

# New Places for New People (NPNP) Update

January 2024

## Jesus Made New Friends: Be Like Jesus

*A young man from the church youth project approached me as people were leaving after the evening service. His appearance was unusually dirty. He asked for money to buy chips. I suggested going together. Surprisingly, he insisted I sat down and shared his chips. Initially I declined his invitation, but he pleaded with me. He didn't want to eat another meal alone.*



The gospels are full of stories of Jesus eating and drinking. Jesus' mission strategy was being with people. In Luke's gospel especially, Jesus is either at a meal, going to a meal or just leaving a meal. Jesus **made new friends** around meals.

Jesus crossed social boundaries, sharing meals with tax collectors and sinners, disregarding social norms. Jesus reveals a risk-taking, boundary-breaking God, **making friends** with people others regarded as the enemy, impure or unworthy.

Creating new Christian communities is all about **making new friends** beyond our 'usual' friendship groups, of people, who often, share our principles and our prejudices. Being like Jesus requires us to make new relationships, new friendships to recognise and discover God in the people we encounter.



### Actions

1. Share a drink or food with someone, beyond your usual friendship group.
2. Visit a place where people gather in your community that you have never been to before.
3. Be curious: Ask good questions.
  - What do you enjoy about living here?
  - What are you proud of?
  - What are your hopes for this community?
  - If you could find a couple of people to join in, what would you start?

*Eunice Attwood, Church at the Margins Officer*

## News

View, and subscribe to, the Caleb (Manchester and Stockport NPNP) newsletter here:

<https://mailchi.mp/7eb68a0a507d/weekly-bulletin-9588517>

New page on the Methodist website: [methodist.org.uk/supersandnnpn](http://methodist.org.uk/supersandnnpn)

Learn more about what life is like for people living in poverty in the UK:

[jrf.org.uk/uk-poverty-2024-the-essential-guide-to-understanding-poverty-in-the-uk](http://jrf.org.uk/uk-poverty-2024-the-essential-guide-to-understanding-poverty-in-the-uk)

Rural poverty is very different to inner city poverty - read this excellent resource to discover more.

[Hidden Hardship Short Storybook](#).

# Events and Training

## Come and pray with us

A monthly online prayer gathering for the NPNP/Church at the Margins movement. Running from 18.30 to 18.50 (a fixed 20-minute duration) on the second Monday of each month. Next month's session is on **11 March**, come and join us in connecting, supporting, and growing the NPNP movement. Sign up [here](#).

## CAM Practitioners Network

The **Church at the Margins Practitioners Network** provides an online space to encourage people who are supporting or nurturing new Christian communities amongst economically marginalised people. It takes place monthly from 4 to 5pm on Tuesday evenings. Details are on this page [methodist.org.uk/camnetwork](https://methodist.org.uk/camnetwork), book for the next session on **12 March** [here](#), you can book for other dates on the main page.



## Church Planting Intensive (online)

**16-17 March**, fully funded course for those planting NPNPs (30 places), bookings: <https://forms.office.com/r/5HDCB5fqwg>.

## Faith-Rooted Community Organising

**April 5-7 2024**, at Cliff College. For people beginning an NPNP. Bookings: [www.methodist.org.uk/organising](https://www.methodist.org.uk/organising). Faith-rooted organising offers a way to resource and enable people to find out where God is at work in their communities, and join in.



## NPNP Activists Gathering

This will be taking place at Cliff College on 21 May from 11.00, more details to follow.

## Multiply

We have arranged free places for Methodists at both of these Multiply events, use the code MC24 when you book:

**Multiply Estates Mission, 12 March** is an opportunity to explore with one of our ecumenical partners what it takes to build estates churches for those searching for a sense of belonging and home. Book your free ticket here: <https://ccx.org.uk/multiply-estates-mission>

**Multiply 2024 on 11, 12 and 13 June** at Leeds, Birmingham and London. These events will equip you to grow, plant and lead a Younger Church that reaches new people, in new and renewed ways. Book your free ticket here: <https://ccx.org.uk/multiply>

## Black Light

(starts **2 May**) explores the presence and contributions of black people in the Bible, in church history and in Britain today. It celebrates the remarkable growth of the church in Africa and the exciting 'reverse mission' impact on Europe. It does not shy away from looking at the legacies of Christendom and colonialism, but it invites creativity and courage in seizing the opportunities that are emerging.



Interested? Register for a place at [blacklightcourse.uk](http://blacklightcourse.uk) or contact [admin@urbanexpression.org.uk](mailto:admin@urbanexpression.org.uk) for more information.

## Methodist Pioneering Pathways

MPP continues to grow as a community. The online Third Thursday gatherings have become a place of honest sharing and building deeper relationships across the NPNP movement. The monthly webinars, led by guest contributors, have become an important place to enable theological reflection and explore key insight together. Details here: [methodist.org.uk/mpp](http://methodist.org.uk/mpp).



Book grants are available for those on the MPP for up to a maximum total of **£100** per pioneer for all of their time on the MPP. Send claims for book grants to [pioneering@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:pioneering@methodistchurch.org.uk). Grants are available each Connexional year until funds are exhausted on a first come, first served basis. Those who haven't received a grant in previous years will be privileged before those who have. A list of recommended books and more details are on this page [methodist.org.uk/mpp](http://methodist.org.uk/mpp).

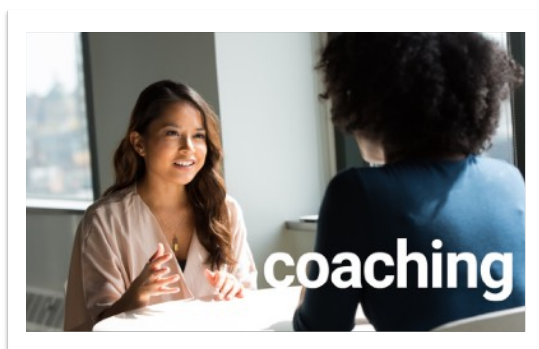
We also offer learning support via the Pioneer Ministry Short Course, at Cliff College (**26 February to 1 March**), details and booking here [cliffcollege.ac.uk/courses/onsite-short/pioneer-ministry](http://cliffcollege.ac.uk/courses/onsite-short/pioneer-ministry). Book a free place, *if you are on the MPP*, using the code **PioneerPathwaysX**. You will still go through the payment process but you will not have to pay. After booking, Cliff College will contact you to confirm your place and arrange accommodation. If you're interested in the Short Course but haven't yet joined the MPP please use this link [methodist.org.uk/mpp](http://methodist.org.uk/mpp).

## Pioneer vacancies

None this time, but check this page for updates [Jobs around the Connexion](#).

## Coaching

The recent visits by coaches to pioneer communities and feedback from those being coached show how helpful it is. The regular reflective space enables leadership development and give focus to resolving issues arising in the context. Our hope is that every pioneer is matched from our network of coaches. To find out more, to be coached or explore being trained to coach others, go to [methodist.org.uk/coaching](http://methodist.org.uk/coaching).



## Funding news

The Mission Committee met on **14-15 February** and approved submissions from Cumbria district and Cleveland and Danby circuit (Darlington), together with district oversight processes from Newcastle upon Tyne, Northampton and Sheffield.

The district submission form (updated) is on this page [methodist.org.uk/npnbegin](https://methodist.org.uk/npnbegin). The Circuit NPNP Guide, is available here [methodist.org.uk/circuitnnpfunding](https://methodist.org.uk/circuitnnpfunding), together with forms and process outline (get in touch if you would like a hard copy of the Guide, or any further information about exploratory funding, NPNP submissions or oversight processes). See funded NPNPs here: [methodist.org.uk/nnpdistricts](https://methodist.org.uk/nnpdistricts).

Future Mission Committee meetings and funding submission dates:

Please send any funding submissions by 8 April, if possible, for the 21 May Mission Committee. If 8 April isn't possible but you would like to submit for the May Mission Committee please get in touch. The following meeting is expected to be in October.