

INTRODUCING THE

Ordained Pioneer Ministry Pathway



RIPON
COLLEGE
CUDDSDON



Welcome to the Ordained Pioneer Ministry Pathway, a partnership which offers a creative and theologically grounded way of preparing pioneer ordinands for ground-breaking, transformational and sustainable mission in the Church of England.

We offer pioneers a supportive community

Many of the students who come to us already have experience of working in new ways of being church, or innovative forms of mission. When they join us, they discover a supportive community of pioneers who want to ground and develop their practice through collaborative learning, academic study, and a deeper engagement with the wider church.

Kevin Colyer, who came for training after years of working with a youth agency, says, 'I've always wanted to help make communities, transformed and transforming the world around them because of Jesus. I couldn't see a place for me in the Church of England 25 years ago, but as the role of ordained pioneer has emerged in the last decade, it describes me better than anything else.'

The programme comes out of a creative partnership between

ORDAINED PIONEER MINISTRY

If you have been selected for training for ordination as a pioneer minister in the Church of England or are in the process of becoming selected, the Pioneer Mission Leadership Training Course is an approved pathway for training.

Alongside training with CMS, you will also receive input with another group of diverse learners at Ripon College Cuddesdon. This includes six weekends a year, plus a residential week in the first and second years.

Says Nick White: 'I've learned a lot of about the nuts and bolts of parish ministry on the Cuddesdon weekends: using Common Worship, liturgy and sacraments, preaching, baptisms, funerals, inter-faith relationships – and next up, it's weddings!'

Ripon College Cuddesdon and Church Mission Society (CMS), each of them bringing specific strengths and resources to the work.

CMS brings the expertise that comes from 200 years of commitment to global mission, which makes it uniquely qualified to train pioneers for the urgent task of cross-cultural mission in the UK. Cuddesdon brings its deep roots in the life of the Church of England, its commitment to excellence in theology, and its strong connections with diverse traditions in the church, nationally and globally.

The strength of the partnership is reflected in the most recent Church of England report on Cuddesdon by Ministry Division: 'One of the positive benefits of the partnership... has been bringing together tradition and innovation to allow something new to flourish.'

We see everything through the lens of mission

Our curriculum covers all the areas of study you would expect to find at a regular theological college. We teach the Bible and church history, theology and reflective practice,

spirituality and discipleship, pastoral care and ethics. Our students are studying for Common Awards, validated by Durham University through our partnership with Ripon College Cuddesdon, and they gain a university qualification at certificate, diploma or masters level.

We see everything through the lens of mission. That is because our whole purpose is to equip Christian leaders for mission which works in contexts where traditional church has either failed or made no impact. Our students bring to the course their own experience of traditional and non-traditional church plants, youth ministry, working with homeless and broken people, and opening up innovative spaces for spiritual seekers. Their experience, which often comes from challenging contexts, deeply informs the way we learn together.

This means that our perspective on an academic subject such as church history focuses on the contextualisation of the gospel: How did the church spread? What caused the Christian faith to take root in a culture? What made it die away in other cultures? Who were

TRAINING OPTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

We offer students a variety of training options and qualifications, as our courses are designed to be flexible.

Mix and match – students can mix and match individual modules without studying for a university award.

Certificate in Mission, Ministry and Theology – for students who are not following our ordination track.

Diploma in Mission, Ministry and Theology

BA in Mission, Ministry and Theology

MA in Mission, Ministry and Theology

All our qualifications are accredited by Durham University, through our partnership with Ripon College Cuddesdon, as part of the Common Awards.

If you have already done some accredited learning, or have equivalent experience, this can be taken into account in the track you follow.



'It's stretched my thinking, encouraged me in my local mission and ministry, challenged my practice, deepened my faith, and sometimes shaken me out of complacency.'
Nick White, MA student

'We found CMS staff and teaching to be of a very high standard. Staff are research active and this feeds into teaching and practice. Students were all very positive about the quality of the teaching, which is interactive and allows wrestling openly with issues; students learn a lot from each other in a safe and challenging environment.' Church of England Ministry Division report, 2017

the leaders who recognised that something new was required?

Our course modules are taught by pioneering practitioners, as well as by academics. Andrea Campanale, who teaches on the programme and is also the CMS Pioneer of Sacred Space Kingston, says: 'Many members of our teaching staff come from a mission background, and are still practitioners as well as being teachers. What we offer is training designed by pioneers for pioneers.'

Training in context is vitally important to us

Our teaching style is highly interactive and relational. Because we are non-residential, our students are working and/or following their pioneer ministry for part of each week, and then coming to us for

training on specific days. This dual experience of lived ministry and gathering for study works like a two-way street, with ministry and study enriching each other in a powerful and productive way.

This works best when students have a live issue in ministry which they bring into the study group. When the issue seems to be generating significant conflict for them, we have a phrase, 'go with the heat in the room', as it might be something we want to press into, in order to extract learning from it.

Our approach is to enhance people's practice through the application of academic learning. Students find this transformative, when they are given the space to explore live situations in their own – and in others' – missional communities.

We aim for an environment which encourages students to share and reflect on their ideas and their creative experiments. Kevin Colyer says that a valuable part of his learning was 'how to listen and have conversations between people, culture, tradition and theology. There is much wisdom available if we open our ears.'

COME AND MEET US

If you're interested in any of our courses, our open days in the spring and summer months are a valuable opportunity to find out more. We share details of the courses on offer, tell you something of our story, and we're available to answer all your questions about studying with pioneers.

Whether you've been pioneering for a long time, or are just getting started, and whether you're doing work with a denomination or working in your spare time, we have courses which will suit you.

Please contact our pioneer training administrator Helen Harwood to let us know you are coming:

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Phone: 01865 787439

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