

NPNP Pilot Project Officer

As part of the New Places for New People funding initiative Cumbria District have appointed Emma Richardson to work in a part time role over the next few months. Currently, as agreed by the Synod, the District is looking at three strands of work for the funding that is available:

- (i) A project or projects across the District and county;
- (ii) A project or projects that focus on 'Church at the Margins';
- (iii) Encouraging and helping existing circuits and churches to better understand and accommodate, to initiate and support, pioneering and fresh expressions of church.

Emma's primary focus is to develop strand (iii), whilst also reflecting and discerning alongside the NPNP Steering Group what might emerge for the other two strands. Emma introduces herself on the attached document, though many of you may already be aware of Emma through her role with the Carlisle Diocese. She will continue to work in her existing role for the Diocese (including in its outworking through the ecumenical county God for All framework), but is adding this part time Methodist role for the next few months to help us implement the Methodist connexional NPNP initiative, which is of course complementary to the ecumenical work.

I have worked at Carlisle diocese for the past 11.5 years in various teams, all with a focus of engaging with those who are on the fringe of church and beyond. By being creative in our approach to mission and outreach and adopting the value of staying where the people are and developing community there, we have been able to develop and grow over 80 new forms of Christian community across Cumbria. Most of these are in partnership with or connected to the existing church in some way. I have also worked with existing church communities to help them become more missional in their approach and explore pioneering ways to connect with their communities. I currently host a number of networks for people pioneering in their context as a way of bringing together practitioners for peer support, resource sharing and encouragement.

I am passionate to see the church in Cumbria flourish and believe that if we venture out in new ways and connect with people we haven't yet connected with, this is possible. We will have to re-imagine what church can be for this new context we find ourselves in, but I am ready to work with you on developing this new work.



Emma Richardson
January 2023