Eleanor said, “It helped me link up all the things I was doing as I felt much more confident seeing everything as part of a pioneer spectrum. This has led to many positive links between church and the wider community.”

Belinda says, “It’s given me stronger biblical foundations for what I’m doing and helped me see things through a missional lens. It’s also given me a community of people with a pioneer outlook to reimagine church.” Belinda is working with teenage mums in the most ethnically diverse borough in the country and has built a partnership with an urban farm where she has put on a number of services for the staff and visitors.

And lastly, Pauline, “I found the sessions very inspiring and it was good to meet all the different people.” Since completing the course she has set up a regular outreach at her local farmers market and is building relationships with those way beyond the reach of regular church.
A training pathway for pioneers

Pioneers have always been people called by God who are the first to see and creatively respond to the Holy Spirit’s initiatives with those outside the Church; gathering others around them as they seek to establish new worshipping communities.

WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?

Do you...

- Have three new ideas before breakfast?
- Get deeply passionate about the lonely, the lost, the poor or anyone on the margins of society?
- Frequently have ideas of new ways to reach new people and make new disciples.

The Lay Pioneer Training Course in the Diocese of St Albans is delivered over one year and is intended as an introduction to pioneer mission, and will equip you to reflect theologically on what you believe and what you practice.

The course will be open to people with a wide range of learning styles, with or without previous training or experience and support will be given to those with additional learning needs.

Students who successfully complete the course will be commissioned by local clergy in their local parish or mission context following a letter from the Bishop. They will be encouraged and supported to make disciples, develop new worshipping communities and bring transformation in their community contexts. For those who feel called to further training and licensed ministry as a Pioneer Reader or ministry as an Ordained Pioneer there will be an opportunity to discuss with a Vocations Advisor.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Six taught Modules:

- Pioneer Mission
- Mission and Church
- Reading the Bible
- Doing Theology
- Mission Spirituality
- Transforming Communities

Starting in January 2021, teaching will be one Saturday and two Wednesday evenings per module. There will be an Induction Day, to give an overview of study skills and how to be prepared for the course, before the course begins and a residential weekend (when circumstances allow).

Students will have an existing pioneering project, idea or dream and will build up their portfolio of context based learning throughout the course. (All the teaching is delivered in partnership with CMS and local pioneers and students will be given access to a variety of resources to aid their development and learning.)

COST

The training is free but you will need to be able to commit to the times required.

HOW DO I APPLY?

For an application form or any questions, please email the administrator at pioneer@stalbans.anglican.org or visit www.reachingnewpeople.org.uk for further information including course dates. The deadline date for applications is 5th November 2020.