

Dr. Michael Moynagh: Key questions for the European church



Re-Imagining Protestantism(s): Tent, Temple and Public square

Evangelische Akademie Wittenberg, 14-17 th April , 2016

Key questions for the European church

Church - society gap

From church at the heart of society

To church on the margins

Church - society gap

Current model of local church:

Gather for worship

Scatter for mission

Church - society gap

The current model:

Gather for worship

Scatter for mission

But difficult to engage in mission alone

Church - society gap

The current model

Difficult to engage in mission alone

So God wants mission in community

Example of Jesus

Church - society gap

The current model

Difficult to engage in mission alone

So God wants mission in community

Example of Jesus

Divine communion-in-mission

Church - society gap

The current model

Difficult to engage in mission alone

So God wants mission in community

Example of Jesus

Divine communion-in-mission

Creation

Church - society gap

The current model

Difficult to engage in mission alone

So God wants mission in community

Example of Jesus

Divine communion-in-mission

Creation

Israel

Church - society gap

The current model

Difficult to engage in mission alone

So God wants mission in community

These communities are to be in life

Example of Jesus

Church - society gap

Mission is not a 2nd step for God

God wants mission to be done in community

These communities are to be in life

Example of Jesus

First Christians

Church - society gap

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Eg fresh expressions of church

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Example of Jesus

First Christians

Eg fresh expressions of church

Herald the future - Ephesians 1. 23

Gathered → dispersed mission

Gathered mission

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Gathered mission

Israel's view of mission

Gathered → dispersed mission

Gathered mission

Israel's view of mission

Jesus and the twelve

The death of Jesus:

Outside the city gate (Hebrews 13. 12) - on the
religious edge

The death of Jesus:

Outside the city gate (Hebrews 13. 12) - on the
religious edge

His community 'died' too

Gathered → dispersed mission

The resurrection of Jesus:

Jesus brought 'resurrection' to his community

From gathered to dispersed mission

The resurrection of Jesus:

Jesus brought 'resurrection' to his community

A new dynamic - sent out

From gathered to dispersed mission

The resurrection of Jesus:

Jesus brought 'resurrection' to his community

A new dynamic - sent out

To reveal Jesus on the religious edge

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Involves dying-to-live

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Being faithful to the Last Supper

Church - society gap

→ mission in community, in life

Church - society gap

→ mission in community, in life

Gathered → dispersed mission

Jesus dies in solidarity with religious edge

He now lives on the religious edge

The church must join and reveal him

So it must multiply into small communities

The church as a gift

The church as a unique gift

The church as a gift

The church as a unique gift

It must be offered appropriately

The church as a gift

The church as a unique gift

It must be offered appropriately

It must be released

Church - society gap

→ mission in community, in life

Gathered → dispersed mission

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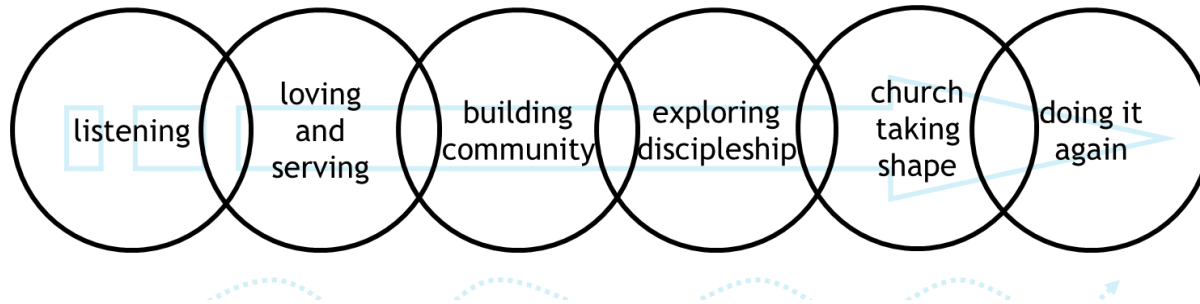
So it must multiply into small communities

Church as gift - appropriate & released

Fresh expressions of church in the UK

Definition: missional, contextual, formational, ecclesial

A serving-first journey



Evidence of fruitfulness:

Church Army Research Unit

13.5% of Church of England parishes

44 people - 25% churchgoers, 35% lapsed,

40% little/no church background

Anecdotal evidence