

Put away
the map
and chart
a different
course

pioneer mission leadership training



Report

Summer 2012

On a roll

I am not an avid reader of annual reports but I confess I actually get quite excited when it comes to the moment to write one for the CMS Pioneer Mission Leadership Training. I find I am bursting with so many things that I am excited about. We have now completed the second year of the CMS Pioneer Leadership Training - Sept 2011 - July 2012. And without wanting to get too carried away it feels like we are on a roll! If I had to condense this down we are on a roll in three ways.

The first is with the pioneers themselves. I cannot begin to express or tell you in a few pages just how inspiring the pioneer students who come to us with their ideas and dreams and fledgling pioneer projects and communities are. These people are a huge gift to the church in mission. We are a course and a community that celebrates this gift and tries to do our best to help it flourish and encourage them to live out a life of mission beyond the edges of where the church currently is. I have come to use as a shorthand for this 'the gift of not fitting in', though equally it might be thought of as prophetic mission. By definition it's a challenging gift because it's not always perceived as a gift in the structures and many of our pioneers experience struggle and challenge within the church as they seek to create something new. In this second year we have had 27 new students join us in some way - 6 or 7 to do the whole course, and others to do a range of modules. There is some more info on the kinds of thing they are up to over the page. But it brings our total pioneers to around 35.

In last year's report I planned a number of developments for the year ahead. I was in two minds about naming them because they felt ambitious when we were just getting started. But the good news is that we have managed to pull off lots of those developments. Two to mention here are that we have added in an MA in

ministry beginning this September 2012. I am absolutely delighted that Dr Cathy Ross is leading on that for us. She is possibly the best placed person in the world that we could have found because of her experience in missiology, and she loves mission and CMS. The other is that we have been given approval for training those selected within the Church of England for Ordained Pioneer Ministry. We have five pioneer ordinands joining us in September 2012 for our first intake in a creative partnership with Ripon College Cuddesdon. Those of you who know about these processes know that there is a lot of work in negotiating trust and permission in this way. That was a very happy moment in my year!

"So logical - mission societies training missionaries !! Shows the power of Christendom that its taken this long to get heads around it" [Steve Taylor]

The third is the growing sense of a wider hub for pioneering in the region. The region have invested in a co-ordinator, Andy Freeman, to encourage and network pioneers and help dioceses develop policy and practice around pioneering ministry. It's a wonderful privilege to see this growing alongside what we are doing in training. And I am so grateful to the region for this foresight.

Thank you for your support and encouragement with us into the future!



Jonny Baker, Course Leader



Looking back: a year of great strides

This year we have...

Taught 34 pioneer students: 14 men and 20 women

- in an age range from 20s to 60s
- from as far as Colwyn Bay, Edinburgh, and Eastbourne
- from Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, New Church
- in 10 modules

Two students have completed certificates in pioneer ministry.

Three students who have done some modules with us were ordained as pioneers in the Church of England this summer.

We had four ReSource weekends visiting mission projects and

communities in Kingston, Oldham, London, Bradford.

We had our first ever mission entrepreneurship week in Devon at Pickwell Manor.

We hosted 12 pioneer witness sessions. At these a pioneer shares their learning from their practice. These are run jointly with other pioneers from the area and other colleges.

We have gained approval to train pioneer ordinands in the Church of England.

We have developed a partnership with Regents Park so that Baptists training for ministry there can do some training with us. Emma was the first this year and loved it.

We catalysed a pioneer hub in the region with over 150 people connected to it.



Developing plans for a social enterprise at the mission entrepreneurship week

Our pioneers are involved in breaking new ground in all sorts of contexts.

prisons
colleges
YMCA's
local parks
pagan festivals
Urban Priority Areas
NCT groups
art galleries
community centres
churches
cafés
gyms
comedy clubs
festivals
Africa
Wales
Scotland
England



Being inspired by people involved working with single mums, dads and lads, and a food bank at a ReSource weekend in Kingston

The approach is actually quite simple - go where people are rather than expect people to come to you or to come to church. Discern what God might be doing and join in. Take some risks. See what emerges.

What they say...

At the end of each year we talk with pioneer students to try and gauge how they are doing and how the training is helping them in their pioneering ministry. It's tempting to fill the whole report with quotes from these conversations. But here's a selection...

“ Without this course I'm not sure I'd have made it this far. Yet now I feel part of a community of really unusual and amazing people and feel I have a 'family' where I fit in.

“ The big thing it's given me is confidence - in who I am and what I am doing.

“ confirmation that I am not alone in the way I believe God is leading me.

“ Shaken some of my thinking. On the other hand it's refocused on what's important.

“ I have found healing, refreshing, acceptance and non judgement in both participants and staff. There is a wonderfully refreshing openness and generosity of spirit.

“ It's given me a language - without it I'd be flailing around in the dark!

“ I always thought I can't do the academic and have shied away from it but I have been surprised I engaged with it. Always been told you can't do it before!

“ I love coming here!

Transforming stories

Last year we told the story of Matt, who had arrived on the course with no project or funding in place, but a desire to get something new started. By the end of the pilot year he had got to the stage of securing some funding through a deanery project and was just launching out. It's interesting to see how that has developed now after two years.



* Matt sensed early on that one of the places he was being called to share Christ in mission was the local park. He has now set up Pastors in the Park with the full support of the council, developing arts and spirituality in this neutral public space, running football for dads and lads, and helping with a newly reopened café, the Tool Shed, in which a missional community is now meeting once a week. He is also involved in chaplaincy at the local college and exploring ways of working with ex offenders. Pretty good work for two years!



* At Greenbelt last year we met Sarah; she was leaving her teaching job to pursue something new. We asked her what her dream was and she says that was the first time she voiced out loud a desire in her heart to work in prisons, offering support to children in schools who have a parent inside prison.

She attended ReSource weekends with us and then secured a grant to do research in Australia and the USA and is now raising funds to launch a new ministry in Edinburgh. We include this story because sometimes it doesn't take much to encourage and help pioneers launch out into a dream that's been percolating for a while.

Sarah will come back and join us for the mission entrepreneurship module as she looks to take the project to the next stage.

* Jonny and Andrea took part in leading a workshop for Chichester

diocese at a healing day. Someone was there who was involved in the Eastbourne pagan Lammas festival and suggested it would be great to have a stand run by Christians at the festival. Andrea pulled together a team including three other pioneer students - Karlie, Glyn and Emma alongside training people from local churches. They had a fantastic time sharing Christ and praying with people.

* Gav is one of the wonderful Methodist Venture Fx pioneers. He is based in Colwyn Bay in N Wales. Within a few months he built relations with churches and encouraged them to support mission using the arts. He took on the lease of a huge run down hotel (raising several thousand pounds to do so) in the town centre and engaged local and national artists in the Easter Story. This was an exhibition with a week of evening events around it gathering the local community and sharing the gospel story by putting it into the hands of artists, many of whom were not Christian, to tell. It was quite extraordinary.



Crossing cultures

The teaching on the course is delivered through a series of modules. This year we have added the second year of modules to the pilot year. This has included new modules on pioneer ministry, crossing cultures, mission entrepreneurship, mission leadership, and theology in global perspective.

It's pretty much agreed upon now that the skills required in moving from one culture to another form the sort of approach that pioneers need in this culture. So we have a module that focuses on the skills side of that. In it people learn theory, practical approaches and skills, and need to cross a culture and reflect on that experience as well as creatively communicate the gospel in a new cultural context. The assessment for all our modules is putting together a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate the learning in both understanding and practice. Here's one student's comment in feedback and a word picture of students' responses to that module.



It is helpful to learn about culture and see where the gospel connects with it; the challenge and opportunity presented by crossing cultures and the real life examples of this in people's experiences as well

Formation for mission

As well as the teaching, the heart of what we do and are about is formation. This is a slippery word in theological circles and possibly a jargon word as well! We hope that our students will be formed into pioneers who show the likeness of Christ in their character and discipleship, and live lives full of generous and deeply committed Christian faith. And that they do that in the world primarily and not just in church circles.

The purpose of formation is inculturation, i.e. pioneers will be formed to be able to creatively and imaginatively cross borders to live in

the world and share Christ there and grow Christian faith communities from within those contexts.

So as well as the modules we also have prayer and worship, mentors, retreats, action learning sets, and what we call sink or swim days, where we focus on issues of support over the long term to enable pioneers to grow in maturity and discipleship.

There could not be a better scenario than being located with CMS, a mission community whose charism is prophetic mission. We are forever bumping into inspiring members living out lives of mission in all sorts of contexts round the world.



*The Pilgrims
Way on
Lindisfarne
where some
students went
on retreat this
year getting
inspired by the
stories of Celtic
saints like Aidan
and Cuthbert*

This is a lovely prayer submitted by Karlie for a mission spirituality portfolio that captures the sense of what we aspire to and pray for

Jesus Christ Son of God

*Sent to us
As love radiantly visible*

*Sent to us
Who forget and lose sight
And become so lost*

*Make us like you
Make beauty of us
Born of hope, faith and love*

and then send us

*Send us where it is hardest to love
Because there is so much to hate*

*Send us where the lies deafen
And truth is only a whisper*

*Send us where the ugly blinds
And beauty is used and discarded*

*Send us where the pain is deepest
And hope is nearly gone*

*Send us to love where love is dead
And resurrection is our only hope*

*When we are afraid
When we are rejected
When we are weak
When we are hurting
When we are like you*

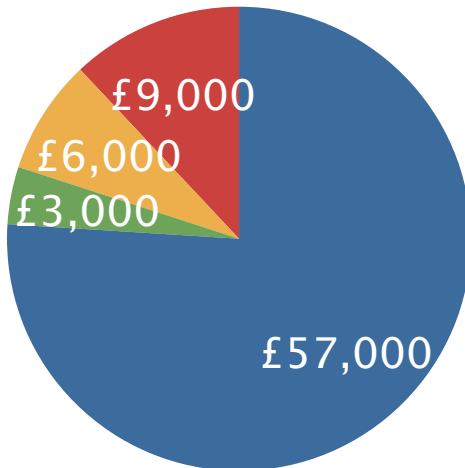
***Send us
To where you already are***

Monies

This last year - Sept 2011-Aug 2012

Expenditure £75k

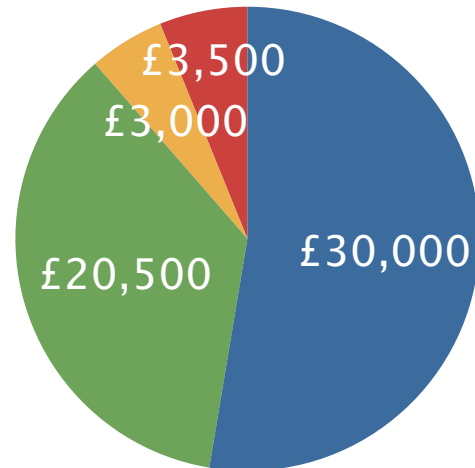
The total expenditure was £75k, the main part of which is salaries. This was in line with what was budgeted.



- Salaries
- Promotion
- Course costs
- Overheads

Income £57k

The total income was £57k, in line with what was planned. CMS invests in the shortfall.

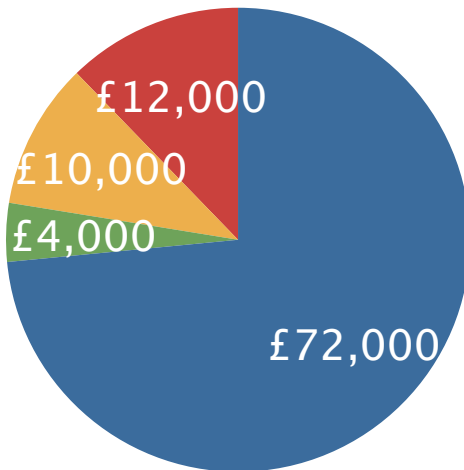


- Grants
- Fees
- External lecturing
- Pioneer friends and churches

Coming year - Sept 2012-Aug 2013

Expenditure £98k

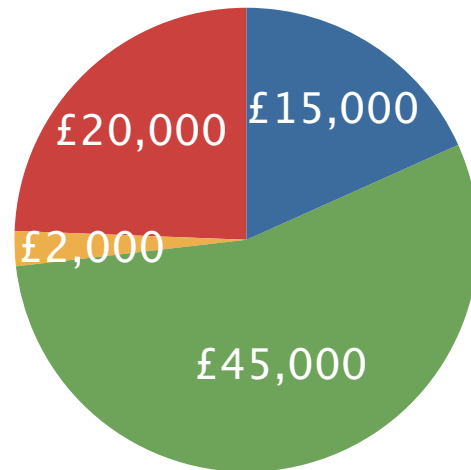
We will outlay some more on salaries with the new MA and expanding modules. Though it still feels like we run a tight programme that's good value for money.



- Salaries
- Promotion
- Course costs
- Overheads

Income £82k

Income from student fees will be higher due to more students but also the addition of ordained pioneers. The line of friends and churches has been increased and this is a development target for us to generate more of a support base for what we do through individuals and churches. CMS will seek to raise the rest or underwrite it. It will still take a further two years until we are fully running w.r.t ordained pioneers, which will make our figures balance better in the long run, which was always in the original business plan.



- Grants (already pledged)
- Fees
- External lecturing
- Pioneer friends and churches

Looking forward: more students, more degrees, more friends

We have our biggest group of pioneer students so far getting ready to train with us from Sept 2012. We will be adding in the final year of modules on the foundation degree. And some of our pilot year students will complete their training. That will be an amazing moment. In other words we will be fully up and running.

Having gained approval from the Church of England to train Ordained Pioneer Ministers we will have our first cohort of ordinands, which we are looking forward to. Five are joining us this September.

Several students have come to us with theology or ministry degrees so we are starting our first cohort who will be doing an MA. Again it's exciting to be able to add this into the mix. This will be led by Dr Cathy Ross and we look forward to seeing how that develops and grows.

Nothing is simple in higher education at the moment as I am sure you are aware. Due to government money dropping out we and lots of others no longer have an income from that source. To help navigate this change the Church of England are developing a suite of

Common Awards with Durham University. We will be shifting our accreditation across from Oxford Brookes to Durham and no doubt this will require lots of admin, rethinking and so on. In the short term this will be difficult but we hope it will be good in the long term. And we will be making the case for the creative possibilities for teaching and assessment that we have found with the current awards.



We are still puzzling over how to integrate better the training of people in mission going elsewhere in the world and people from elsewhere in the world coming to the UK with the training of pioneers in the UK. This is our next development challenge. We plan to give this some serious attention this year to rethink how that might best happen.

CMS have appointed a new community leader - Philip

Mounstephen - and we look forward to working with him.

We are also looking to develop the network of pioneer friends to pray for and give to support pioneers so that the course remains affordable for lay pioneers in particular. We have our first pioneer friends meal in October. Do let us know if you would like to come.

Thank you

to everyone who has journeyed with us this far - CMS, individuals, pioneer friends, our advisory group, those who have given encouragement and money, pioneers who have trusted us with training them, ministry division of the Church of England, friends at Ripon College, Oxford Diocese, the RTP, other partners in the university awards, the team of mentors, teachers,

and admin, fresh expressions team, venture fx, fellow travellers in mission education, those who have cooked for us and let us stay in their homes, and all those I have forgotten to mention.

We're still small and fragile in some ways but I think I can safely say we're here to stay and to follow Christ the pioneer of our faith's beckoning into the future to join in his mission to the world! Join us.

There are several ways to follow stories of how things are going and what pioneers are up to.

- We publish a newsletter each term.
- We publish stories on the website regularly. On the front page you can subscribe and you will then get an e-mail each time something new is posted.
- We have a network of pioneer friends who receive a monthly e-mail, which includes an interview with a pioneer - do become a friend!

Please contact us at pioneer@cms-uk.org for any further info.

www.pioneer.cms-uk.org



The roots of pioneering ministry are in the missionary movement and therefore CMS is uniquely qualified to train pioneers for the urgent missionary task in the UK. CMS pioneers will benefit from the years of experience in cross-cultural mission that is CMS's expertise and the church will gain many well equipped and specifically trained individuals for 21st century mission.

Rachel Jordan, National Mission Advisor for the Church of England