



Fresh Expressions & Holistic multiplying small groups

Session 3

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1



A story to start and to illustrate

part one

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2



A rural story to start


Small groups and fresh expressions

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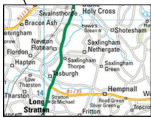

3



Example - rural village freshX



**Sally Gaze
& 6 village
Parishes**



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4



The 6 villages



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5



6 village churches



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6



Village Alpha course in home



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7



Team for mission to families



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8



"4-All" family event



Afternoon meal; crafts;
drama; worship service
together in church

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9



Cells - disciple new people



Village home cells
for adults & youth

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10




Discipleship & socials



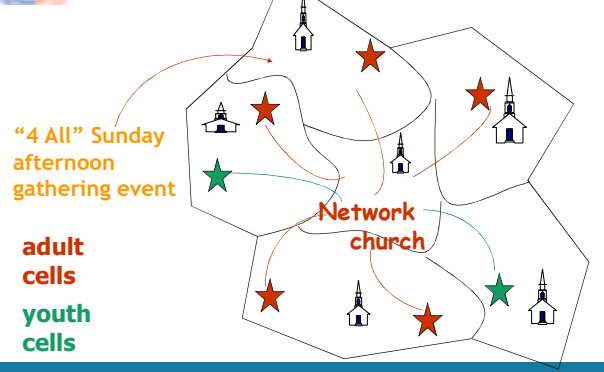
activities of the 5 adult
& 2 youth cells

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11

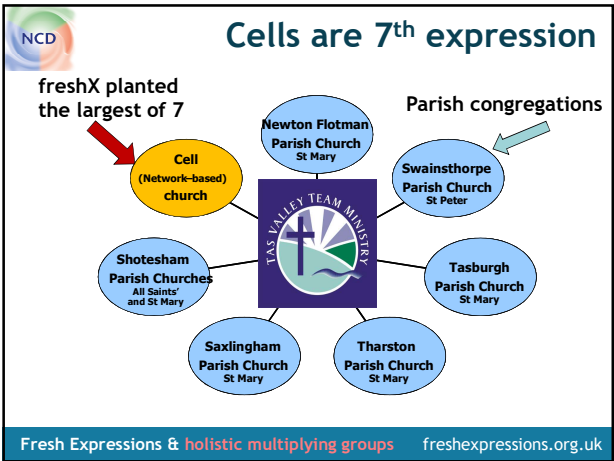


fresX networks across parishes



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12



13

Potential symbiosis here

- “small groups/cells” as the fresh expression
- “small groups/cells” as the building blocks for new fresh expressions in mixed economy church

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14

The importance of adjectives

part two


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15




The importance of adjectives

- Holistic
- Multiplying




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16




“holistic”

- “they must go beyond discussion of bible to applying its spiritual message in daily life”
- The meaning of ‘discipleship’ becomes practical in the context of holistic small groups: the transfer of life




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17




The essence of discipleship



Discipleship is a transformational journey with Jesus to become and live like him

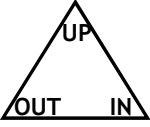
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18




“holistic”

- Beyond just bible-study or fellowship groups
- Three dimensional - “UP: IN: OUT
- Need a simple structure to support
 - 4 “W’s”, etc
- OUT usually weakest
 - resist ‘centrifugal force’
 - “no new members required!”




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19




“holistic”

- Jesus implied purpose of followers was to ‘make disciples’
 - ? grow worship services?
- Cells; life groups; BDG’s all deliver discipleship as life transformation
- Life groups; BDG’s v. light weight
 - easily multiply - anyone leads
 - just 2 x 2 questions!




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20




The “most important”

- “Our church consciously promotes multiplication of small groups through division”
- To identify one principle as the most important - without doubt it would be the multiplication of small groups



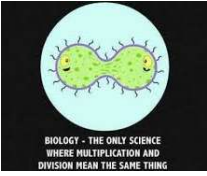
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21




“biotic” & biblical

- Expand through “oikos” connections
- Encourage personal evangelism
- New members inhibit ‘deep fellowship’
- Resisted as loose supportive relationships



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22





fxc Encouragement to multiply

- Move from individual converts to mission engagement
- Links to need-orientated evangelism
- Small groups working together on “OUT” as they need shared ‘mission muscle’ and wider network of NYC’s
- Connect to a social context to see both converts & social transformation

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23





Re-visiting a story to illustrate

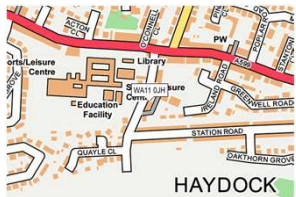
part three

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24

NCD

Re-visiting a story to illustrate



Small groups & fresh expressions -
in a Town

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25



haydock, merseyside

26

NCD


St Mark's Haydock

- Late 70's - loving relationships
- Late 70's - passionate spirituality
- Early 80's - need-oriented evangelism
- Late 80's - inspiring worship service
- Late 80's - empowering leadership
- Early 90's - gift oriented lay ministry
- Early 90's - holistic multiplying cells
- Late 90's - functional structures

2 x bigger any other church; 4 Sunday services

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27



St Mark's Haydock

Two key insights created mindset change:

1. Individual conversion growth but no penetration and transformation of sub-cultures
2. Cells & services were missing key social dynamic
 - intimate space
 - personal space
 - social space
 - public space

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28



10 fresh expressions in a year




"May God bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples"
Genesis 28:3

29



30




Or ... Lake & River Church

Lakes:	Rivers:
• settled	• mobile
• retain things	• find and follow path
• slow	• fast
• stay	• go far
• deep	• shallow
• etc	• etc

Rivers and lakes are intimately connected

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31




St Marks' Haydock

"Lake & River" Church - multiple fresh expressions

- Parish Church grows and develops individual evangelism
- Transitions to Cell Church and growth continues
- Recognise that they are still failing to engage with surrounding sub-cultures and social contexts
- Learn about 4 spaces/sizes of relational community
- Launch all sorts of mid-size fresh expressions

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32



St Marks' Haydock

"Lake & River" - multiple fresh expressions

- 'Lake cells' continue with relational evangelism and their main connection to worship service
- 'River cells' identify and engage with a specific sub-culture or social gathering
- Church more than doubles over 5 years

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33




Egs: ‘cells’ to fresh expressions

1. Local primary school -
“famleghfirst”

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34



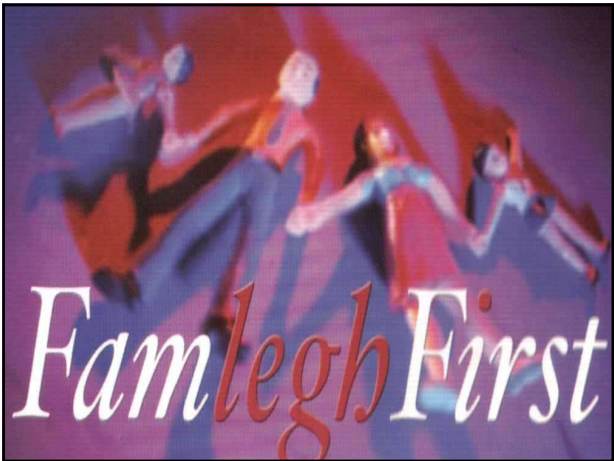
‘cells’ to fresh expressions

Local primary school

- 15 years before a classic ‘church plant’ into the school. A Sunday worship service that did not connect with school community. Later it closed.
- Now a teacher in school develops after-school ‘circle-time’ and reaches pupils, parents and teachers building community & discipleship

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35



36




Egs: ‘cells’ to fresh expressions

2. City police force - “Riverforce”

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37



‘cells’ to fresh expressions

City police force

- City Police superintendent who lives locally converted, witnesses in work (10 Km away).
- No chance those begin to explore faith would travel to Haydock
- He is empowered to begin cells in police headquarters which multiply

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38



39



Egs: ‘cells’ to fresh expressions

3. Elderly craft group - “New Creations”

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40



41




‘cells’ to fresh expressions

Craft club church

- Older folk from some ‘cells’ supported to ‘plant’ Weekday gathering in the church with craft, supporting one another, praying and worshipping.
- Older new converts now want to grow in discipleship with grandchildren so attend “Famleghfirst”

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42




Egs: ‘cells’ to fresh expressions

4. Urban poor & marginalised - “Tango”

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43



‘cells’ to fresh expressions

Urban poor - “Tango”

- Connected by visiting.
- Converted church hall
- Offered second-hand clothes
- Café where team shared and built relationships
- Faith shared, pray for needs, discipleship began
- Together reached to poor neighbours with help

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44



45




Egs: ‘cells’ to fresh expressions

5. Village community centre - “Riverbank” Café church

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46



‘cells’ to fresh expressions

Village Community Centre

- Members of different cells live in village and are members of groups in Community centre.
- No chance those begin to explore faith would travel to Haydock (5 km)
- They are ‘sent’ from cells, prayed for and gather team who network members of groups in Centre – photo; dance; film; craft; book clubs, etc
- Establish Café Church as another group in the Community Centre


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47

Riverbank



48




Egs: ‘cells’ to fresh expressions

6. Young adults network - “DREAM” multi-media church

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49



‘cells’ to fresh expressions

Young adults network - ‘DREAM’

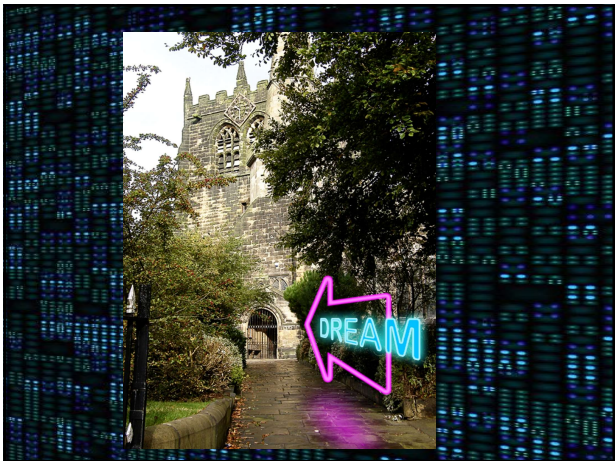
- Young adults are members of different cells catch a vision for working with their friends.
- In prayer sense a ‘seeker/multi-media’ gathering would build community
- They are ‘sent’ from cells, prayed for and gather team who network friends and plan an event
- ‘DREAM’ cells grow and gather in homes. Then celebrate in a church. Plant ‘Dream’ in Cathedral

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50



51



52




Egs: ‘cells’ to fresh expressions

7. Old people’s home -
“Riverbank” church

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53



‘cells’ to fresh expressions

Old people’s home

- Member of a cell feels call to visit in old peoples residential home
- Shares vision with others across the church living near the Home. Start visiting, caring, praying
- They stay in their cells, prayed for and later sent out to form new cell owning call to the Home
- Establish Church among residents of the Home

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54



55




Workshop
engagement with
issues raised

part four

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56



In 3's and 4's

What ideas or possibilities have sparked for you?


What would you like to discuss further?




10 minutes

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57




Your Questions & discussion



15 minutes

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58



In teams of 5's & 6's

• **Scenario exercise:**

It's 2025 & a strong growing church you coach


- Has started 3 fresh expressions
- Has 4 cells which have multiplied & as 2 pairs are focussing mission in 2 contexts
- Have sent a team of 6 to revive a church
- What did you help them to ...

start; stop; enhance?

20 minutes

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59




In teams of 5's & 6's

Are there any conclusions or carry forward items for you?

What action may be being suggested for your role in future?


New coaching questions to ask?




10 minutes

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60



Hot meal



60 minutes - 3:30 - 4:30

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