



Job Information Pack

Pioneer Children & Families Worker

Thirsk and Northallerton Methodist Circuit

Closing date: **Midday, Monday 5th January 2026**

Interview date: **Saturday 17th January 2026**

We reserve the right to close the vacancy earlier than this date should sufficient applications be received.
Interviews will be held in-person in the Thirsk & Northallerton Methodist Circuit.
A flexible start date is available for this post and will be discussed at interview.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Thirsk & Northallerton Methodist Circuit is at an exciting stage of its life. It now consists of 2 churches, one of which is a new church, Vale of Mowbray, which is made up of a number of worshipping communities from across the Circuit.

We are seeking an innovative individual who is able to work at their own discretion alongside children and young families and under the guidance of The Superintendent Minister.

Job title:	Pioneer Children & Families Worker.
Location:	Working alongside the existing worshipping communities within the Circuit, with appropriate office space provided.
Employing body:	Thirsk and Northallerton Methodist Circuit.
Responsible to:	The Superintendent Minister.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:

- To Pioneer new ways of working alongside children and families within the community offering exciting ways to develop faith connections.
- To enable children and families to participate fully in the life of Christian Faith
- To encourage already established groups, supporting those involved in leading them.

It is envisaged that 80% of the role will be to pioneer working alongside children and families with 20% committed to supporting and encouraging already established groups.

OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENT:

A faith is an essential requirement for this role and in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010 it is and will remain throughout the life of the employment contract an occupational requirement that the successful applicant is a practising Christian.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Under the supervision of the Superintendent Minister, the successful applicant will be responsible for children and family work across the circuit assisting worshipping communities to explore New People for New Places opportunities.

Initially time will be spent identifying opportunities within the communities where it is seen that pioneer work can be established, including mapping the existing circuit activities (i.e., open the book team, messy church, Sunday schools, Godly play teams, toddler groups, etc) .

Main Duties:

- Develop and assist children and families to explore the Christian faith in creative and dynamic ways by pioneering new ways of mission (i.e., a potential sports chaplaincy)
- Keep records of contacts and work undertaken in compliance with GDPR legislation.
- Work alongside members of the Circuit team, including those involved in Pioneer Ministry
- Work ecumenically and in partnership with other church colleagues where appropriate.

Safeguarding

- Work with the Superintendent and the Circuit Safeguarding Officer to ensure compliance with the Churches' Policy on Safeguarding, creating a safe space for all.

Financial

- Manage and administer an agreed budget to enable the ministry to develop.

Other requirements:

- Be an active and engaged participant in [Reflective Supervision](#).
- Utilise Circuit, District, Connexion and Pioneer Network resources.
- Prepare written reports/maintain records as asked to do so by your Line Manager.
- Attend meetings and gatherings as asked to do so by your Line Manager.
- As requested by your Line Manager, undertake other reasonable duties that support the evolving vision and mission of the Thirsk and Northallerton Methodist Circuit.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Contract type:	Part-time, fixed term (3 years)
Working hours:	20 hours per week
Rate of pay:	£17 per hour (£17,680 per annum)
Working pattern:	A flexible working pattern, to include evening and weekend working.
Annual leave:	132 hours, inclusive of public holidays.
Pension:	There is a defined contribution pension scheme to which eligible staff will be auto enrolled.
Probation:	Appointments are conditional on the satisfactory completion of a 6-month probationary period. (We reserve the right to extend this).
Training:	Any appointment is and will remain conditional on the successful completion, at the earliest opportunity of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methodist Church Foundation Module Safeguarding Training. - Methodist Church Advanced Module Safeguarding Training. - Methodist Church Unconscious Bias Training. - Ministry essentials for Children, Youth and Family Ministries.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job title: Pioneer Children & Families Worker.

Location: Working alongside the existing worshipping communities within the Circuit, with appropriate office space provided.

Responsible to: The Superintendent Minister.

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Training and Qualifications			
Nationally recognised qualification in Children's, Youth or Community work. <i>Or equivalent professional work experience.</i>	Yes		A, I, Q
Qualification in Biblical, Theological or Mission studies.		Yes	A, I, Q
Knowledge, Skills and Experience			
Experience of working/volunteering with children and families in a church context.		Yes	A, I
Experience of working with and supporting children and families from a diverse range of backgrounds and needs.	Yes		A, I
Experience in planning, leading and delivering family activities and events.	Yes		A, I
Experience in leading worship.		Yes	A, I
Working knowledge/understanding of Safeguarding procedures and protocols.	Yes		A, I
Good all-round knowledge of the important issues and an understanding and appreciating of the current needs that affect families in today's society.	Yes		A, I
Good knowledge of computers and social media platforms, able to think creatively about interacting and developing relationships with families.	Yes		A, I
Qualities and Aptitudes			
Able to create new activities that attract families, fostering an environment of participation.	Yes		A, I
Ability to recognise and develop the gifts of others, recruiting and developing volunteers.	Yes		A, I
Good communication skills; able to adapt the style accordingly.	Yes		A, I
Able to work with competing priorities with excellent organisation skills.	Yes		A, I
Able to develop and maintain appropriate boundaries, demonstrating integrity and a commitment to confidentiality.	Yes		A, I
Able to work effectively within a team and alone with minimum supervision.	Yes		A, I
An active listener, friendly and sensitive, with excellent interpersonal skills.	Yes		A, I
Any Other Requirements			
A robust and well-developed Christian faith, supportive of the ethos of the Methodist Church.	Yes		A, I
Awareness of and a sensitivity to issues of equality, diversity and inclusion.	Yes		A, I
Committed to work irregular hours, to include some evenings and weekends.	Yes		A, I
Access to suitable transport to travel without restriction across the Circuit.	Yes		A, I
A satisfactory enhanced disclosure from an enhanced DBS check.	Yes		DBS

Assessment:

A: Application form; I: Interview; Q: Proof of Qualification; P: Presentation; E, Exercise

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Adjustments:

If you require adjustments making to any aspect or at any stage of the recruitment process, please make us aware, or provide information that you feel relevant whilst we consider your application. If selected for interview, we will ask if you have any access needs or if you require any reasonable adjustments to be made.

Entitlement to work in the UK:

All job offers will be conditional on the successful applicant being able to demonstrate the right to live and work in the UK, as required by the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. *You will be asked to provide evidence of your entitlement should an offer of employment be made.*

Criminal Convictions:

Many roles that we advertise involve working with children and are exempt from Section 4(2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. Offers of employment for these posts remain conditional on a satisfactory enhanced disclosure form a DBS check and additional checks as determined appropriate by the Methodist Church. *Whilst having a criminal record does not automatically bar you from working with us this will depend on the job and the nature of the conviction.*

Experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities:

The recruitment team will assess what you have written in your application form against the essential and desirable criteria of the person specification when shortlisting. *CVs will not be considered during the shortlisting process.*

References:

All job offers will be conditional subject to the receipt of satisfactory references. *We reserve the right to withdraw a conditional offer based on the references that we receive.*

Data Protection:

We process information in line with our Privacy Policy and if you are successful in your application the information that we hold will be used to administer your employment with us. By making an application, you agree to the processing of your data in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI):

Our commitment to EDI is to confront and eliminate discrimination whether by reason of age, gender, gender assignment, sexual orientation, marital status or civil partnership, race, nationality, ethnicity (race), religion, ability or disability, pregnancy or maternity and to encourage equal opportunities. Employees must ensure a positive commitment towards EDI by treating others fairly and not committing any form of discrimination, victimisation or harassment of any description, promoting working relationships between all internal and external stakeholders.

Unless stated that an 'Occupational Requirement' is in place for a vacancy, recruitment will be made on the basis of an applicant's ability and merit as measured against the job criteria.

If you have any questions or comments about how we recruit, you can provide feedback [here](#).

NEXT STEPS

General enquiries and informal conversations about the role are actively encouraged. In the first instance we ask that you direct these by email to [Rev Kim Hurst](#).

As part of safer recruitment all applications must be received on a Methodist Church application form, available [here](#). CVs are not accepted and will not be considered during shortlisting.

Anticipated timeline:

1. Closing date:	Midday, Monday 5 th January 2026
2. Interview date:	Saturday 17 th January 2026
3. Start date:	Flexible (to be discussed at interview)

1. We reserve the right to close the vacancy earlier than this date should a sufficient number of applications be received.
2. Interviews will be held in-person at Methodist premises within the Thirsk and Northallerton Methodist Circuit.
3. A flexible start date is available for this post and will be discussed at interview.