

Do You See Differently?



Do you See...

- **New possibilities?**
- **A way where there is no way?**
- **Ideas for mission in your community that just might work?**
- **A new community of disciples where there is none?**
- **How your local community can flourish in God's love and shalom, but know this can't happen alone?**

If you can see even a glimpse of any of these, then come and be part of the Newbiggin Pioneering Hub and see if your hopes can be realised together with us.



Introducing the 'Newbigin Pioneering Hub'

We are a collaboration between the **United Reformed Church**, the **Congregational Federation**, **Church Mission Society** and the **Seedbeds** organisation and named in honour of the inspirational URC Minister and mission theologian Lesslie Newbigin. This new venture is open to all and part of celebrating the past 50 years of the United Reformed Church and Congregational Federation by investing our future in local communities.

Our mission is:

'To discover, nurture, empower and release a new Community of Pioneers, able to see God's love and shalom flourish in their local communities.'

Rev Dr Ash Barker, who leads the Newbigin Pioneering Hub from Winson Green, inner city Birmingham, says,

"We long for every local community to flourish in God's love and shalom, but know so many neighbourhoods are missing out right now. I believe this new venture can unearth a new generation of Pioneers, ready to be planted personally in local places and able to grow people into new communities of hope, faith and compassion wherever Jesus has called them to serve. We have hard-won insights from experienced Pioneers that can help form, guide and inspire a new generation of Pioneers from here."

Could God be calling you to step out in faith with us to see your God-given dreams in your local community flourish in faith, hope and love?

Join our CMS awarded Certificate in Pioneer Mission;
Help us form a Community of Pioneers;
Come to a taster day in Winson Green and/or
Attend the Annual Newbigin Public Lecture.

'The CMS Certificate in Pioneering Mission'

This is our foundational course designed and led by experienced pioneering practitioners, for practitioners. Church Mission Society has offered this course around the UK and will now make it be available to all, rooted in the United Reformed Church in partnership with the Congregational Federation, and planted in a live pioneering context in inner city Birmingham.

The course will start September 2022 and will include six units run over 3 weekend residential (The Greenhouse at Barnes Close), hybrid sessions (online and in Lodge Road Community Church, Birmingham) on 3 full Saturdays and 3 Wednesday evenings along with personal coaching.

The six units offered are:

- **Pioneering Mission**
- **Missional Spirituality**
- **Church and Mission**
- **Mission and the Bible**
- **Community Development**
- **Missional Entrepreneurship**

There is also a pitch to a resource panel and graduation.

Jonny Baker, CMS.
"Training designed specifically by pioneers, for pioneers. Students say they get: Confidence; Community; A pioneer language; Tools and resources; Personal growth; An award; A mentor; A tutor; pastoral support and more."



Quotes from previous students

Lindsay, pioneer and student on the CMS Certificate in Pioneering Mission

“It’s been such a valuable experience to look at mission in the local context. To take the written words out of the text books and apply that learning to the place that I live. It’s opened my eyes to what’s unseen in my community. Challenging my understanding of what it means to live on the margins of society. Learning about mission in a creative and inclusive way supported by like minded people has been an amazing experience.”

Bryce Tangvold, pioneer and student

“The CMS pioneer training team exists to encourage and build up those who see new or unique ways of doing mission and living out the love of Jesus. My natural talents are being fostered and I’m challenged to think way outside the box.”



‘Community of Pioneering’

Aims to discover, nurture, empower and release a new generation of Pioneers. This will include helping Pioneers connect with new mission contexts, pathways, retreats and coaching. We believe we can go further and deeper in our calling as Pioneers if we connect together well. We will form this ‘Community of Pioneers’ out of those who currently identify as Pioneers as well as those coming through the ‘Certificate in Pioneer Mission.’

‘Newbigan Annual Public Lecture’

To stimulate Christians into more thoughtful and deeper engagement in the places they live and serve, we offer a public lecture with a high profile Christian leader who embodies a contemporary spirit of Lesslie Newbigan. In previous years this has included: Dr Steve Bevans (2018), Dr Krish Kandiah (2019), John Newbigan and Dr Ash Barker (2021).

On 2nd July 2022 the next Newbigan Public Lecture will be given by Dr Cathy Ross (missiologists, author, CMS) at the Lodge Road Community Church. We will be celebrating the Newbigan Pioneering Hub, a 50th anniversary project for the URC.

On Wednesday, 7th June 2023 Shane Claiborne (author, activist, Simple Way) will give next years address.

'Taster Days in Winson Green'

These are an opportunity to connect and find out more about the 'Community of Pioneers' and the 'Certificate in Pioneer Mission' course that will run by the 'Newbigin Pioneering Hub'.

The interactive day will be led by Newbigin Pioneering Hub leader Rev Dr Ash Barker and CMS's Jonny Baker with local 'Stories of Hope' in Winson Green.



'The Church in each place is to be the sign, instrument and foretaste of the reign of God present in Christ for that place; a sign, planted in the midst of the present realities of the place but pointing beyond them to the future which God has promised; an instrument available for God's use in the doing of his will for that place; a foretaste - manifesting and enjoying already in the midst of the messianic tribulations a genuine foretaste of the peace and joy of God's reign.' - **Lesslie Newbigin**

Would you join us in this new venture?

Please contact info@seedbeds.org for more information or apply online at Seedbeds.org/Pioneering-Hub.

Costs:

'CMS Certificate of Pioneering' programme: **£600** for six modules or **£300** for an approved URC or Congregational Federation Participant.

'Community of Pioneers' community membership: **£24 annually**.

For help with funding and other support please talk to your local church, synod or apply for a **Discipleship Development Fund** grant.

"The future of the United Reformed Church is not about dying, but about living more fruitfully, prophetically and adventurously, being re-energised by the power of the Holy Spirit in faithfulness to Jesus Christ"
What is the Spirit Saying to the Churches?

"This is an exciting opportunity to develop rooted, authentic Christian pioneers for future rooted, authentic Christian communities"
**Revd Suzanne Nockels,
Congregational Federation
Past President**



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