

School Engagement Pioneers

This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a new project, working with schools in the Diocese of Monmouth. With new funding received from the Church in Wales Growth Fund, we are looking to recruit two more School Engagement Pioneers to join our current team, who will each be working with a small number of schools in a clearly defined geographical area.

If successful, you will be working with schools where we already have a strong connection, developing deeper relationships with the children, their families and the school staff. Building on these relationships, together with other groups and organisations that are active with young people in the local community, you will support the Ministry Area to develop a new and vibrant worshipping community.

These roles are each based in specific areas of the diocese. More information is available below, but the areas are - in the centre of Abergavenny, Cefn Forest near Blackwood, the Monmouthshire village of Llantilio Pertholey and East Cardiff.

We have recently successfully recruited for the positions in North Monmouthshire and East Cardiff and are now looking to complete our team. We would be happy to receive applications for either Abergavenny or Cefn Forest specifically, or general applications if you would be happy to work in either location.

Take a look, we'd love to hear from you!



School Engagement Pioneer - Role Profile

Salary:	£28,610 - £31,581 (dependent on experience)
Hours:	Full time 37.5hrs (Part time would be considered)
Reporting to:	Diocesan Secretary, Director of Mission (Evangelism)
Contract:	5 years
Notice period:	3-months
Key relationships:	Diocesan Secretary, Project Manager, Director of Mission (Evangelism), Ministry Area Leader and MA Ministry Team, Schools (Staff and Pupils) Volunteers, Lead Cleric in the project.

Introduction to the role

The purpose of the role is to build relationships with children, their families and school staff through working in and with schools with the aim of supporting the development of a new and sustainable worshipping community in the ministry area.

Schools Work

Expectations:

- As part of the ministry area ministry team, to build relationships with key schools in the ministry area, delivering activities and projects which support the school's objectives and which provide an opportunity to invite school children, staff and their families to services and events in a new worshipping community.
- To work in partnership with schools and gain the trust and confidence of those with whom you are working, being aware of, and sensitive to, the day-to-day demands that the staff and pupils in the school sustain, as well as the additional pressures that occur at times throughout the academic year.



- Where relationships have suitably developed with the schools, you will be expected to assist teachers and help them to present the teachings and traditions of the Christian faith.
- You will be a pastoral presence in the school community. Through actively supporting and serving the schools you will become aware of the needs of families in the ministry area communities.
- Once relationships are established with the school, you will maintain these and develop ongoing plans that are meaningful and sustainable. You will offer invitations to attend and/ or take part in regular festival services. There should be a regular pattern of these services throughout the year which is agreed by the ministry area leader and ministry team. You will work with the MA leader or lead cleric and ministry team to help ensure that these services cater for those who are not used to attending church.
- To support schools, where required, with their collective worship.
- To consider the importance and relevance of inviting schools to visit the local church, and, where appropriate, help with those visits, helping to provide a variety of learning opportunities related to the history, the saints, the art and architecture, the Christian faith and tradition or the different aspects of discipleship and worship.
- Working with the ministry area leader, using your initiative and soft skills, you will help to recruit, encourage and resource volunteers who will, as their gifts and skills are utilised, provide support with work in schools, and in supporting the new worshipping community.
- Within the first 12 months, working with the ministry area leader and ministry team, to develop a new worshipping community. This will involve helping set-up and plan the services and other activities for the life of the community.
- You will help to develop, and sometimes deliver, weekly/ monthly groups for discussion which offer a place for connection and friendship but also the opportunity to ask questions about, and reflect on, the Christian faith.



- Explore with the school and with your ministry area various activities (such as a lunch club, a coffee morning or afternoon tea, a pre-school toddler group or an afterschool club, a music/drama group, an art and crafts club, a film club, old-time or contemporary dancing, a comedy club, a reading group or book club, a walking bus to school, a gardening club, etc...). Also seek to establish holiday clubs which fit into a regular rhythm of church seasons and school terms.

Person Specification

Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates must undergo an enhanced DBS check. • Full, clean driving licence and use of a car. 	
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in working with children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in pastoral care or pastoral ministry. • Supervision of others.
Knowledge, skills and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of school curriculum or willingness to learn. • Understanding the processes and infrastructure that support the functioning of schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to speak Welsh, or a willingness to learn. • An understanding of the Anglican denomination as an expression of Christian faith and a willingness to work within it.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working with volunteers. • Able to nurture others in their faith development, including those with little previous knowledge of the faith. • Able to communicate faith confidently and effectively using a variety of media in diverse situations, both inside and outside the church. • Excellent organisational skills. • Understand policies and best practice in safeguarding. • Proficient MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills in administration, experience in managing small budgets or complying with an expenses policy. • Child pedagogy for children with additional learning needs.
Personal Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lively and attractive personal faith. • Emotional maturity. • Self-motivated, positive outlook. • Flexible attitude. • Good interpersonal skills. • High attention to detail. • High level of confidentiality. • Able to balance appropriate care of self with the care of others. • Able to establish and evaluate appropriate professional boundaries. • Able to lead collaboratively working in a team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of humour and fun. • Communicant member of the Anglican Church.



Terms and Conditions

This role has a Genuine Occupational Requirement under the Equality Act 2010 for the postholder to be a communicant member of the Church in Wales or of a Church in communion with it or of a Member of CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales). Satisfactory enhanced DBS checks will be sought.

Location: The post-holder will be based in a church in the Diocese of Monmouth. Location to be determined following the interview process. The role requires a current driving licence and access to a vehicle.

Benefits: The post holder will be eligible to join the contributory pension scheme. Expenses will be reimbursed in line with diocesan policy.

Status of post: 5-year contact (subject to a six-month probationary period).

Hours of work: Full time (37.5 hours a week) across 5 days including Sunday, with 2 clear days off to be agreed. Evening and weekend work will be expected as part of the role.

Overtime is not payable but an equivalent amount of time off in lieu may be taken.

Leave allowance: 25 days per calendar year excluding bank holidays rising by 1 day each year to a max. of 30 days per annum. The rising entitlement commences after a full calendar years' service is complete. Leave should be arranged in advance bearing in mind the particular demands of preparation for major church festivals.



Ministry Areas Where The Project Will Be Based

Islwyn Ministry Area



Islwyn Ministry area is located in the South Wales Valleys and the School Engagement Pioneer would be based in the communities of Blackwood, Cefn Forest and Fleur-de-Lis with the adjacent community of Pengam. The School Engagement Pioneer will specifically be working with the following schools, where we already have good relationships and plenty of engagement for festival services and school assemblies -

- Blackwood Comprehensive and primary.
- Cefn Forest Primary.
- Fleur-de-Lis and Pengam Federation Schools.

The successful Pioneer will be working closely with the Ministry Team, and specifically our Team Vicar who leads our Children and Families ministry. We also have a small, but very enthusiastic, group of volunteers who will support this exciting new project. Together with the Ministry Team and the volunteers, the Pioneer will have a key role in developing a new worshipping community in the church in Cefn Forest, which is situated next door to the school and has excellent facilities.

There is plenty of outreach work in the Ministry Area, and this new project will help the team to engage more with children and their families. Before the pandemic St. Margaret's, Blackwood ran a group for adults and pre-school children called 'Little and Large'. This aimed to offer friendship and support for grandparents and their grandchildren, who might otherwise feel isolated at home. Adults and children together took part in crafts, play, singing and conversation. Although this group is no longer running it was well attended.





St Margaret's in Blackwood currently hosts Rainbows and Brownie groups and the church has a good connection with Blackwood Comprehensive school.

St David's, Fleur-de-Lis, and St Thomas's, Cefn Forest, both have thriving community activities. St David's hosts a dementia café run by the Alzheimer's Society with volunteers from church. Mother's Union, art groups and a local history group are amongst other activities that are based on the church. The church also runs a friendship group weekly for isolated elderly people. St Thomas' has craft clubs which also offer friendship and a listening ear to its members. They have just started a Coffee and Connect monthly coffee morning and have good links with the local community and primary school.



Abergavenny Ministry Area



Abergavenny is a bustling and vibrant market town in Monmouthshire, with excellent amenities and transport links. It is a desirable place to live for families and it has a beautiful setting surrounded by peaks of Sugar Load, Skirrid and Blorenge. Abergavenny Ministry Area has three churches in the town, and a church in each of the four surrounding villages.

We have three primary schools, one of which is Welsh medium, as well as King Henry VIII which teaches those aged 3-19.

Although none of the schools are church schools, they all have good connections with their local churches. We have an enthusiastic team who go into one school twice a week, once to do an assembly and the other to lead a WAVE (Worship and Values). In two of the other schools, we do the occasional assembly, however all the schools have services in the churches, whether it be for Christingle, concerts, Harvest, Easter and other major festivals.

The School Engagement Pioneer will work with all of the schools in the area to further develop the relationships with children and families. Together with the Ministry Team and volunteers, the School Engagement Pioneer will develop a thriving and sustainable new worshipping community within the centre of Abergavenny.

The Ministry Area has a Mission and Outreach Team, which runs a service on a Sunday morning called 'Open House' which is a service for all of God's family. It is a lively service for those who have little, lots, or no faith. It is intended that this Open House service will form the basis of the worshipping community.

The new schools pioneer will be supported by a team who are enthusiastic, passionate and excited. We look forward to seeing what God has in store in this beautiful part of Wales.



