

New Places for New People (NPNP) Update

January 2024

Christmas might have been last year; however, the memory of cooking that meal remains. The hours of prep between myself, my wife, and my two older kids on Christmas Eve was intense, to say the least. Interestingly, I learned that my middle daughter is a dab hand at peeling Brussels ... That prep continued into Christmas Day itself. The hours it took all culminated in a mad rush of 15 people happily eating their way through far too much food.

Why am I venting about my Christmas dinner experience? Well, it strikes me that the time spent eating and enjoying was far less than the prep time. Often in pioneering and starting something new, the prep time needed far exceeds the moment where it all begins e.g. the first gathering or when that New Place for New People emerges. Regardless of your tranche, the prep work needed to begin your new place feels like that vegetable peeling moment.



Don't lose heart if that is the case! Why? How true is it that the chances of 'success' diminish without that preparation time? As someone impatient at the best of times, it is easy to want to rush through any planning and preparation to get things done. However, there's one thing that can't be rushed in our journey of discovering what God is doing with the people called Methodists, and that is the prep work. We need to embrace the prep work, the searching, the pondering, and the asking why. All this preparation work brings us to where we centre our activity on God.



So to get to that point, the need to embrace the messiness of preparation is essential. So I hope that as you read this, you will embrace a 2024 filled with praying, discussing, fasting, and, above all, dreaming of what could be in God's timing.

Oh, by the way, here's a picture of my roast for evidence ...

Matt Forsyth, District Mission Team Leader, member of the NPNP Guiding Team and the Mission Committee.

Storytelling

Several NPNP/CaM films are currently in production, ready to tell stories that will inspire others to begin new Christian communities. There will also be videos of pioneers who are sharing about their call and what they have learnt on their MPP journeys.

Events and Training

CAM Practitioners Network

The **Church at the Margins Practitioners Network** provides an online space to encourage people who are supporting or nurturing new Christian communities amongst economically marginalised people. It takes place monthly from 4 to 5pm on Tuesday evenings. Details are on this page methodist.org.uk/camnetwork, book for the next session on **6 February** [here](#), you can book for other dates on the main page.



Beginning a Church at the Margins



A three session interactive online course (7 to 9pm), book your place via Session links below.

- **6 February: Session One:** Creating connections and spaces where people truly encounter one another.
- **20 February: Session Two:** Nurturing communities in which people with lived experience of poverty are recognised as the experts
- **5 March: Session Three:** Sharing the gospel and seeing transformation as people grow in faith and challenge injustice.

Come and pray with us

A monthly online prayer gathering for the NPNP/Church at the Margins movement. Running from 18.30 to 18.50 (a fixed 20-minute duration) on the second Monday of each month. Next month's session is on **12 February**, come and join us in connecting, supporting, and growing the NPNP movement. Sign up [here](#).

Faith-Rooted Community Organising

February 23 - 25 and April 5-7 2024, at Cliff College. For people beginning an NPNP. Bookings: www.methodist.org.uk/organising. Faith-rooted organising offers a way to resource and enable people to find out where God is at work in their communities, and join in.



Church Planting Intensive

15-17 March, fully funded course for those planting NPNPs (30 places), bookings: <https://forms.office.com/r/5HDCB5fqwg>.

Multiply Estates Mission

12 March

This is an opportunity to explore with one of our ecumenical partners what it takes to build estates churches for those searching for a sense of belonging and home. Be sure to book your £10 ticket:

Book today.

Methodist Pioneering Pathways

MPP continues to grow as a community. The online Third Thursday gatherings have become a place of honest sharing and building deeper relationships across the NPNP movement. The monthly webinars, led by guest contributors, have become an important place to enable theological reflection and explore key insight together. Details here: methodist.org.uk/mpp.

Book grants are available for those on the MPP for up to a maximum total of **£100** per pioneer for all of their time on the MPP. Send claims for book grants to pioneering@methodistchurch.org.uk. Grants are available each Connexional year until funds are exhausted on a first come, first served basis. Those who haven't received a grant in previous years will be privileged before those who have. A list of recommended books and more details are on this page methodist.org.uk/mpp.



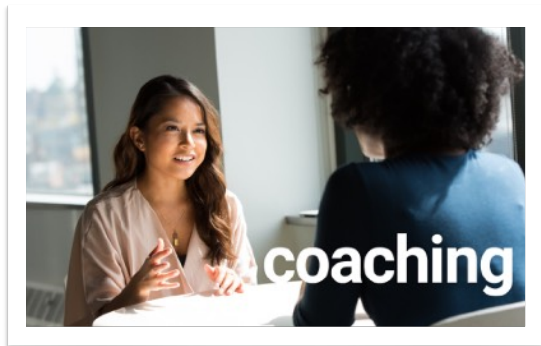
Pioneer vacancies

Community Pioneer – Doncaster Methodist Circuit, [Advert](#)

Pioneer Worker - Food for the Way. Shetland. Closing Date: 7th February 2024 @9am, [Advert](#)

Coaching

The recent visits by coaches to pioneer communities and feedback from those being coached show how helpful it is. The regular reflective space enables leadership development and give focus to resolving issues arising in the context. Our hope is that every pioneer is matched from our network of coaches. To find out more, to be coached or explore being trained to coach others, go to methodist.org.uk/coaching.



Funding news

The Mission Committee meets on **14-15 February** (*deadline for submissions – please get in touch now, if you have not already done so*) and will consider more district oversight processes. The Circuit NPNP Guide, is available here methodist.org.uk/circuitnnpnfunding, together with forms and process outline (get in touch if you would like a hard copy of the Guide). See funded NPNPs here: methodist.org.uk/nnpndistricts.

Future Mission Committee meetings and funding submission dates:

- Early April - for 21 May 2024