

LAUNCH OF A NEW PROJECT:

Pioneer Development Hive

A new national resource to support dioceses & parishes as they explore 'who pioneers are & why they pioneer'. The hive is a digital platform collating & creating new and existing resources, strategic tools, research, stories & consultancy to assist in building pioneer vision, opportunity & numbers across the Church of England.



Resources:

- National Guidelines and materials focusing on vocation, designation, formation, deployment.
- Strategic tools to assist permission givers in pioneer development planning
- Podcasts, articles and e-books on key pioneer development issues.

Stories and Research:

- Stories of growth, experimentation and applied learning from pioneer practitioners
- Strategic stories of pioneer development from permission givers.
- Collating research and development with research overviews.

Consultation:

- Vision days, inter-diocesan learning days as well as a national consultant database
- Pioneer hub information (role based: DDO, TEI, Diocesan Enablers)
- National Anglican Community of Pioneers: details of events and connecting local hubs

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THE PIONEER BUILD



VISION • OPPORTUNITY • NUMBERS



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 Christian community.

(Ministry Council of the Church of England 2016)

THE PIONEER BUILD

The Church of England has set the goal to double & double again the number of pioneers to 6000 by 2027. Following the motion passed at General Synod in July 2019, **The Pioneer Build** encourages every diocese & parish to be part of engaging in a 'contextual approach' by building pioneer ministry in **vision, opportunity & numbers**.

● VISION

Although there are over 1500 lay and ordained pioneers within the Church of England there is still further clarity needed concerning who pioneers are and what they do. Questions such as *'isn't everyone a pioneer?'* *'isn't all church planting doing the same thing?'* *'isn't pioneering just an innovative approach to mission?'* are important to address to enable pioneer ministry to embed further. So why is pioneer ministry important?

Pioneers:

- Engage more often with tougher and poorer contexts
- Do twice as well in reaching those under 16
- Reach further into the missional landscape. New contextual Christian communities often consist of people who don't normally engage with church (up to 60%).
- Can share valuable insights about the contemporary missional context with the wider church.
- Are often actively engaged in the discipleship of others.
- Are growing new churches in significant numbers. There could be as many as 5000 Fresh Expressions of Church within the Church of England if all grow to maturity.

● OPPORTUNITY

As vision grows there is an increasing need to create opportunities for pioneers to develop and live out their calling. Pioneers may be licensed, authorised or recognised (minimal training and undesignated), paid, unpaid, full time, part time, lay or ordained. **The Pioneer Build** encourages and supports diocese in creating opportunities for pioneer ministry by:

- Providing appropriate pathways to discern and affirm pioneers in their ministry
- Delivering accessible and relevant training for pioneers, complimenting the work of TEI's.
- Creating roles that support and sustain pioneers in different ways.

● NUMBERS

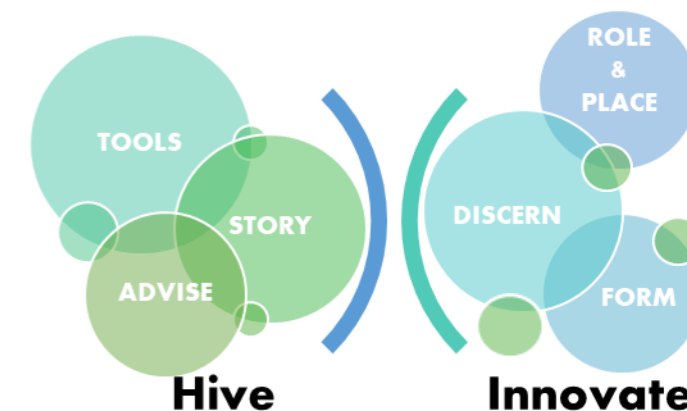
The Pioneer Build encourages every diocese to be part of the Church of England's exciting vision to double and double again the number of pioneers by 2027. Research conducted by Ministry Division in 2017 revealed that of the 1500 pioneers in the Church of England, 20% were ordained, 20% licensed and 60% authorized or commissioned in some way. Added to this Church Army Research has shown that a third of all pioneers are recognised ministers working under the guidance of their parish incumbent. **The Pioneer Build** therefore encourages:

- A proportional rise in the number of ordained pioneer ministers
- A proportional rise in the number of licensed and authorised lay pioneer ministers
- A proportional rise and greater recognition of 'recognised' pioneer ministers

FIVE WAYS TO BUILD:

1 DEVELOPMENT HIVE A national digital resource of strategic tools, stories, research and consultation to support dioceses & parishes as they explore 'who pioneers are & why they pioneer'. More details are on page 4.

2 INNOVATE As pioneer ministry develops there is a need to continue to 'proclaim afresh the good news in each generation'. The majority of new contextual Christian communities are 'parish based' with most pioneers working out of a 'parish pioneer' sphere. There is a need to push deeper into the missional landscape. 'Innovate' is a pioneer development project to influence and support this culture change as pioneers discern, are formed and live this out their calling.



3 OPMs Ministry Division is conducting an ordained pioneer ministry (OPMs) consultation in 2020. It will gather practitioners, diocesan enablers and TEI representatives to explore the celebrations, challenges and aspirations of ordained pioneer ministry. Out of this process revised national guidelines will be created. In line with the new discernment and formation frameworks appropriate pioneer qualities will be developed. The new DDO hub which launches in 2020, along with the TEI pioneer roundtable will support this work to increase the numbers and flow of OPMs. There will also be exploration of role and place through 'pioneer deployment pathways' identifying the different ways licensed lay and ordained pioneers could be resourced in their ministry. As part of this a number of diocese are exploring the relationship between 'place' and 'post', e.g. looking at how to extend the amount of time an OPM ordinand/curate can stay in the same community.

4 Lay Pioneers Following a national consultation process in 2019 which highlighted the celebrations, challenges and aspirations of lay pioneering new national guidelines will be published in 2020. This will be accompanied by work to affirm lay pioneers through national panel and the possibility of local selection days. Enabling all church leaders to be advocates of pioneer ministry will allow for increased opportunity and numbers of lay pioneers. Support in the delivery of training and ongoing learning support for lay pioneers will also be essential.

5 The Mixed Economy As pioneer ministry has developed, the mixed economy has evolved. The rise of the 'mixed economy minister', those called to minister within the local 'inherited' church as well as to pioneer new forms of church, is revealing a need to affirm this calling, provide appropriate formation and recognise the distinctness of their role and place. A mixed economy CMD pilot will run in 2020 with cohorts in a number of diocese. There is also a need to enable all those in church leadership to be an advocate of pioneer ministry, even if this is not their primary calling. Accessible training for clergy and licensed lay ministers is being developed to support this.

