

expressions: *the dvd* - 2

Discussion notes

These discussion notes accompany expressions: the dvd - 2: changing church in every place.

Sections 1-4 below correspond to the four longer 20min DVD sequences and are likely to take an evening each. Sections 5-9 correspond to the five shorter 5-6min sequences and you will probably be able to tackle two in an evening.

There are no notes for the modern parable (chapter 10), simply watch and share what God is saying to you.

1: Work, rest and play

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for human beings. (Colossians 3.23)

- Watch this sequence right through and think about the three examples. Are they really 'fresh expressions of church'?
- Do you think Diane Louise Jordan is right in saying that the church has primarily focussed on where we live, rather than where many of us spend most of our time?
- Chief Inspector Pete Owens says that some members of the cell groups in Merseyside Police have grown much more as Christians in these small groups than they did in 'traditional church'. Why do you think that is?
- Phil Potter (emerging church consultant) says that this fresh expression of church in the police force spread so quickly because it was based on a natural work 'network'. Are there networks which you are part of which could foster a fresh expression of church?
- Gareth Hill, the minister of the church where Tubestation is based, says: 'What's really exciting for us is the possibility of something completely unknown, unshaped, totally different from church as we would know it'. Is there a group of people (a 'sub-culture') in your community which could be reached by a totally different form of church?

- Tubestation is in its early days and is very risky. What advantages have Henry and Kris got? Are there any dangers ahead?
- The surfers were there all the time, but the church has only recently seen the mission potential of that community. How can you discover the mission potential of people you might be in touch with?
- Re:Fresh as a fresh expression sits alongside more traditional church at the RAF base. Could a 'mixed economy' like this work in your situation?
- How can you be 'culturally relevant' but avoid being driven by things which 'are not of God' (Steve Radley)?
- Look at Colossians 3:23. What does it mean to 'work at it with all your heart'? Think about ways in which you can be mission shaped at work, rest and play.

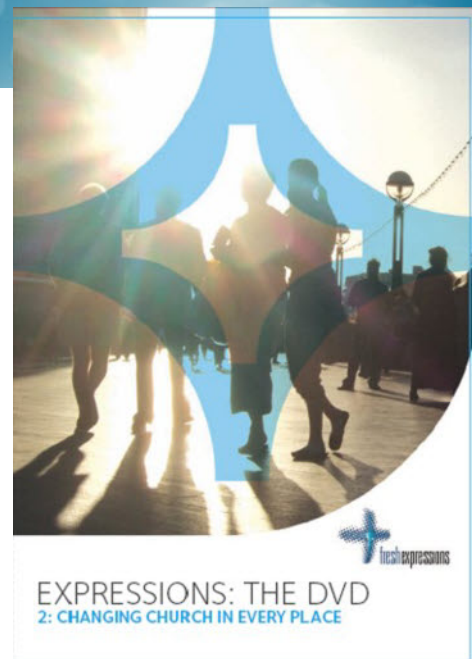
Further resources

expressions: the dvd - 1: stories of church for a changing culture
CHP, 2006
978-071514095-6

Taste and See chapter is an example of church in the café culture.

listening for mission
CHP, 2006
978-071514099-4

A useful booklet for those wanting to discover the mission potential of their community or networks.



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2: A new harvest?

Rural faith today is in the process of finding its own distinctive voice in a climate of enormous cultural change. (Rowan Williams)

- Watch this sequence and think about the four examples. Are they really 'fresh expressions of church'?
- The church in Tolland had reached a very low point before something new was tried. Is it possible to try new things without reaching such a low ebb first?
- Margaret Armstrong tried to find events, customs and moments which were part of the natural life of that small village. What are the special 'missional moments' in your community?
- At Tolland there was a determined effort to start with 'the spiritual life of the community'. What might that mean in your context?

- The Gathering in Fylingthorpe partly works well because it is a mid-week family-friendly expression of church. What else contributes to its success?
- In rural areas developing mature church out of something like The Gathering will take time. Janet Whelan says leadership will be key. What else will encourage sustainability?
- The Warham Trust is a network church designed for those who do not find traditional church easy. What do you think of the way they use Sunday morning; theme setting; refreshments; workshops and teaching; communion?
- Do you agree with Peter Irwin-Clark that choice is as important in rural areas as for those living in the town? What about his suggestion that people living in rural areas should have access to a church like the one he leads?
- Sally Gaze says that everything a traditional church does, a cell church can do - but differently. Do you agree?
- According to Sally Gaze, the countryside has changed a great deal recently. What changes do you observe locally and how might the church respond to them?

Further resources

Mission-shaped and Rural: growing churches in the countryside
Sally Gaze, CHP, 2006
978-071514084-0

Presence: a workbook to help promote and sustain an effective Christian presence in villages
Methodist Publishing House, 2004
978-185852267-8

Rural Children, Rural Church
Rona Orme, CHP, 2007
978-071514126-7

www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk
www.ruralmissions.org.uk
www.rural-theology.org.uk

3: The Lord is here

In a time where people are spiritually searching, there's something about liturgies that is often quite transcendent and that actually enables people to encounter something positive. (Ian Mobsby)

- Watch this sequence and think about the examples. Are they really 'fresh expressions of church'?
- Moot is a fresh expression of church which uses traditional liturgies and forms of service, but in a contemporary way. Would worship opportunities like that work well in your context?
- How important is 'community' and 'hospitality' in Moot? What can you learn from that?
- Some people belong to Moot but don't yet believe. Think about 'believing-belonging-behaving'. Do these need to happen in a particular order?
- Marcus Ramshaw says that Goths often feel that the church doesn't take them seriously. Are there any sub-cultures in your area who may feel the same?
- Fraser Watts asks if new ways of being church should meet the needs of those in sub-cultures and how far you can bring people from different sub-cultures together in church. What do you think?
- 'The Church often downplays spirituality and doesn't talk about difficult things'. How can you avoid this mistake if you are involved in a fresh expression?
- Indigenous leadership has been key to the success of the Goth

Eucharist. What does that leadership mean where you are?

- Contemplative Fire offers 'spaciousness'. How might you do that in your context?

Further resources

Emerging and Fresh Expressions of Church: How are they authentically Church & Anglican?
Ian Mobsby, Moot, 2007
978-0-9555140-0-5

Encounters on the Edge No. 29: Northumbria Community: Matching Monastery and Mission
www.encountersontheedge.org.uk

Encounters on the Edge No. 16: Mass Planting
www.encountersontheedge.org.uk

The *Monastery and Convent* websites:
www.worthabbey.net/abbey/news_01.htm
www.caseresources.org/resources/downloads_bbc2.html

www.moot.uk.net
www.blessed.org.uk

4: Generate

40% of churches have nobody attending under the age of 11 and 50% no one between 11 and 14. (Peter Brierley, *Pulling out of the nosedive*, christianresearch.org.uk).

- Watch this sequence and think about the examples. Are they really 'fresh expressions of church'?
- Hope Hamilton has intentionally taken church into the community, built links with local teenagers and employed Christian youth workers. How could you do that?
- If 'children and young people are part of today's church' what does that mean about the 'shape' of many of our churches?

- What did you think of the way kite-flying and church worked side by side? Could you help church grow amongst a particular group in your community?
- Paul Trathen said that the fresh expression meeting at a primary school has the hallmarks of church, meeting for fellowship, breaking bread and studying the scriptures. Do you agree?
- What do you do in a place where there has been no real church experience for two generations?
- Can beat-box and traditional church co-exist in a mixed economy church? What are the opportunities and difficulties?
- ‘Reaching young people often means going where they are’. In Blackburn Diocese that means schools. What about for you?
- Craig Abbott says that we’ve tended to invite people to come to a building and congregate first and then tried to engineer relationships once people have got together. Instead we should begin with relationship then think about congregating. If you agree, how might that work for you?
- How important is it that young people themselves are given significant leadership roles and responsibilities, as in Grimsby?

Further resources

Mission-shaped Children: Moving towards a child-centred church
Margaret Withers, CHP, 2006
978-071514081-7

Messy Church

Lucy Moore, Barnabas, 2006
978-184101503-3

Mission-shaped Youth: Rethinking young people and church

Tim Sudworth, Graham Cray, Chris Russell, CHP, 2007, 978-071514082-6

Making Sense of Generation Y: The World View of 15- to 25-year-olds
Sara Savage, Sylvia Collins-Mayo, Bob Mayo, Graham Cray, CHP, 2006
978-071514051-2

5: Being Mission-Shaped

God calls us to help people in every place and culture respond to the love and grace in his Son, Jesus Christ. To do that well in our time we need to grow many different fresh expressions of church life within and alongside our traditional parish churches: a mixed economy. (Rowan Williams)

- ‘A church without mission at its core is more a museum than a church’. Do you agree?
- ‘Anytime culture changes, church has to change with it’. What does this mean in practice for you? What opportunities and challenges does change bring?
- Only 40% of the population is happy doing church ‘our way’. How can we go to the 60% who aren’t?
- Do you need a building, full time ministry, committee structures and so on to have ‘church’?
- What thing could your church do to be more ‘mission-shaped’?

Further resources

Plan a *vision day* for your area.
www.freshexpressions.org.uk/vision

Mission-shaped Church: Church planting and fresh expressions of church in a changing context
CHP, 2004, 978-071514013-2

moving on in a mission-shaped church,
Steven Croft, George Lings, Peter Pillinger, CHP, 2005
978-071514078-9

expressions: the dvd - 1: stories of church for a changing culture
Norman Ivison, CHP, 2006
978-071514095-6

6: Listening for mission

We live in a turbulent time of change. Many, beyond the borders of church, are desperate for some sense of spiritual reality. Fresh expressions of church are the green shoots of the future. (Tom Stuckey)

- How could you ‘listen’ to your community?
- Who have you got contact with on the edge or outside the Christian community and how can you begin to serve them?
- How can you begin to pay attention to what God is doing in your community or context?
- What are the main issues local people have in your area? Is there a mission opportunity as you begin to address these?
- Do you fully understand the gifts and graces already present in your own church?

Further resources

listening for mission
Steven Croft, Freddy Hedley, Bob Hopkins, CHP, 2006
978-071514099-4

Time to Listen: Churchgoing Today
Lynda Barley, CHP, 2006
978-071514103-8

neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

7: Starting

I think you can go to any small struggling church and spot where the fresh expressions potential may be. (Phil Potter)

- Phil Potter says that when starting a fresh expression ‘small is beautiful’. Do you agree?
- How important is it to be clear about your vision before you start a fresh expression?

- What is the difference between passion, vision, and values?
- What is your vision as you try and reach those well off the radar of traditional church?
- Is it realistic to try to lead a fresh expression of church on your own or is team leadership vital?
- What new gifts or skills do leaders of fresh expressions need?
- One step at a time - what next step can you take?

Further resources

starting a fresh expression

Steven Croft, Claire Dalpra, George Lings, CHP, 2006, 978-071514096-3

Think about running *mission shaped intro*, a six-week course for those wanting to learn more about fresh expressions of church.

www.freshexpressions.org.uk/missionshapedintro

8: Sustaining

Sustainability is about understanding what it means to be a healthy Christian community. (Steve Hollinghurst)

- How can you explore and experiment in your context?
- How important is it to be aware of your weaknesses?
- How important are other churches and your denomination when it comes to keeping going?
- How do you keep a fresh expression fresh?
- If you are involved in a fresh expression, what do you think its life cycle might look like?
- How can you find a set of spiritual disciplines which will help you to keep going?

- What about finances?

Further resources

Watch the Generate sequence (#4) and ask how the fresh expressions featured will find sustainability.

Consider *mission shaped ministry*, our one-year part-time course in planting and sustaining fresh expressions.
www.freshexpressions.org.uk/missionshapedministry

9: Discipleship

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Jesus, Matthew 28.19-20)

- Can discipleship and a 'pick and mix' attitude live side by side?
- Has discipleship in the historic churches left a lot to be desired, as Martyn Atkins suggests?
- How do we make disciples? Is it a one-off event or a slow process?
- In what ways should discipleship and commitment go together?
- What do you think 'whole life discipleship' means and how can it be encouraged?
- To what extent is effective discipleship key to sustaining a fresh expression of church?

Further resources

Think about using the Emmaus course.
www.e-mmaus.org.uk

Discipleship information and resources
www.sharetheguide.org/discipleship

Contributors

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Revd Phil Potter is the author The Challenge of Cell Church, ministers in Haydock and has a role encouraging fresh expressions of church throughout the diocese of Liverpool.

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