporting pioneering for many years and understands the unique demands of the role. A three-bedroom house in Maybush, with study and garage, is provided with this post.



Maybush parish incorporates a large, urban estate (population 26,000). It was originally built to house those moving out of the city centre after it was extensively bombed in the Blitz. The area has significant levels of deprivation, and issues associated with poverty are common – including child poverty, social housing, single parent households and social isolation. The parish has the lowest attendance per capita in the diocese. A small congregation meets at St Peter’s Church. All Saints’ Church has a well-used community hall with good facilities, where an embryonic fxC meets.

You will be offered space and freedom to develop pioneering ministry in Maybush, in response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and through the opportunities that emerge in the community. We anticipate that you will grow and lead a fresh expression of Church. There are no expectations about the shape or form of any fxC which emerges, but we usually follow the ‘journey’ recommended by the Fresh Expressions team, whose research suggests that most fxC:



- begin by **listening** to God and to their context;
- develop 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.

2. OVERSEEING MAYBUSH PIONEER COMMUNITY MISSION HOUSE



Pioneering in Maybush will also be resourced by a small, mission-focussed residential community. Building on the success of a recent pilot, we will be recruiting up to four lay pioneers to live rent-free in a local mission house. These ‘Associate Pioneers’ will live together and spend half their week pioneering locally.

Your role will be supporting them to develop a light-touch rhythm of life (including prayer, shared meals, discipleship, etc); to nurture a pattern of generous hospitality; to engage in the training and support offered or signposted through SPC; and to engage as lay pioneers in their local communities. Together with the Pioneer Advocate, you will oversee the pioneer community mission house, and offer leadership and coaching to the volunteer Associate Pioneers.

3. SHARING THE LEADERSHIP OF SOUTHAMPTON PIONEER CONNECTION

Southampton Pioneer Connection (SPC) is a new initiative under a Bishop's Mission Order, and an associated Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our aim is to resource and release a network of lay and ordained pioneers; to grow and lead fresh expressions of church, which emerge organically from within their contexts; and engage intentionally, missionally and relevantly in our communities.

Your role will be to co-lead SPC alongside the Lead Pioneer for Sholing. You will be supported in this by a committed team of trustees, including two Pioneer Advocates, and a community of local pioneers. The idea is to gather people together to offer mutual support, to minimise isolation, and to nurture a creative, challenging and inspiring community of pioneering practice. By drawing together the skills and experience of pioneers and supporters, we hope to encourage a diverse range of lay-led fresh expressions of Church. This may include training and mentoring, quiet days and retreats, a community of practice, social gatherings, prayer, support and accountability, oversight and synodical representation.



INTENDED PROJECT OUTCOMES

We are incredibly excited about this initiative – which we believe will resource and release ordinary people to follow our extraordinary God to flourish within their pioneering vocations. Combining meaningful input and supportive community, our hope is that Southampton Pioneer Connection 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. With this in mind, we hope that over the next three years of this project we will see:

- 20 new fresh expressions of church start the fresh expressions journey;
- 20 participants in each fresh expression of church;
- 35% of participants to be unchurched;
- 25% of participants to be aged under thirty;
- 70% of fxC to be lay-led;
- the support provided for new fxC to be consistently assessed as 'good' or 'excellent'.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY & DEANERY

Southampton is growing, thriving city with two universities, an expanding economy, and exciting arts and music scenes. Southampton continues to attract growth population has increased around 10% over the last decade, to almost a quarter of a million people. Larger housing developments are taking shape, with more planned. The city is also growing more diverse and more prosperous. This is great news for some, but not all, as increased wealth highlights growing levels of deprivation. The Church of England has struggled to keep up with these changes; 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, which focusses on pioneer ministry. This has attracted new resources and created excitement about fresh expressions of Church in the deanery, awakening an interest in doing things differently. We are building on this by nurturing a fruitful and diverse mixed economy of Church in Southampton.

Southampton Pioneer Connection has emerged through years of praying and pioneering in the deanery, where a growing number of lay and ordained pioneers, and their supporters, have emerged over the last few years. Southampton currently has five ordained pioneers (including two curates), a dozen lay pioneers (including a pioneer ordinand and three members of the pilot mission community house), Pioneer Advocates, and a growing community of clergy and laity who are excited about pioneering.

THE SPC TEAM



Jon Oliver is Lead Pioneer Minister in Sholing. Based here for the last eight years, Jon heads up Monty's Community Hub (a community development charity, social enterprise and fresh expression of church). As co-leader of SPC, he's excited to support new opportunities for collaboration and innovation as we join in with the adventure of Jesus in our city. Jon loves clifftops, creativity, silliness, laughter, and endless cups of tea.



Jane Bakker is Pioneer Advocate in Maybush. She is also Vicar of Maybush and Area Dean of Southampton, where she has spent five years advocating for pioneering. Jane is deeply committed to seeing an expansion of pioneer ministry in a vibrant mixed economy of church across Southampton. Jane loves walking, crafting, doodling, and margheritas – and really, really wants to get a puppy.



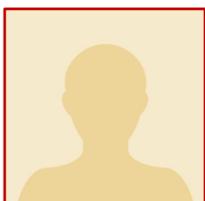
Paul Moore is Archdeacon for Mission Development, and Bishop's Visitor to SPC. Paul is passionate about engaging with people who don't do church and, alongside his wife Lucy, was part of the team that started the very first Messy Church. Paul is excited to work with pioneers to build vision and capacity to follow where the Spirit leads. He loves live music, of all sorts, and plays numerous musical instruments badly.



Jen Sissons is the Community Development Enabler for the Diocese of Winchester. Jen supports churches across the region to explore sustainable community engagement and how to be equipped as catalysts for positive social change. She works with SPC to help foster a culture of pioneering and community engagement throughout Southampton. Jen loves cheese, bacon, G&T (sometimes altogether) and most of all the ocean!



Tammy Oliver is a pioneer ordinand, training with CMS. Tammy has been part of various pioneering projects, social enterprises, and creative activist projects in Southampton, and is currently part of the leadership at Monty's Community Hub. Tammy loves art, craft and dancing – and is passionate about helping people discover their gifts and becoming who they were created to be.



Pioneer Advocate in Sholing. We recently said fond farewells to our previous Pioneer Advocate, who has moved to start a new role as a pioneer elsewhere. We will soon be recruiting for another Pioneer Advocate to be based in Sholing, from where they will negotiate and nurture space for pioneering throughout Southampton.

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 missional activity 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 diocesan strategic development plan is to nurture hubs of pioneering activity, 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.

For an informal conversation contact Paul Moore, Archdeacon for Mission Development, on 01962 710964 or email paul.moore@winchester.anglican.org