

Pioneer Ambassador Role

Vision

In 2017, with funding made available by the Baptists Together Mission Forum, two Pioneer Ambassadors, Roy Searle and Simon Goddard, were appointed and in 2019, Ali Boulton joined the team. Although initially referred to as Pioneer Co-ordinators, partly because the role included the co-ordinating the gatherings of Mission Forum, the role of Pioneer Ambassador is not about co-ordination.

Our vision is all about creating environments in which pioneering can flourish. We are about encouraging pioneers and advocating for pioneering in our Baptist family. This involves engaging with both pioneers and the wider Baptist family to develop a helpful dialogue which enables relationships to grow, an understanding of pioneering to develop and ultimately for pioneers to thrive. We currently embody that vision by:

- Supporting pioneers in a variety of ways such as mentoring, answering questions, and advocating in specific situations;
- Meeting regularly with individuals and groups from the Baptist family such as the Head of Faith and Society and Mission Forum;
- Hosting a Pioneer Round Table with pioneers from across the thirteen associations and Baptist pioneering networks to address all things pioneering.

The Pioneer Ambassadors represent and advocate for a broad spectrum of pioneering, and each offer a distinct pioneer specialism, e.g. new housing, fresh expressions.

The Role

The role of Pioneer Ambassador involves the following:

- working as part of a collaborative Pioneer Ambassador team, who meet about ten times a year,
- advocating and supporting individuals and churches who are exploring or engaged in pioneering mission,
- convening the Pioneer Round Table which meets three times a year, ideally one of which is a residential,
- gathering and networking pioneers in other ways for encouragement and support,
- representing the voice of pioneers across the Baptist movement and in its structures,
- being a point contact for those exploring a call to pioneering and for churches and networks looking to call a pioneer
- mentoring pioneers and those exploring a pioneering call
- being in relationship with the Colleges and contribute to formation that equips pioneers and pioneering
- engaging with those on sabbatical exploring what pioneering means and how it is embodied
- facilitating and encouraging the development of pioneer ministry within Baptists Together
- working alongside Associations to identify, release and resource pioneers
- communicating stories of individuals and churches who are engaged in pioneering

Accountable to: Faith & Society Team Leader on behalf of the funders (Baptist Mission Forum Grant Committee).

The role is not an employed position but is supported by a grant which is reviewed annually and currently confirmed until December 2026. This grant provides a budget to enable the Pioneer Ambassadors (working on a freelance self-employed basis) to further pioneering within the Baptist family. It is paid to the Pioneer Ambassadors in advance twice a year as part of regular accountability process.

Person Specification

Essential

- Being an accredited Baptist Minister
- Being an active pioneer practitioner
- Already relating to and supporting other Baptist pioneers
- Able to inspire and enthuse others with strong interpersonal skills
- Good at facilitating and enabling others with a commitment to working collaboratively across Baptists Together
- A willingness to travel regionally and nationally as necessary
- A willingness and ability to work flexibly and appropriately prioritise around other ministry commitments

Desirable

- Based in the north of England.
- Already in relationship with a variety of pioneering networks across denominations and networks nationally and beyond
- Offering a complementary pioneer specialism into the team

For more information about the role contact:

- Simon Goddard on 07930 148094 or at simon@rivertree.org.uk.

To express your interest in this role:

- Email a formal letter of interest to simon@rivertree.org.uk explaining:
 - How your experience and formation would help you to connect with this vision and fulfil this role,
 - How your existing connections might shape your unique contribution to the Pioneer Ambassador role.
- Deadline for receipt of these letters is **12pm on Friday 12th September 2025**.
- Those shortlisted will be invited to have a conversation on the **afternoon of Tuesday 30th September or the afternoon of Wednesday 1st October, 2025** to determine who the third member of the Pioneer Ambassador team will be.