 fresh expressions

An Introduction

Norwegian conferences

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Church of England research 2016

- Around 2000 Fxs total

- Around 15% of total number of churches

- Around 100,000 people involved

2

Methodist research 2018

- Just over 1000 Fxs (& 4500 churches) >20%

- 38000 people involved (& 188000 members in inherited church) >20%

- 25000 of the 38000 no recent involvement in church - over half non-churched

3

Partners in Fx

- Church of England
- Methodist Church
- United Reform Church
- Salvation Army
- Baptist Union
- Church of Scotland

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Mission-shaped Church report 2004

Some conclusions:

- inherited church shaped by Christendom
- challenge to become shaped by mission
- God has initiated all sorts of creative mission responses
- fresh expression term coined
- dying to live
- trained pioneer ministers and leaders
- fresh expressions are signs of hope

A02 mission context and the mixed economy

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what is a fresh expression?

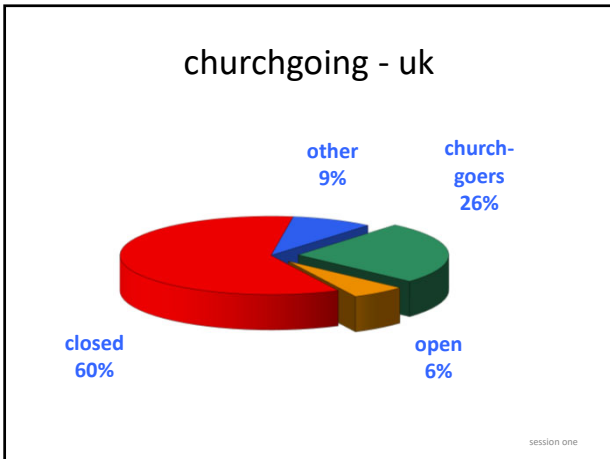
a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church

it will come into being through principles of listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples

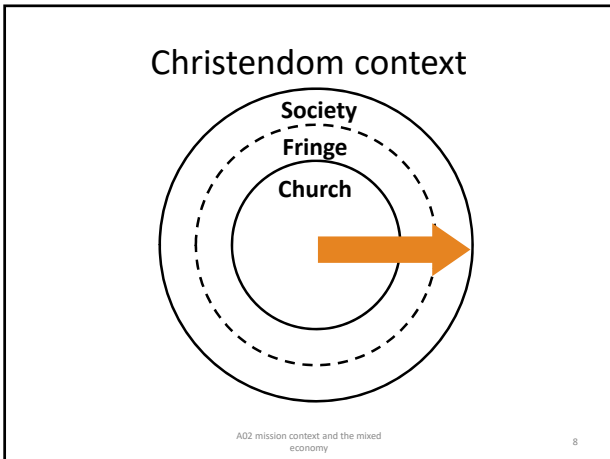
it will have the potential to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its cultural context

session one

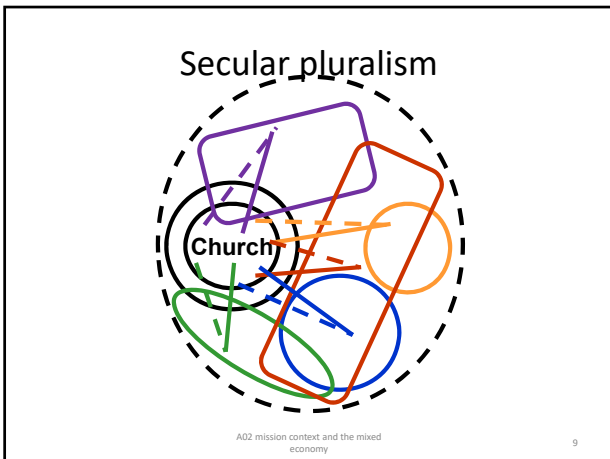
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Church from the valley...

- baptism
- education
- marriage
- festivals
- Sunday
- sickness
- crisis
- bereavement
- death



The mission task:
From door,
to font or baptistery,
to communion table
or altar,
out to the world


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...to the side of a hill


A few still drawn to church doors by the culture

But current culture draws many away from, not towards church



The mission task:
Go to where people are
and make disciples there

Fresh expression of church



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attractational method



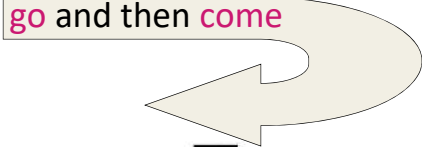
session one

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engaged method



go and then come




H O P E

in our villages, towns & cities

session one

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come on in





session one

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emerging method



go and then stay



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Roy Searle:

“What God is doing today is not to arrest the decline of the Church but a new imagining from a place of exile.”

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fresh expressions of church:

missional

serve those outside church

contextual

listen to people and enter their context

formational

make discipleship a priority: journeying with people to Jesus



ecclesial
form church

session one

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three characteristics

- strong mission focus
- willingness to re-imagine church
- commitment to both existing and new forms of church



session one

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a mixed economy

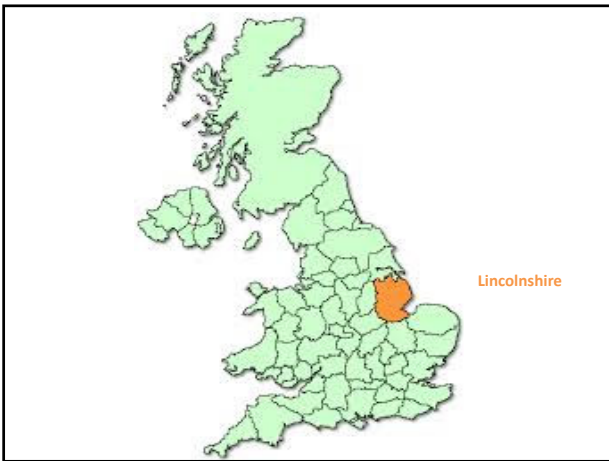
“Mixed economy is essential because it gives the balance between stability [and] an openness to the Spirit of God doing new things.

Justin Welby



session one

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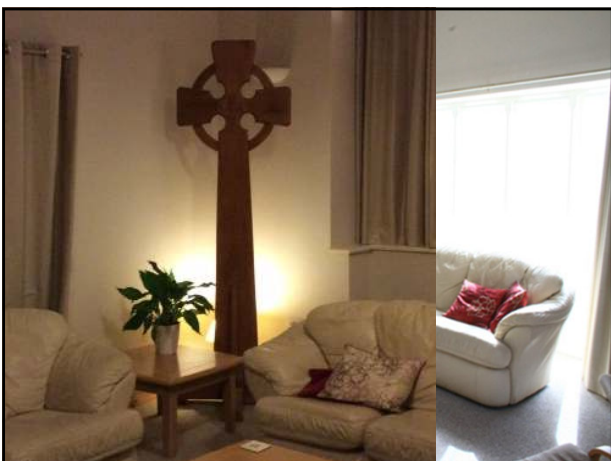
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Prayer community (Independent, Baptist, Church of England/Methodist)



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Messy nativity trail



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Light Party



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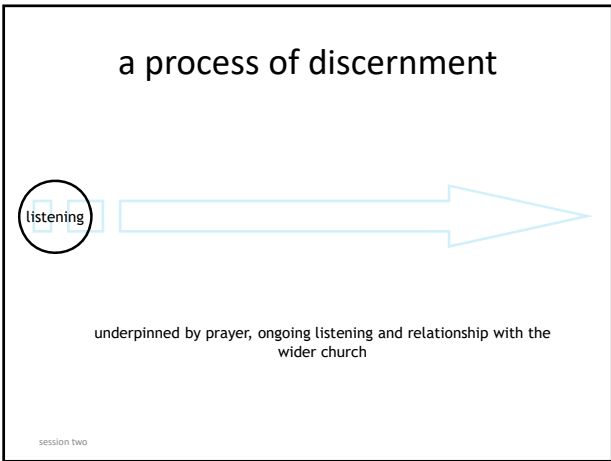
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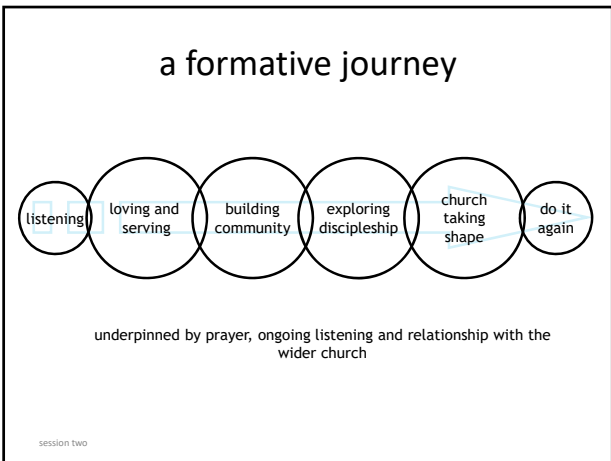
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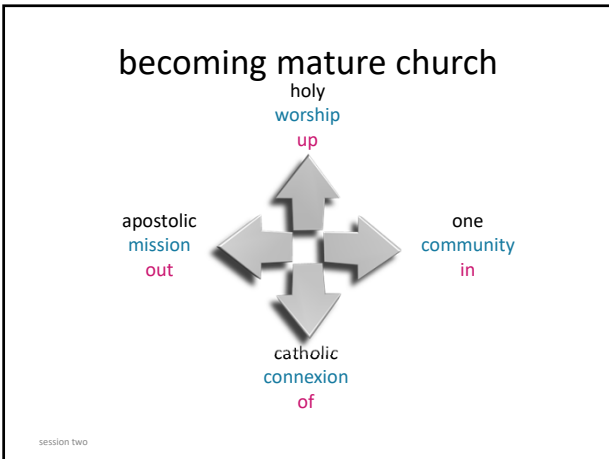
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Impact

“ Nothing else, as a whole, in the Church of England has this level of missional impact ..”

“ Evidence suggests that for every one person sent out to be part of beginning a fresh expression of church, now there are more than two and a half people”

George Lings, lead researcher “The day of small things”

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Followup

www.freshexpressions.org.uk

www.fxresourcing.org

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