



Pioneer Community Worker The Presence Project - Pottery Bank

(8 hours a week, fixed term)

Overview:

Mission Initiative Newcastle East (MINE) and the **Newcastle Central and East Methodist Circuit** are looking for an enthusiastic person who has a calling and passion for ministry *with* those on the margins to coordinate our 'Presence Project' at Pottery Bank Community Centre in the east end of Newcastle.

This is a wonderful opportunity to join in with what God is already doing in Newcastle East, by being a valuable presence at the busy Community Centre and discerning with our Churches how best we continue to support people and share God's love in this place.

Working independently and with the support of a steering group you will be given space to develop relationships and support the work of the Community Centre in its outreach and its role as a hub to the local community. You will also be able to start new initiatives as a pioneer with permission to be creative and open to new ways of being a Christian presence.

This is an exciting role for someone who understands and values the ministry of presence and is willing to take on a challenge.



Could this be you??

Background:

Mission Initiative Newcastle East (MINE):

MINE represents 5 Anglican churches across Byker and Walker who work together to engage with the community. We are a Bishop's Mission Order in the Diocese of Newcastle and a registered Charity. We are committed to being a presence in the area, and pioneering new projects that sees the Church reach out to those in need and on the margins in our Community. Over the past 7 years we have developed a Children's and Youth team (MINE Youth) which runs clubs, drop ins and schools work across Byker and Walker. We also offer in partnership with the Methodist Circuit a Community Money Advice scheme that offers financial support to local people.

www.minebyker.co.uk

Newcastle Central and East Methodist Circuit:

The Circuit represents 11 churches across Newcastle and Wallsend (6 Methodist churches and 5 Local Ecumenical Partnerships) and has a long history of ministry in the Walker area. The Circuit is also involved with a significant range of projects across the area including Street Pastors, Changing Lives' GAP project (working with sex workers), and engagement with the Christian Arts Community through the Shieldfield Art Works at The Holy Biscuit whose programme includes high quality art exhibitions, events, and workshops.

www.newcastlecentralmethodist.org.uk

The 'Presence Project' at Pottery Bank Community Centre:

This Project is about the Church going out into the community, and learning and exploring what it is to be *with* people and join in with the life of a Centre in the heart of its community.

Pottery Bank is a district of Walker in Newcastle East. It is one of the most deprived areas in the North East with high levels of single parenthood, child poverty and low educational attainment. Pottery Bank Community Centre plays a vital role in being a welcoming and supportive hub to the local population. Refurbished and developed in 2013 it hosts a busy Café and a catering company and offers regular activities and community events throughout the year. It is also regularly hired by other organisations and service providers.



Over the past 8 years the Methodist Church with the support of other local Christians has developed a strong relationship with the Centre by hiring a small room and offering regular pastoral support and counselling to local people, as well as being an active member of the Centre community; getting alongside and supporting its activities. Through this regular support, prayer and compassion, the 'Presence project' has become a valuable part of the Community Centre's life.

Now the Methodists and MINE are working in partnership with the Community Centre to sustain and develop this work into the future. We feel that this is especially important as our Churches respond to the effects the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the wellbeing of the community. Places like Pottery Bank Community Centre have never been more vital as they provide a lifeline to people suffering the injustices of social isolation and poverty.

We are looking for someone who can build on the work that has already been done but who can bring their own style, gifts and ideas to develop the work further and think out of the box as to how we demonstrate God's love and share our faith.

You will have the use of a room in the Centre and will be able to work flexibly in the week, supported by a local steering group.

The Projects's Aims are:

- To explore how to provide a Christian presence, on behalf of the Methodist Church and MINE, at Pottery Bank Community Centre.
- To develop support for individuals and group projects, in partnership with other Christians, churches and community agencies.
- To promote and celebrate love, accepting others and encouraging them to explore ways of engaging with the Christian faith.

Key Responsibilities:

- To be a pastoral and spiritual resource for the Centre and the local community.
- To provide a non-judgemental space for people to talk, share concerns and issues.
- To offer prayer and support.
- To facilitate small group discussion/Bible study.
- To begin to explore possible solutions with individuals.
- To be able to network with many support organisations.
- To refer and provide support to people and refer to appropriate agencies as required.
- To plan and deliver special worship events.

Person Specification

The successful applicant will have the following qualities and experience.

Essential:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christian commitment and character• Demonstrate an inclusive outlook, integrity, reliability, resilience, loyalty and flexibility• Able to use own initiative – work independently• Proven passion for and relevant experience in similar community settings• Excellent relationship building skills• Able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with a range of external institutions/organisations• Be a good listener
Desirable:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience of facilitating worship• Experience of managing and leading projects• Experience of monitoring work, evaluating the success of activities and continually improving them• Training/qualification in Counselling• Training/experience in Ministry
Personal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Able to demonstrate self-awareness and emotional intelligence;• Motivated self-starter with a flexible attitude• Able to demonstrate enthusiasm, resilience and tenacity and to embrace change;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong interpersonal skills.
General:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to sometimes work flexible hours, including evening and occasional weekend commitments as required. • You will be required to maintain an enhanced DBS declaration

General Conditions

Diversity

We understand the benefits of employing individuals from a range of backgrounds, with diverse cultures and talents. We aim to create a workforce that:

- values difference in others and respects the dignity and worth of each individual;
- reflects the diversity of the nation that the Church of England exists to serve;
- fosters a climate of creativity, tolerance and diversity that will help all staff to develop to their full potential.

We are committed to being an equal opportunities employer and ensuring that all employees, job applicants, customers and other persons with whom we deal are treated fairly and are not subjected to discrimination. We want to ensure that we not only observe the relevant legislation but also do whatever is necessary to provide genuine equality of opportunity. We expect all of our employees to be treated and to treat others with respect. Our aim is to provide a working environment free from harassment, intimidation, or discrimination in any form which may affect the dignity of the individual.

Standards of Behaviour and Conduct

Employees are expected to act at all times with due consideration for others and in a manner befitting their position as employees of the Church and as professionals, whatever their job.

Health and Safety Responsibilities

MINE takes Health and Safety at work very seriously and require their employees to familiarise themselves with, and follow, their policy.

Salary	£12/hour
Hours of Duty	The post is offered on a part time basis working 8 hours per week. The post may require availability and attendance at evening and weekend meetings and events. Overtime is not paid but time off in lieu is provided. Lunch and any other breaks are unpaid.
Contract	The post is offered initially on a 'fixed term contract' for 3 years. The employer is Mission Initiative Newcastle East.

Application and Selection Process

Please apply by writing a cover letter along with a completed application form

You may e-mail your completed application form to phil.medley34@gmail.com

or return your completed application to Phil Medley, 105 Middle Street, Walker, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE6 4DB.

Closing date for receipt of applications: **5pm, Friday 10th September**

The selection process, which will include an interview is scheduled for the week commencing **20th September**.
Any appointment is offered on the condition that an enhanced DBS declaration is obtained.