

fresh
expressions



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media

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Fresh Expressions: changing church for a changing world

Fresh Expressions encourages new forms of church for a fast changing world, working with Christians from a variety of denominations and traditions.



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About fresh expressions of church

Fresh Expressions: changing church for a changing world

What is the definition of a fresh expression of church and what does it look like in practice?

What is a fresh expression of church?

A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.

- It will come into being through principles of listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples;
- It will have the potential to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its cultural context.

More: freshexpressions.org.uk/about/whatis

Examples

Somewhere Else

Appointed to Liverpool city centre without a building or congregation, Methodist Minister Barbara Glasson spent over a year walking the streets and listening, attending to the poorest and those on the margins, looking for where God was at work. As she listened, the idea was born to gather people to bake bread. In the simple act of baking and breaking bread, stories were told, friendships grew and a community was born. As it formed, so there were opportunities for catching and learning about faith which eventually found expression in worship together.



Legacy XS

Legacy XS youth centre and church in Benfleet, Essex, grew out of a small youth group meeting in a vicarage. It includes an 8,500sqft purpose-built indoor skate/BMX park alongside a drop-in centre with café, gaming room, pool table and other activities. The centre attracts over 250 young people a week and Sunday worship brings in a congregation of up to 80 - with skateboarding sometimes forming part of the worship.



Tubestation

A fresh expression of church on a Cornish beach is becoming the place to be for both visiting surfers and locals. Launched in summer 2007 at a Methodist chapel in Polzeath, tubestation aims to be 'a bridge between surfing and the gospel' and includes a church, an internet café, and a community centre.

Examples of fresh expressions of church

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Messy Church, Bath and Wells

Two primary schools, lots of children, but not many of them wanting to come to a Sung Eucharist form of church on a Sunday morning. In Bath and Wells, they decided to 'try something completely different' by choosing to mark a few of the key Church festivals with a Saturday morning craft club for children. Everything created in the art sessions are then included in a 45-minute, non-eucharistic family service on the following day. Refreshments, and sometimes lunch, mean that the young 'congregation' stays on to celebrate their Messy Church with families and new-found friends.



Moot

A number of people in and around London wanted to establish a new way of 'being' church in the centre of the city. They dreamed of a space for exploring ways to be with God, and moot was launched in 2003. The 'community of spiritual travellers' continues to grow through regular meetings at two churches in the city. moot looks to the Christian call for justice, equity and balance as a means of living politically and ethically.

G2

A café-style event at a gym in York draws in people, whether keen on exercise or not, to meet and enjoy time in what is known as an incarnational fresh expression. Listening to people and entering their culture is all part and parcel of G2, which meets on Sunday mornings.

xy church

News, faith, the Bible - and chicken tikka masala - are at the heart of a missional community for young men in the Bridlington. The xy church grew out of a one-off curry night for men to become a weekly pub meeting. Ordained pioneer minister Ben Norton says he wouldn't describe it as a 'fully-fledged church' yet but the informal sessions are reaching young men who would otherwise have found it difficult to set foot inside a traditional service or building.

Cell Church @ Tas Valley

In Norfolk's Tas Valley Team Ministry, six traditional parish churches work alongside a Cell Church made up of seven separate groups to serve their area in ways that complement each other in 'mixed economy'. The cells, says rector Sally Gaze, worship and love, relate to the wider Church, and get involved in mission. Many of the cell members are also members of one of the parish churches but new Christians usually join a cell in the first instance.

Sunday Afternoon Tea

A lot more than a 'nice cuppa' is the on offer at Ravenshead's Sunday Afternoon Tea. Around 30 of its older residents make the monthly visit for the cup that cheers, music, Bible readings, occasional drama, discussions and often the opportunity to join in with a well known hymn.

Contemplative Fire

Looking for peace in the middle of a busy world? An international community known as Contemplative Fire believes that Jesus calls us all to 'travel light and dwell deep' as his companions on a journey. Special contemplative events take place regularly across the UK, welcoming anyone interested in stillness and calm reflection. An informal network community has also been established around the more formal gatherings.

More: freshexpressions.org.uk/stories

About Fresh Expressions

Fresh Expressions: changing church for a changing world

Key information about the Fresh Expressions initiative, which supports and encourages fresh expressions of church.

About the Fresh Expressions initiative

Fresh Expressions encourages new forms of church for a fast changing world, working with Christians from a variety of denominations and traditions.

The initiative has resulted in hundreds of new congregations being formed alongside more traditional churches.

It was initiated in 2005 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York with the Methodist Council, but now also involves the United Reformed Church and a number of other partners.

Fresh Expressions was established as part of the follow-up to the best-selling Church of England report, *Mission-shaped Church*. The team has worked at grass roots level with dioceses, districts, synods and groups of churches and has played a leading role in the formation of national policy in a number of denominations.

As we encourage new forms of church for those who are not already members of any church, we also want to consolidate all that has been achieved in terms of major projects and policy changes at national level.

More: freshexpressions.org.uk/about



Aims

- renewing vision;
- gathering news;
- supporting growth;
- developing training

Finance and governance

Fresh Expressions is a registered charity (#1080103) and limited company (#3598030) under the leadership of a board of trustees chaired by Sir Christopher Wates. It is funded by its partner organisations, by grant funding from trusts and funds and by donations from individuals.

More: freshexpressions.org.uk/about/values

Partners

- The Church of England;
- The Methodist Church of Great Britain;
- The United Reformed Church;
- The Congregational Federation;
- The Ground Level Network;
- Church Army;
- CMS;
- Anglican Church Planting Initiatives.

More: freshexpressions.org.uk/about/partners

Our training and resources

Fresh Expressions: changing church for a changing world

A brief introduction to our major training courses and resources.

Training

freshexpressions.org.uk/training



vision days

Basic introductions to fresh expressions and mission-shaped thinking that we put on around the country. Run in partnership with local organizers, with speakers from our national core team and associate missionaries.

freshexpressions.org.uk/vision



mission shaped intro

Six-session freely-downloadable course exploring mission-shaped thinking in more detail. Contains a mix of teaching, reflection and story, with presentations, group activity, film and music clips, worship and prayer and is available for anybody to run in their own context.

freshexpressions.org.uk/missionshapedintro



mission shaped ministry

One-year part-time course for those leading or thinking of starting a fresh expression of church.

Contains 30 units of material written by our core team but is run by local centres across the country to ensure that application is relevant and practical.

freshexpressions.org.uk/missionshapedministry

Coaching

Fresh Expressions trains and develops coaches and mentors to support those involved in fresh expressions of church.

Fresh Expressions Area Strategy Teams (FEASTs)

Groups of key individuals supporting fresh expressions strategically across an area or region.

freshexpressions.org.uk/feasts

Resources

freshexpressions.org.uk/resources



Share

Our site for all involved with fresh expressions of church: an online guide, community, blog, learning networks and FAQs.

Share is for all involved with fresh expressions of church - practitioners, people in training, encouragers, supporters and researchers.

freshexpressions.org.uk/share

mission shaped congregations

An interactive DVD-ROM enabling you to put together a church service introducing mission-shaped thinking and fresh expressions of church.

freshexpressions.org.uk/resources/congregations

Shop

We have published a series of DVDs packed with stories of fresh expressions of church from a broad range of settings (broadcast-quality).

We also have a wide range of other books, booklets and downloads exploring mission-shaped thinking and fresh expressions of church.

freshexpressions.org.uk/shop



Our team

Fresh Expressions: changing church for a changing world

Brief information about five key members of our **Core Team**. Our team work from their homes around the country, meeting together monthly near our office in Leamington. We also have a network of nearly 50 **Associate Missioners** around the country who help to deliver our training.

Our team

Bishop Graham Cray

Archbishops' Missioner and Team Leader



Graham was appointed Archbishops' Missioner and Leader of the Fresh Expressions team on 1st May 2009. He is married to Jackie and they have two daughters, Catherine and Sarah.

Graham spent fourteen years as vicar of St Michael-le-Belfrey, York. He became principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge in 1992 before being consecrated in 2001 as Bishop of Maidstone and Bishop for Mission in the Diocese of Canterbury.

His special concerns are the engagement of the Gospel with contemporary culture, youth ministry and the theology of renewal. He has been chairman of the Greenbelt Festival and is currently chairman of the Soul Survivor Trust. He chaired the working party which wrote the *Mission-shaped Church* report on church planting and fresh expressions of church.

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Stephen Lindridge

Methodist Connexional Missioner



Stephen joined Fresh Expressions in September 2009 as Fresh Expressions Connexional Missioner for the Methodist Church.

Prior to that, Stephen was Evangelism Enabler for the Newcastle District of the Methodist Church and has experience both as a practitioner (and co-founder of Mind the Gap in Gateshead) and encourager of fresh expressions in the North East.

Stephen's key task is the continuing development of policy and change to support fresh expressions across the Methodist Church and to oversee the development of Fresh Expressions Area Strategy Teams (FEASTS) which will be a key part of the legacy of Fresh Expressions.

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Our team

Fresh Expressions: changing church for a changing world

Andrew Roberts

Director of Training



Andrew worked for Ford Motor Company as a financial analyst before entering training for the Methodist ministry in 1988. He served in the Doncaster and Stourbridge and Brierley Hill Circuits

before working as a Director of the Saltmine Trust.

In his Circuit ministry Andrew developed two fresh expressions: A Church plant in a community centre in Doncaster and the Funky Fish Club for children in Stourbridge. More recently he chaired the charity ad33 which was set up to manage the alive and kicking youth church in Kinver, Staffordshire.

His fifteen minutes of fame came when he was the lead model in Clergy on the Catwalk and he also appeared on the BBC's Get Your Own Back programme with one of his Sunday School children.

Andrew is married to Shona and they have one son, Matthew, a huge Liverpool fan. Andrew loves most sports, particularly football (he is an Aston Villa fan) and motorsport.

As Director of Training he is committed to seeing as many Christians as possible explore the vision and values of fresh expressions and receive the best quality training and support when they seek to develop new forms of church. Andrew's own training is centred on a DMin programme in Durham where he is studying the reshaping of Methodist Circuits.

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Michael Moynagh

Editor of *Share*



Michael is based at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford and works for Fresh Expressions alongside his work as co-director of the Tomorrow Project, which advises businesses/government on social trends. As

part of his Fresh Expressions role, Michael also has a watching brief for the education and training of Ordained Pioneer Ministers.

He has written widely on social issues, and his books include *Changing World*, *Changing Church* and *emergingchurch.intro*.

michael.moynagh@freshexpressions.org.uk

Norman Ivison

Director of Communication and Resources



Norman, a former BBC television religion and ethics producer, worked in broadcasting for over twenty years, is a trained teacher and an ordained Anglican.

Norman is especially passionate about communicating the imagination and daring some Christians show as they begin to take mission seriously and wants to encourage others to take real risks in this post-modern age. says Norman.

He is married with a son and a daughter, reads detective fiction, takes photographs and walks in the countryside to relax. He is also an associate minister at St James' Church in Clitheroe.

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Useful links and media coverage

Fresh Expressions: changing church for a changing world

A selection of our main web channels and some examples of past media coverage.

Useful links

Our media page

www.freshexpressions.org.uk/media

Our news page

www.freshexpressions.org.uk/news

Our RSS news feed

www.freshexpressions.org.uk/feed.xml

Our podcast

www.freshexpressions.org.uk/podcast

Our email newsletter, *e-expressions*

www.freshexpressions.org.uk/signup

Fresh Expressions on Twitter

www.twitter.com/freshexpression



Fresh Expressions on Facebook

www.facebook.com/freshexpression



Fresh Expressions on YouTube

www.youtube.com/freshexpressions



Share: encouraging fresh expressions of church together

www.sharetheguide.org



mission shaped ministry

www.missionshapedministry.org



Media coverage

Christianity Magazine

“If I get out of touch I can't do my job'

Some might say that a 'culturally relevant bishop' is a contradiction in terms. But for Bishop Graham Cray, understanding and engaging with culture is essential for reaching young people with the gospel.

Ask the average clued-up Anglican to name a progressive, creative and dynamic Bishop, and there's a good chance that Graham Cray will make their top three. In fact, the former Bishop of Maidstone has a fair number of fans outside his chosen denomination, thanks partly to his involvement with both the Greenbelt and Soul Survivor summer festivals.

Extract from an interview with Graham Cray by Martin Saunders, copyright © 2009 Christianity Magazine, christianitymagazine.co.uk.

Financial Times

“What I discovered as I talked to bishops, clergy, lay leaders and worshippers, is that the Church is changing. The Church seems to have found new ways of speaking to people, whether in a virtual meeting online or via a physical encounter at a café, an evening in the pub or at a cathedral service. Many of those I spoke to traced this new approach to *Mission-shaped Church*, a report written in 2004 for the General Synod, which studied the congregations that had been emerging since the late 1990s and gave them the name "Fresh Expressions". Unlike other rescue packages, it is a grassroots movement and has never been imposed from above. It's simply a way for individual churches to work out their own ways to reach new people.

Extract from an article by Victoria Combe, copyright © 2008 Victoria Combe, victoria@casacombe.com. Originally published in the Financial Times, ft.com, 13/12/08.



Our communications team

Fresh Expressions: changing church for a changing world

Our communications team are here to help you with any information about the Fresh Expressions initiative or about fresh expressions of church.

Our communications team

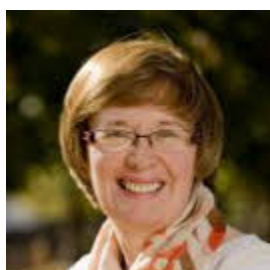


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