



Summer/Autumn
2014

Newsletter for Norfolk Fresh Expressions of Church

5 Summer time Experiments

Kris Beckert suggests five things to try this summer if you're looking to discern where a fresh expression of church might be appropriate

Before being called into ministry, I was an environmental scientist by trade. Much of my job consisted of asking questions, forming hypotheses, designing how I'd test them, and coming up with results.

Entering into the Church world didn't change the way my brain works - it merely changed the mission and subject of the experiments. Maybe that's why I see this whole idea of starting fresh expressions of church as an experiment in listening and serving the people in our own context—and letting the need and environment dictate the form and structure instead of the other way around. And although these experiments may not demand our standing knee-deep in waders all day in the middle of a marsh, it does require us to step out and serve, try new things, and experiment in our neighbourhoods and communities. You only learn by doing it, not thinking about it.

As an environmental scientist, the summer was always the most opportune time in our research season, and I think it might also be the case when we're talking about starting fresh expressions of church. If you're looking for a chance to see what God might do through a potential fresh expression of church this summer, think about experimenting in one or more of the following areas.

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5 Summer time Experiments cont



1) Festivals, fairs, and 5K runs

Every town has them; do you know what they are? Even if an art exhibition or pet show don't happen to be 'your thing', it might be a learning and listening experience that God uses in your own spiritual formation. Why not get your family and friends to volunteer together to serve? Street markets and fairs are the perfect chance to do some listening in your community too. Sit on a bench and watch who turns up - and who doesn't. Ask God to reveal who you might be called to reach while you are handing out water or walking from one stall to another.

2) Prayer walking

Now that it's nice enough to be outside and light until late, why not gather a group or go by yourself to prayer walk your community? Pray for the places you pass; the schools, businesses, shops, homes. The Holy Spirit might urge you to chat with someone on your path with whom you might not have otherwise spoken. What do you notice? Who and what cries out to you in your community? Take the time to listen.

3) Go outside

Jesus spent a lot of time in the great outdoors and met a lot of people there, even on his way from place to place. Creating opportunities for people to gather can be anything from organising a street party to flying a kite at a local park. Or, if fishing is your thing, share in it with some youngsters - and their families - and invite them all to share in a cooking session afterwards. Jesus found potential disciples in fishermen, maybe you will too. If you don't have a garden, throw together an urban picnic at a school playground or provide the ice creams at a neighbours' get-together; God might open your

eyes to a new group of people when you use the good weather as an excuse to get to know them!

4) Holidays for the family-less

Father's Day, August Bank Holiday, or special events like the World Cup - these are times when families get together for barbecues and picnics. However, there will be lots of people in your community who don't have family in the area. Who are these people? What could you do?

On Mother's Day this year, a woman in my church invited me to share in a picnic with others from her block of flats who didn't have mothers to visit. She was the person of peace, introducing me to everyone as we shared our food together and had a great time. It occurred to me that we could do this for every holiday and probably make some new friends too. After all, Jesus spent time with those nobody else wanted to spend time with - and that's where he grew His Kingdom too. Are you willing to do the same?

5) Teachers and students

It's the end of the school year so how can you serve weary teachers and students at this time? Could you drop off some pastries and free coffee for teaching staff in the last, long, week of school? Are there children who might need healthy lunches and companionship with other youngsters in your community over the summer? Or do you live near a university where students and professors will be on campus for a summer school? How could you share the Good News there?

These are just a sample of potential 'experiments' you might try as you see if God leads you to start a fresh expression of church. Here comes summer... what are you going to do with it?

Kris Beckert is Coordinator of Communications and Operations for Fresh Expressions US & church-planter-in-residence at Real Life Chapel in Easton, Maryland. This article first appeared on the Fresh Expressions US website on 21st May 2014.



Engaging with Your Community



20th September 2014 9.30- 4pm
St Catharine's Hall, Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2RJ

9am	Coffee & Stickies	
9.30am	Worship	
9.45am	Engaging with Your Community	Nigel Fox
11.15	Coffee & Stickies	
11.30	Choice of Workshops	
	Children & All Age	Simon Fenn/ Peter Leech
	or	
	Fresh Expressions for Youth	Mark Heybourne/
1pm	Lunch	
1.45	Choice of Workshops	
	Rural Fresh Expressions	Sally Gaze/ Martin Hartley
	or	
	Urban Fresh Expressions	Katie Miller
3.15	Plenary/ Closing Worship	

Please book in advance with Louise Alder 01603 426902, louise.alder@lineone.net stating which workshops you wish to undertake. Cost £10.(MSM participants - The cost of this day is included in your course)

Support for Fresh Expressions & Outreach

Norfolk Fresh Expressions Team

We are a team of Christians who care passionately about people coming to faith in Jesus and who seek to

- pray and encourage prayer for Fresh Expressions
- support pioneers who are leading Fresh Expressions of Church
- lead the Mission Shaped Ministry Course
- identify areas not reached by current patterns of ministry as potential areas for Fresh Expressions/ Church planting
- foster vocations to pioneering mission.
- spread the news about how people discover Jesus

Contact any one of them for help and support in your Fresh Expression:

Louise Alder 01362 821953

Simon Fenn (below) 07585 801450

Nigel Fox 01603 426657

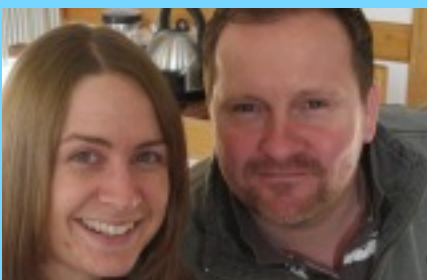
Sally Gaze 01508 470762

Peter Leech 01692 581944

John Hull 01362 695154

Katie Miller 01603 663338

David Ward 01362288329



Flexible Training with new style Mission Shaped Ministry Course



Mission shaped ministry is a fantastic one-year, part-time course which takes people on a learning journey as part of a supportive community, training them for ministry in fresh expressions of church. Run ecumenically, msm has been presented over 100 times across the UK with more than 3100 participants - and it is also offered internationally. You can download the course prospectus at www.missionshapedministry.org.

Now Norwich Diocese has been offered the opportunity to pilot MSM-flexi... bringing the course to you. Instead of joining a large course in a central location. A small team who want to engage in mission in their own area, do the course together, covering the material as they need it and can put it into practice. Contact Sally Gaze for more details 01508 470762

How can Norwich Diocese support you?



So you've started a Fresh Expression of church - or are beginning to reach out, but now you're beginning to question what the next steps are. How can you help people grow from attenders into disciples? How can your team be strengthened and refreshed?

Norwich Diocese will be looking in September at how we can support Fresh Expressions so they flourish in the long term. I'll be in touch asking for your feedback. In the mean time feel free to contact me with your ideas and requests

Sally Gaze (Fresh Expressions Facilitator, Diocese of Norwich)
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