

With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges



# Pioneer Mission Training

Theology, Ministry & Mission



CHURCH  
MISSION  
SOCIETY



# What's Pioneer Mission Training?

## Popular metaphor with pioneers – the gift of not fitting in.

Many pioneers feel like they don't quite fit into business as usual, often seeing things on the fringe or the possibilities outside the church gates. To which we say 'fitting in is over-rated!'



## The Pioneer Call and how do you know if you have it?

"A pioneer is someone who sees future possibilities and works to bring them to reality." – *Beth Keith*

"Pioneering feels less like something I am doing and more about who I am."

– *Lucy Barbour, former undergraduate ordinand*

## Seeing all through the lens of mission

"Our primary distinctive as a course is that we view everything through a missional lens. Church Mission Society has 200+ years of cross-cultural mission experience, which is invaluable as we think about pioneering mission in all the cultures and contexts existing in Britain today. I'm constantly inspired by our wide range of students, their willingness to take risks and their sense that anything is possible." – *Cathy Ross*



# What's Pioneer Mission Training?

## On the job training

Our course is specifically designed by pioneers for pioneers. You'll get a chance to connect with experienced pioneer practitioners who want to see you flourish and your imagination channelled into action.

Our course provides a dynamic, supportive learning community that will be there for you as you process your learning, take risks in mission and reflect on your journey.



## Creative curriculum validated by Durham University

Our course is designed to be flexible, so you don't have to stop doing while you are learning.

Our course will equip you for ground-breaking, transformational and sustainable mission, giving you what you need to initiate and follow through on mission projects that will help change lives.

## "Dreamers that do"

Course founder Jonny Baker often refers to pioneers as "dreamers who do."

Jonny and CMS set up the course over a decade ago in response to a need he saw to equip, support and give confidence to those working as pioneers.

The CofE 2023 Ministry Division periodic review endorsed our programmes, stating: "CMS Oxford are to be commended for their wide engagement with the Global Church and Diaspora Mission within a Post-Christian Britain..."





# Being a student at CMS

## Teaching Format

All our teaching days are Monday OR Tuesday and kick off with a student led creative worship session from 10:30–11am, and teaching sessions are 11am–1pm; and 2–4pm.

## Durham University

Our programmes are validated by Durham University as part of a suite of Common Awards. The awards are taught in Theological Education Institutes (TEIs) all over the country; CMS is a TEI with Ripon College, Cuddesdon.

## Fees for those joining CMS from September 2025

The fees listed are for the whole course (eg, the BA costs £9,600 (£3,200 each year) but if you take longer the fee remains the same).

Course	Full course fee
Certificate HE (120 credit)	£3,200
Certificate HE (180 credit)	£4,800
Diploma HE	£6,400
BA	£9,600
Graduate Diploma (Level 6)	£3,200
PG Certificate	£2,200
PG Diploma	£4,400
MA – all routes	£6,600

DTh – fees set by Roehampton University (search “Roehampton DTh”)

The only extra fee is the annual Durham University fee, which is between £302 and £514 each year.

Fees are payable upfront or by monthly standing order. Bursaries are available by application.

# Study options with Church Mission Society

## Undergraduate

Certificate – 1 year

Diploma – 2 years

BA – 3 years

Graduate Diploma – 1 or 2 years

*Please see pages 8–11 for further details*

## Postgraduate

PG Certificate – 1 year

PG Diploma – 2 years

MA – 2 or 3 years (Pioneer focus or African or Asian Christianity focus)

DTh – professional doctorate  
(University of Roehampton)

## Ordinands and Licensed Lay Ministers

We offer Licensed Lay Ministry training through the Certificate and Diploma courses and ordination training through the Diploma, BA or MA (with a Pioneer focus, African Christianity focus or Asian Christianity focus).

## What students say they get...

Confidence. Community. A pioneer language. Tools and resources.  
Personal growth. An award. A tutor. Pastoral support and more.

**“Training with  
CMS transformed  
my practice with  
young people”**

*– John Wheatley, former MA student*

**For more info go to:**  
**[pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org](http://pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org)**



# What students say...

*"Applying to study at CMS seemed like a very natural way to marry theological knowledge with the context I find myself in. I have met several people who had already studied there and one thing they said was that you will be joining a community of pioneers. It can be pretty lonely being a pioneer, especially when you're surrounded by people who are resistant to change. This is one of the things that attracted me to CMS and I have to say has been a huge bonus to meet other like-minded people and hear their stories and their encouragement."*

*Christine Cattanach (Undergraduate Certificate student)*

*"Taking the Christianity in the African Diaspora course has not been what I thought it would be, but it has been so much more. It has helped me knock down walls that I had built around my own heart, to see more clearly the fields that are before me, and helped to fill me with new courage and determination to speak boldly and courageously as I work towards reconciliation that can only be found at the feet of Jesus."*

*Angel Rena Collins Itzstein  
(Year 3 African Christianity MA student)*

*"I already feel valued. I feel I already have a place. I'm going to be listened to. I have found a place I feel I belong for now, when I haven't found that for a while. That feeling of belonging is only going to grow."*

*Mari Nasr (Former UG student)*

*"Training with CMS transformed my practice with young people. As a youth worker in a low-income community, developing a missional approach enabled me to engage with the context and culture that I was working in, meeting young people where they are at. In the church we tend towards a model that inducts young people into traditional forms of church that aren't working. Adopting a pioneer approach enabled me to understand youth culture as a missional context, and my role became creating something new WITH young people in their own community. Studying with CMS improved my practice and my thinking."*

*John Wheatley (Former MA student now CMS youthwork lecturer)*

**For more info go to: [pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org](https://pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org)**

# Undergraduate modules

## Certificate – level 4 modules

**Foundations for Theology and Reflective Practice** – an introduction to contextual theology, principles and methods of reflection, and their place in mission and practice.

**Pastoral Care, Ethics and Ministry** – an introduction to key issues in both pastoral care and ethics, giving you the tools and theological framework to approach pastoral situations, as well as the space to reflect on your own views and experiences.

**Mission and Evangelism** – puts the Bible in conversations with culture to help us gain greater understanding about our own practice of mission, looks at historical trends and current approaches to engaging and witnessing to the world around us, along with practical engagement in mission (online with weekend residential).

**Introduction to Church History** – an overview of church history and its social, cultural, and political context, helping you see how history might have shaped your practice and experience.

**Introduction to the Bible** – an overview of the purpose, context and content of the Old and New Testaments, becoming familiar with approaches to biblical study and considering how to engage biblical texts in mission and ministry.

**Spirituality and Discipleship** – explores different approaches to discipleship, considering various Christian spiritual practices and their impact on our individual spiritual lives, and how we might engage practically with them in our lives and the lives of our community (five-day residential).

## Pathways – focused certificate

**Pioneer focus**  
(see all modules above)

**African Christianity** (fully online)  
– The same modules as above (each taught with an African Christianity focus), with modules on Black and African Theology and Global Pentecostalism replacing Pastoral Care, Ethics and Ministry.

**Chaplaincy** – The same modules as above (each taught with a chaplaincy focus), with a chaplaincy module replacing Church History.

**Children and families** – The same modules as above (each taught with a C&F focus), with a C&F module replacing Church History.

**Youth** – The same modules as above (each taught with a Youth focus), with a Youth module replacing Church History.

# Undergraduate modules

## Diploma – level 5 modules

**Leadership and Theology for Ministry and Mission** – explores theories and skills in leadership, considering them from a theological and mission focused perspective, integrating Biblical and pastoral approaches to leadership, and reflecting on how these can inform your practice.

**Mission Entrepreneurship (also known as Make Good)** – an introduction to social enterprise and its relevance in mission. A residential week to enable you, with the guidance of experienced practitioners, to take an idea from conception to the initial stages of a business plan (five-day residential).

**Missional Ecclesiology** – an introduction to historical and theological perspectives of ecclesiology and the ways in which the missional church has consistently implemented new approaches, including the opportunity to see how this works out in pioneering settings.

**Missional Theology in Global Context** – considers theology and approaches to mission from a global perspective and examines contemporary culture, seeing how important understanding context is for our own missional practice (online).

**Bible in Context** – explores different approaches to interpreting the Bible and how to read in light of both its original and subsequent contexts, looks at how Old and New Testaments can be related to each other, and applies this learning to your own engagement with the Bible (five-day residential)

**Developing Ministry and Worship in Context** – this module links with your own work or placement to deepen your knowledge and understanding of Christian worship, develop practical skills, and equip you in leading worship, preaching and pastoral care in your context.

**Placement** – an opportunity to do a placement in a context or church setting that is different to your own context or prior experience. It's your choice where you go and you get to spend total 35 hours on the placement – over the year, or one week, or month, this country or overseas – a chance to do something different.



# Undergraduate modules

## BA – level 6 modules

**The Bible and Christian Faith** – explores key themes and critically examines key thinkers in the study of both Old and New Testaments and how to think about it with regards to our faith.

**Chaplaincy and Contemporary Christian Mission** – explores the distinctive ministry of chaplaincy in mission, including an opportunity to experience a chaplaincy context (online).

**Theological Perspectives: Community Development** – offers space for dialogue and theological reflection on approaches to community development, as well as opportunities to study and visit specific initiatives (online + weekend residential tbc).

**Justice, Environment and Mission in a Global Context** – examines Christian engagement in issues of justice, development and the environment, addressing theology and missional practice, and offers the opportunity to reflect on the implications in your own context (five-day residential).

**The Creative Arts and Christian Ministry and Mission** – explores the theological and philosophical discourses of art and Christianity. Aimed at mission or ministry practitioners, it further explores the potential of engagement with the arts to express, connect and create opportunity for mission and ministry.

**Dissertation** – is a piece of work of 12,000–15,000 words that enables you to follow an area of interest in depth.

# Postgraduate modules

## CMS MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission

Learning with the global church to do mission where you are

**This MA focuses on learning about contextual mission, equipping you to engage in mission where you are while learning from global voices.** Attentive to the vibrant and diverse expressions of Christianity worldwide and building upon CMS's rich history of global mission and pioneering – this MA offers a unique opportunity to learn from diverse perspectives to actively participate in God's mission in your own context.

### Core modules:

**Anthropology and Christian Mission** – An introduction to culture, context and worldview. You will develop your own reflexive capacity in relation to your cultural background and behaviour (*Pioneer focus only*).

**Advanced Topic in African or Asian Church History** – A course designed to help students study church history with a particular focus on Africa or Asia (*African or Asian Christianity focus only*).

**Theologies in Global Perspective** – A course designed to help students engage in theologies from around the world and to understand how some of these theologies emerged from particular religious traditions which have shaped a people's identity and theology.

**Mission and Ecclesiology in Contemporary Contexts** – A course designed to help students reflect on the role and mission of the church both historically and in the contemporary world, bringing their own experience into conversation with various perspectives from around the world.

**Research and Reflection: Resources and Methods** – A course designed to introduce students to various research methods and approaches to theological reflection. There will be an opportunity to design a research project.

### Choose any two modules from:

**Reflective Practice: Mission and Evangelism** – A course that provides a comprehensive understanding of mission and evangelism from a global perspective while encouraging students to reflect on their context and experiences. Through the exploration of key themes and metaphors, they will engage critically with contemporary mission issues.

**Reflective Practice: Leadership and Collaboration** – A course designed to enable students to discern appropriate models of leadership and evaluate their own experience in leadership. Material is drawn from both secular and Christian contexts.

**Political Theology in Mission** – A course drawing on mission and political perspectives to explore how we witness in public spaces as individuals, churches, and Christian communities.

This module is residential; students must be able to attend in-person in the UK.

### And in your final year:

**Dissertation** – A piece of work of 12,000 to 15,000 words which enables you to follow an area of interest in depth.

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**You can choose to focus your MA on African Christianity, Asian Christianity or Pioneer Mission** all with an emphasis on shared learning, mutual dialogue, and real-world application – this intercultural approach recognises the global diversity of the church and highlights how different perspectives can enrich our own practices and ministries. Whether you are involved in mission at the edges, church planting in new places, or witnessing to Christ across cultures, this MA provides an opportunity to reflect theologically, refine your practice, and enrich your ministry.



**For more information and to download** the MA African or Asian Christianity focus prospectus please go to:

**[churchmissionsociety.org/prospectus](http://churchmissionsociety.org/prospectus)**



# Next steps

Please get in touch to find out more:

- ▶ Call the CMS office on 01865 787400 or Helen Harwood on 01865 787439
- ▶ Email [pioneer@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:pioneer@churchmissionsociety.org)
- ▶ Browse the website: [pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org](http://pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org)
- ▶ Book an open day or evening (online or in person): [churchmissionsociety.org/open](http://churchmissionsociety.org/open)

**“It’s just been a personal relief for my heart and my soul to meet this group of people who are just amazing and inspiring.”**

*– Katy Partridge, former MA student*

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**PIONEER  
MISSION  
TRAINING**

I DON'T KNOW!  
WHERE I'M GOING  
- FROM HERE, -  
BUT I PROMISE IT  
WON'T BE BORING



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