

Course Outline

What is the Mission Shaped Intro course?

Don't miss this opportunity to find out more about Fresh Expressions of church by taking part in the Mission Shaped Intro course. One evening a week for five weeks we will be looking at new ways of being church through a mix of teaching, reflection and story. The course is an enjoyable hands-on experience with presentations, film and music clips, group activities, worship and prayer.

A recent participant of the course said, "It was worthwhile coming – it opened my eyes to the many things that are possible".

Why do we need Fresh Expressions of church?

The aim of the course is to explore the "why" of creating Fresh Expressions of church rather than the "how". The five week course takes us on a journey looking at the ever changing nature of our contemporary society and why the church needs to be imaginative in its approach to people who are not really connecting with church as we know it.

The course is suitable for both clergy and lay people and would be very helpful for parish groups who want to consider how to embrace the "mixed economy" approach to mission. If our churches are to thrive in the challenging context of the consumer culture we need the innovative entrepreneurial people to be released to experiment in mission. We also need the "permission givers" within the churches to be supportive of the new initiatives so it would be good if some PCC members and Churchwardens also come along to the course.



Week 1

Rediscovering mission and what that means for the church

Aim: to explore the mission of God as the foundation for any expression of church

Week 2

Changing world, changing church

Aim: to explore how the rise of consumerism and networking have affected our culture and how the church might respond.

Week 3

Re-imagining church: community

Aim: to explore the need for fresh expressions of church to be community-focused

Week 4

Re-imagining church: worship

Aim: to explore how fresh expressions of church are re-imagining worship

Week 5

Re-imagining church: leadership and discipleship

Aim: to explore the type of leadership needed in fresh expressions of church and how to facilitate discipleship

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.

Do not try to call [people] back to where they were, and do not try to call them to where you are, as beautiful as it may seem to you. You must have the courage to go with them to a place that neither you nor they have ever been before. (Vincent Donovan)

When & where is it happening?

One evening a week for five weeks starting at 7.45pm and finishing by 9.30pm. Refreshments will be available from 7.30pm and during some of the group discussion times. If you can't attend the course in your own deanery you are welcome to come to one of the others.

Mondays from 22nd February at St. Justus, Rochester

Tuesdays from 23rd February at St. James the Great, Blendon (Sidcup Deanery)

Wednesdays from 24th February at St. Mary's, Gravesend

Mondays from 19th April – 24th May (except 3rd May) at St. Philip's, Tunbridge Wells

Tuesdays from 27th April at St. Andrew's, Paddock Wood

Thursdays from 22nd April at St. Bartholomew's, Otford (Shoreham Deanery). Members of Sevenoaks Deanery are encouraged to attend this venue.

Mondays from 7th June at St. Michael's, Wilmington (Dartford Deanery).

Wednesdays at St. Paul's Crofton (Orpington Deanery) on June 9th, 23rd & July 7th, 14th, 21st. Members of Churches in Bromley and Beckenham Deaneries are encouraged to attend this venue.

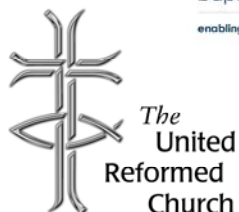
Thursdays from 16th September at St Peters, Ditton (Malling deanery).

Erith, Strood and Gillingham Deanery courses were held in January with over 110 participants in total. Dates and venues for Tonbridge and Cobham will be agreed soon.

How to book a place

The cost will be minimal – each participating church will be asked to contribute £10 and can send as large a team as they like.

It will be helpful to know numbers so please book your place by email to margaretrhammond@aol.com or by phoning Margaret on 0208 300 4578 alternatively please email elainejohnson2007@btinternet.com or phone Elaine



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

The Methodist Church



www.freshexpressions.org.uk/missionshapedintro

Five weeks to rediscover mission and re-imagine church

New world, new church? Our world and our lives have changed radically in the last twenty years, but has the church adapted to this change? Do we need a changing church for a changing world? Are new forms of church really possible? If so, how can they be developed?

An inspiring and encouraging course, ideal for leadership teams, small groups, PCCs, church councils & larger gatherings.

COMING TO A VENUE NEAR YOU IN 2010

mission shaped intro looks at fresh expressions of church through a mix of teaching, reflection and story. This downloadable course is an enjoyable hands-on experience combining presentations, group activity, film and music clips, worship and prayer.



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