

Pioneer Youth Worker

Netmakers is recruiting a Pioneer Youth Worker to plant Missional Youth Communities in Harrogate.

Who is this role for?

Do you have a heart for young people? Do you want to see young people's lives transformed with the Good News of Jesus? Do you feel how difficult the last few years have been for them and want to do something about it? Could you work together with volunteers from other churches so that together we could have more impact? If so, this role could be for you.

Who are Netmakers?

Netmakers is a movement of local churches, from many different traditions, uniting for mission. <http://netmakers.org.uk>

What's Youth Ministry like in Harrogate?

Harrogate has lots of thriving churches and many church leaders enjoy working together on mission. Youth Workers from different churches have good working relationships with one another and often join to minister to young people. There is a monthly youth worship service held in a town centre café which welcomes young people from churches across town – the hope is that the young people will eventually lead this themselves and have it as a base from which to do mission. A number of churches work together to take young people to a Christian festivals and there is also a thriving lunchtime ministry at St Aidan's.

However, there are many young people who are unreached with the Gospel and the main part of this role is to pioneer a ministry with them.

Recently, the Church in Harrogate has established TLG's Early Intervention (mentoring) programme <https://www.tlg.org.uk/your-church/early-intervention> in a number of schools, with many other schools hearing of its impact and wanting to come on board.

It's up to the PYW to discern, in partnership with other team members, where God is leading us to start outreach with unchurched young people. We anticipate that the relationships with schools and families that are being formed via the TLG project may open opportunities to create discipling communities among young people (Yr 6-13), separate from the mentoring programme. We see these open doors as the first place the new Pioneer Youth Worker would look to establish a Youth Missional Community. Potential ideas could be Family Fun Days, Parenting Courses, Youth Leadership Course, Café Church etc.

Although Harrogate has a reputation for being a "healthy and wealthy" town, there are pockets of economic deprivation. Data from these "deprivation hotspots" show:

- 13% of children 0-19 are in relative low-income families (9% in Harrogate overall)
- 30% are lone parent families with dependent children (25% in England)
- 8% of working age people claim universal credit (5% in Harrogate)
- 8% of working age adults receive PIP (4% in Harrogate)
- Pupils' academic achievement is lower than Harrogate (& England) at all stages of education.

The vision for the role is to plant a Missional Youth Community (MYC) in Harrogate

- This MYC is to be an expression of church in its own right, with a rhythm of worship, fellowship and mission.
- The Pioneer Youth Worker is to reach out to unchurched young people in Harrogate, sharing the Good News of Jesus and inviting them into community.
- The vision is to start with one MYC. We hope that in time, further MYCs can be planted so that a network is formed, but we encourage the new youth worker to start small and see where God leads.
- We believe that the TLG Early Intervention programme is opening doors with schools and families and we see these as opportunities to start discipling communities with young people.

Job Description

Job Title:	Pioneer Youth Worker
Location:	Harrogate, North Yorkshire
Salary	£18k/year (25 hrs) plus pension & pre-agreed expenses. Applications to do the role part-time are also welcome.
Responsible to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Corderoy, Netmakers Charity Lead. • Netmakers have also formed a team of representatives from local churches who will assist with the development of vision and strategy. Relationships within this group are very good.
Relating to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local churches, volunteers and schools. • Minister at own local church
Job Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To initiate and establish the development of a Missional Youth Community, working in partnership with other churches. • To develop a ministry among non-churched young people, using principles from other missional youth churches (eg <i>Sorted</i> in Bradford & Fresh Expressions), through evangelism, making disciples and enabling appropriate new forms of church.
Objectives: (see below for fuller explanation)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reach local 11–18-yr-olds (school years 7-13) with the Gospel 2. Pioneer, innovate and establish a new worshipping youth community appropriate to the context. 3. Establish nurturing relationships with young people where they feel supported, safe and encouraged 4. Form good relationships with our partners at schools and other churches, especially other youth workers 5. Model Christian discipleship and fulfil all practical responsibilities commensurate with the role.

Objectives in more detail:

- 1. Reach local 11–18-year-olds with the Gospel**
 - a. Pray, listen and act, to identify ways of building relationships with local teenagers.
 - b. Build life-enhancing relationships with young people, expressing the Gospel through actions and words so that young people may become disciples of Christ.
 - c. Create and develop small discipleship groups of young people to explore Christianity and worship and pray together.

- 2. Pioneer and establish new Missional Youth Communities appropriate to the context**
 - a. Develop a local strategy for gathering receptive young people into a MYC
 - b. Do this by learning from and with other missional youth churches who are on a similar journey e.g. by joining the MYCN Learning Community <https://churcharmy.org/mission/mycn/>, connecting with Myriad <https://olp.myriad.church>, or with other networks that engage ecumenically.

- 3. Establish nurturing relationships with young people where they feel supported, safe and encouraged.**
 - a. Given the many challenges that face young people, provide a safe environment for them to come together for support.
 - b. Ensure space and time is given for young people to explore and discuss some of the challenges they face e.g. lockdown, mental health, social media, relationships etc.
 - c. As the community develops, identify, mentor and empower young people who have a desire to reach out to others so that the MYC grows.

- 4. Form good relationships with our partners at schools and other churches, especially other Youth Workers.**
 - a. Nurture relationships with schools and other churches in the area, especially those where we already have a presence via the TLG EI programme.
 - b. Work closely with the rest of the Netmakers team who will highlight opportunities, open doors, and help you build relationships and develop a team.
 - c. Encourage and support existing ecumenical youth activities in the town.
 - d. Ensure excellent communication with existing youth workers in Harrogate, ensuring a culture of working together to reach unchurched young people. This would include, but is not limited to, communication of plans to go into schools, starting new clubs or running other local activities.
 - e. Oversee the work of the volunteers, providing support and accountability, delegating responsibility as appropriate and ensuring volunteers are appropriately trained.
 - f. Form additional partnerships with local stakeholders to establish the new MYC.

- 5. Model Christian discipleship and fulfil all responsibilities commensurate with the role.**
 - a. Encourage a culture of personal discipleship, with daily prayer, bible study & theological reflection to ensure personal spiritual health and development.
 - b. Establish financial generosity as a mark of discipleship.
 - c. Undertake relevant training (incl mental health in young people)
 - d. Undertake and regularly update risk assessments and health & safety policies associated with activities and take steps to manage and reduce the risk.
 - e. Comply with all relevant policies including safeguarding, drug and alcohol, equal opportunities, confidentiality etc.
 - f. Undertake duties outlined by your line manager commensurate with the post.

Knowledge, Experience, Skills, Qualifications:

Essential

1. A person of prayer, robust spirituality, resilience and self-discipline, with the personal resources to sustain a pioneering ministry.
2. An ability to build relationships with, and empower, young people.
3. Strong desire to reach young people and see them become disciples of Christ and a proven ability in evangelising non-Christian teenagers.
4. Experience in Mission, Ministry, Youth Work or Education.
5. Experience of leading innovation, having imagination and taking initiative.
6. An ability to build and maintain good relationships with a wide range of stakeholders from different church backgrounds and local schools.
7. An ability to pioneer in partnership with others rather than alone, with a particular strength in listening to others.
8. Experience of recruiting, training and leading a team of volunteers.
9. Knowledge of health and safety, safeguarding and child protection issues

Desirable

1. Commitment to prayerful listening and discernment and valuing of context.
2. Understanding of the current culture trends and challenges facing young people, both individually and communally.
3. Leadership skills in any area that could be applied for initial engagement with young people, eg Sports, Arts.
4. Experience of relating Christian faith to life outside of a church setting, with non-Christians through dialogue or small group work.
5. Good communication skills, both oral and written.