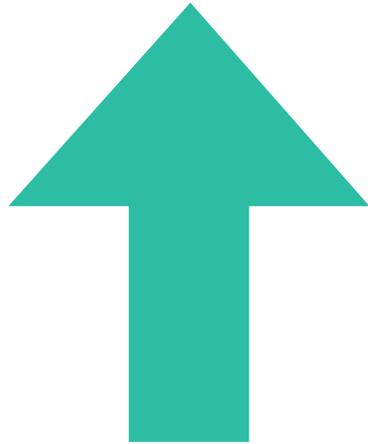


True North orients or pulls in a particular direction. That direction is God's mission. True North is a metaphor for what is at the heart of the pioneer gift as we have reflected on it over ten years. The CMS pioneer network, Starfish (see above) orients around this. We seek to align our lives with God's mission, to participate in it and to support one another in doing so. But it probably describes the pioneer gift for many whether in that network or not.

**What we are about:
Pioneering Mission**

What gets us out of bed in the morning is pioneering mission. This can be opened up in many ways. But it is a call into the world beyond the edges of the church, beyond business as usual, to share good news and join in with creation's healing, with what God is doing. Pioneering is a gift of seeing, of imagination, of dreaming. And it is a gift of building, doing, making things happen in response.

While the whole world needs to hear the gospel pioneers gravitate particularly to the edges.

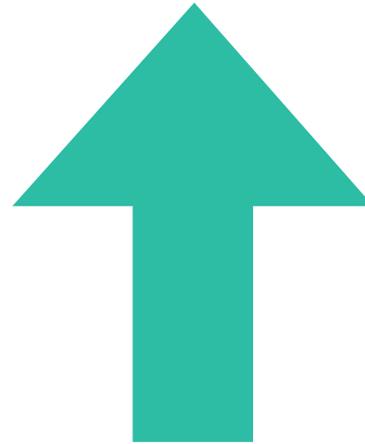


The edges where people and creation herself are broken, poor, weak, vulnerable, lost. Why? It seems like Jesus did so and we seek to follow him. We seek to be, live and model a life on Christ who is our best pattern and example, and to pioneer in the spirit of Christ the Pioneer of our faith.

As the Father sent Jesus so Jesus sends us - into cultures, places, people, localities, across boundaries to share the gospel. The gospel is always culturally robed so the sharing requires a letting go of our own ways, a listening and discerning to discover afresh the gospel in a new culture. Do it from the inside. This is an adventure of the imagination.

**What we value: Freedom, Imagination,
Participation, Risk**

There is great freedom in Christ. This freedom is about being yourself, about how to follow Christ, about what resources you draw on. You are unique, made in God's image. Your life's work is to become more fully who you are, to open up that gift. You are not called to be what anyone else thinks you should be or do - be you.



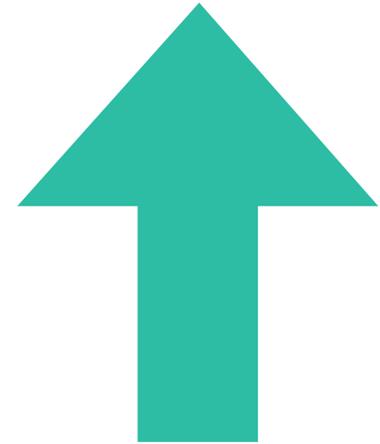
Mission is an adventure of the imagination. We are seers and dreamers, who love imagining what's possible, what we can do and not what we can't do. That imagination is about how to unfurl to heal the world, how to join in with God's mission, to participate in the world's healing.

Faith is active. So we live a life of mission in our context out of who we are called to be. That participation can be many things and will ebb and flow. But we are not passive observers of God's mission; we are dreamers who do.

Someone said that faith is spelled RISK and that makes us smile. We are up for risk, crossing boundaries, and going to places and being with people others might avoid. We try things out, experiment, play.

What fuels us: Prayer, Community, Learning

We pray. It doesn't matter how or when - there's no set prayer book. But a life of pioneering mission is fuelled by prayer. We draw on the riches of others



to inspire our prayer - the world church, our own traditions, religious communities. And we write and create our own to express our particular longings. We depend on God. We grieve for what is broken. We hope for what can be.

There is a stereotype of pioneers as lone individuals but it's rarely good to simply pioneer or be alone. For us it is about team, being together. We are warmed, encouraged and supported by friendship and community with other pioneers. And in our pioneering we creatively explore and work out how to follow Christ with others in community.

We value the wisdom and learning from others - about God, about the world, about mission. We ask questions, we are curious and hungry to explore. We don't seek ready made answers off the shelf but reflect on our own experience drawing on this wisdom. We immerse ourselves in the scriptures to better understand and live our lives in the way of Christ. We learn through reading, through conversation, through study, through doing, through community, through others.