



Job Information Pack

Wilderness Pioneer

Ryedale Methodist Circuit

Closing date: **Friday 13th March 2026**

Interview date: **Saturday 28th March 2026**

The role:

- Based within the outdoor spaces of the churches that make up the Ryedale Methodist Circuit we seek to appoint a person of faith to join our staff team as ‘Wilderness Pioneer’ on a permanent part-time 24-hour a week contract.

Background:

- Following the launch of St Aelred’s Pilgrim trail in Sept 2024, there has been a surge of interest in exploring spirituality and community in the outdoors.
- Ryedale is an area where agriculture is still central, and the countryside is accessed by locals and holiday makers, for cycling, walking and other country pursuits.
- OMG, a pioneering church in Malton for families, already engages in forest church activities, and Buckrose Parish has recently launched a Walking Church. With several churches working towards eco-church status, and with some of our small Methodist churches based in beautiful country village locations, with rivers, plains and woodland on the doorstep the opportunity to plant new outdoor-focused faith communities, and to establish a new pilgrim trail with our ecumenical colleagues seems ripe for exploration.
- This role will be to help form and become a part of a team, working ecumenically, to develop and deliver outdoor spirituality and faith activity and community in Ryedale, and will be overseen by a leadership team drawn from the local Ryedale Circuit and the Kairos Movement, which is a pioneering diaspora network of small groups making up a circuit which covers the Yorkshire North and East District and beyond.

Purpose of role:

- The primary focus of the role is to work alongside the ‘Outdoor Team’, the Superintendent and clergy team to grow and develop a team, or teams that can run a network of outdoor-based spiritual faith communities, New Places for New People (NPNPs) and activities across Ryedale.
- This would include regular faith walks, the development of a Pilgrim trail, outdoor / forest style worship, the generation of liturgy and multimedia that can be used in existing church settings to bring outdoor worship in.
- Finally, to work alongside Sinnington Methodist church, specifically in developing a new pattern of activities in which a new gathered faith community might be planted.

Next steps:

- Application forms are available [here](#).

Anticipated timeline:

1. Closing date:	13/03/26
2. Interview date (in-person):	28/03/26

1. We reserve the right to close the vacancy earlier than this date should a sufficient number of applications be received.
2. Interviews will be held in-person at local Church premises.



Job title: Wilderness Pioneer.
Employed by: Ryedale Methodist Circuit (Charity Number 1152920).
Location: Home based with much of the activity based from 'outdoor spaces' around the churches in the area.

Reports to: Accountable to the trustees of Ryedale Methodist Circuit through an appointed Line Manager.

Key relationships:
(Internal)

- Rev Andy Lindley (Line Manager, Minister)
- Rev Graham Ransom (Minister, member of the Outdoor Team)
- The Outdoor Spirituality Team
- Ryedale Circuit Leadership Team

Key relationships:
(External)

- Ecumenical Partners – Churches Together in Southern Ryedale (CTSR)
- St Aelred's Pilgrimage Team – Churches Together in Northern Ryedale (CTNR)
- Lizzie Winchcombe Buckrose Walking Church

Faith/Occupational Requirement:

- A faith is an essential requirement for this role and in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010 there is an occupational requirement that the successful applicant is a practising Christian.

Main responsibilities:

Outdoor Spirituality Team

- Work with Rev Andy Lindley to draw together existing volunteers who have expressed an interest in order to develop a core team that can deliver a suite of activities.
- Utilise the St Aelred's Pilgrim database, social media and Google Meetup to draw together further interest and discern appropriate partnerships and initial activities to offer.
- Pursue new contacts with outdoor groups and activity leaders to generate new connections and opportunities.
- Manage a database of contacts, develop a mailing list, with GDPR.

Development of Pilgrim Trail

- Continue to build relationships with English Heritage, St Aelred's Pilgrim trail and other volunteers to develop a new Pilgrim trail, either connecting to Rievaulx and heading East, or Kirkham and connecting to other Ryedale churches.
- Develop a website and other materials akin to that of St Aelred's way and develop an annual celebratory walk.

Wilderness Pilgrims

- With the team over the first few months, through conversation with activity based groups, and families and working age people living in Ryedale, using Faith Based

Community Organising processes and conversations, further clarify the vision for spiritual groups, times, dates and venues.

- Following a period of the above, initiate a suite of outdoor faith-centred activities, such as Communal and Self-Guided Spirituality Walks, Forest Church, Cycling routes, Contextual Multimedia & Liturgy – seeking in each case, to develop faith communities and NPNPs, which can either form a place of faith belonging, or augment existing belonging. Developing a sense of being a part of one outdoor Wilderness Pilgrim community, even if only attending one activity, is a key goal.
- Initiating each activity is a community collaboration, rather than consumer provision, by engaging attendees in providing skills, time, energy and support to the running of the activities from the beginning.
- Signposting those attending to other places of faith belonging or exploration, such as Ryedale's churches, or Kairos' Groups to provide a wider discipleship experience.

A Gathered Faith Community at Sinnington

- To arrange sufficient of the above activities in the vicinity of Sinnington Methodist, such that, along with the community café and art partnerships, a new gathered NPNP church might be planted.

Safeguarding

- Keeping abreast of the Ryedale and Kairos circuit's policies and processes, particularly of pastoral care and safeguarding. Coordinate with the safeguarding rep to ensure training is undertaken.
- Ensure that the necessary risk assessments are in place for all activities, and that suitable first aid provision is in place.

Communication

- Produce web materials (either a new site, or page link from the Ryedale/Kairos pages), social media and regular mailings to promote and maintain a sense of identity for the Ryedale Wilderness Pilgrims.
- With the team maintain a WhatsApp of equivalent community and seed with discussion, and updates.
- Keep other staff and colleagues informed of relevant information.
- Attending, where appropriate, Church Councils, Circuit Leadership and Circuit Meetings where appropriate.
- Working with the circuit treasurers to develop and oversee a budget for outdoor ministry.

Other Duties

- Proactively support the Ryedale Circuit and Kairos Leadership Teams.
- Be an active and engaged participant in the [Methodist Pioneer Pathway](#).
- Attend training and be engaged with your professional development as deemed necessary and in agreement with your Line Manager.
- Any other duties, identified by your line manager, within your capabilities and level of responsibility, in order to fulfil the ministry of the Ryedale & Kairos Circuits.

Summary of terms and conditions:

Contract type:	Part-time, permanent.
Working hours:	24 hours per week.
Work pattern:	A flexible working pattern, to include occasional evening work. <i>Hours are to be worked over 5 days per week, responding to need.</i>
Rate of pay:	£16.48 per hour (£20567 per annum / £31708 FTE)
Location:	Home based with much of the activity based from the outdoor spaces around the churches in the Circuit.
Annual leave:	Leave for a full-time employee is 33 days inclusive of public holidays.
Pension:	There is a contributory pension scheme to which eligible staff will be auto enrolled. Employees who do not meet the auto enrolment criteria are eligible to join the Scheme, subject to certain provisions.
Probationary period:	Offers of employment are conditional on the satisfactory completion of a 6-month period of probationary service. We reserve the right to extend this up to a maximum of 12-months.
DBS disclosure:	Offers of employment are conditional on a satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).
Supervision:	Be an active and engaged participant in Reflective Supervision .
Training:	<p>We will try to support you to develop and improve your professional practice and we will consider relevant requests for your continuing professional development.</p> <p>At the request of your Line Manager there will be the need to attend training relevant to the role and to the evolving requirements of the Ryedale Methodist Circuit and the wider Methodist Church.</p> <p>Such training might be internal or external and, where possible, it will be undertaken in contracted hours or recorded as time off in lieu (TOIL).</p> <p>Within the first 3 months of employment, the following training courses must be undertaken and/or any necessary refresher training completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methodist Church Foundation Module Safeguarding Training. - Methodist Church Advanced Module Safeguarding Training. - Methodist Church Unconscious Bias Training.

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E = Essential, D = Desirable, M = Method of Assessment	E	D	M
Training and Qualifications			
Good understanding and use of written and spoken English	Yes		A, I
Qualification in mission and/or theology		Yes	A, I, Q
Qualification in Forest Schools and/or Forest Church		Yes	A, I, Q
Food Hygiene Level 2		Yes	A, I, Q
First Aid / Outdoor First Aid Trained		Yes	A, I, Q
Knowledge, Skills and Experience			
Experienced in establishing dialogue with a diverse range of people, including those currently unaffiliated with faith and the church, being sensitive to all	Yes		A, I
An understanding of how to lead, create new/enhance current activities and forms of worship that meet the needs of existing/seek to attract new attendees	Yes		A, I
Experience of working with families which include young children	Yes		A, I
Experienced in working collaboratively with ecumenical partners and other community groups, developing positive and trusted relationships		Yes	A, I
Good knowledge of computers, WordPress websites and social media platforms, being able to think creatively about how to interact and develop relationships with the community through promoting in-person groups and making faith accessible digitally	Yes		A, I
Qualities and Aptitudes			
Able to react and adapt positively to changing priorities and circumstances in order to meet the current and future needs of our church communities	Yes		A, I
A person of vibrant faith, and a strong sense of calling to Church Planting and Pioneering Ministry, with an interest in exploring fresh expressions of church	Yes		A, I
Able to work with competing priorities with excellent organisation skills	Yes		A, I
Able to identify and explore the giftings of others and nurture a volunteer team	Yes		A, I
Able to develop and maintain appropriate boundaries, demonstrating integrity and a commitment to confidentiality	Yes		A, I
An active listener, friendly and sensitive, able to work with compassion	Yes		A, I
Able to communicate with confidence, both verbally and in writing, in a culturally relevant way to all ages and backgrounds	Yes		A, I
Any Other Requirements			
A robust and well-developed Christian faith	Yes		A, I
Be supportive of the ethos and charisms of the Methodist Church	Yes		A, I
Awareness of and a sensitivity to issues of equality, diversity and inclusion and a commitment to the unique value of the individual in all aspects of life	Yes		A, I
A passion for the environment and enthusiasm for walking, nature and the outdoor spirituality	Yes		A, I
Physically fit with good navigation skills	Yes		A, I
A commitment to work irregular hours, to include evenings and weekends	Yes		A, I
To be an active participant in any relevant communities of practice.	Yes		A, I
A satisfactory disclosure from an enhanced DBS check.	Yes		DBS

A: Application form; **I:** Interview; **Q:** Proof of Qualification; **P:** Presentation; **E:** Exercise

Adjustments:

Please let us know if you require adjustments making at any stage or to any aspect of the application process or provide us with any information that you feel relevant whilst we consider your application.

If you are selected for interview, we will ask if you have any access needs or if you require any reasonable adjustments to be made for the interview. Please be assured that we will be supportive in discussing reasonable adjustments at all stages of the recruitment process.

Entitlement 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. You will be asked to provide evidence of your entitlement should an offer of employment be made.

Experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities:

The person specification lists minimum requirements for this post. When shortlisting, the panel will only consider information that is written on your application form, and they will assess this information against the person specification. *Where CVs are submitted these will not be used to make shortlisting decisions.*

References:

Any job offer will be conditional subject to receipt of satisfactory references. We reserve the right to withdraw a conditional offer based on the references that we receive. One should be from your current or most recent employer, the second from a previous employment. It is important that both referees are able to comment on your suitability to the role.

Criminal convictions:

Anyone who applies to work with us will be asked to disclose details of unspent convictions. Whilst having a criminal record does not automatically bar you from working with us this will depend on the job that you have applied for and the nature of the conviction.

Data protection:

The information you provide will be held in the strictest confidence. We process information in line with our Privacy Policy and if you are successful in your application the information that we hold will be used to administer your employment with us. By making an application, we assume that you agree to the processing of your data in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion:

Our aim is to have a workforce that reflects the diversity of talent and abilities drawn from across our community. In line with the Equality Act 2010, we will monitor the composition of our workforce to ensure it is representative and that staff are treated equally and fairly.

Unless stated that an 'Occupational Requirement' is in place for a vacancy, recruitment will be made on the basis of an applicant's ability and merit as measured against the job criteria.

If you have any questions about how we recruit you can contact us by clicking [here](#).