

WHAT ARE NETWORK-FOCUSED CHURCHES?

The Mission-shaped Church report identifies network-focused churches as an example of a fresh expression of church.



“Increasingly people’s lives are best described by the networks to which they relate, rather than simply by the place where they live. Many connect most closely with people where they work or with whom they are at leisure, rather than with the people who happen to live nearby.

Network churches are developed for mission to particular social and cultural groups e.g. leisure interest, music preference or deaf community.

Just as part of the essence of parish is to be territorial, the essence of “network” is not so much to be cross-boundary but to be non-boundary. The heartbeat of these expressions of church is a passion to engage with a specific social or cultural context across a wide area.”

A VARIETY OF CONTEXTS

Network churches, because of the particularity of the social network to which they are called to work, will be working in a variety of contexts: urban, rural, rich, poor, with youth, generation X or baby boomers. Or a combination.

A VARIETY OF MODELS

Network churches may use cell, seeker, alternative worship, café, vineyard, contemplative or other approaches to their worship and community as appropriate to the network they are seeking to reach.

THIS CONFERENCE

Because these Anglican non-boundary plants are so unusual, this conference seeks to support and resource all leaders of network churches across the different contexts and models.

Time: Lunchtime (12.30pm) on Tuesday Nov 23rd to after lunch (2pm) on Thursday Nov 25th.

Location: The Sheffield Centre/Wilson Carlie College of Evangelism, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield, S3 7RZ

Accommodation: Delegates are responsible for making their own arrangements. For a list of B&Bs, email c.dalpra@sheffieldcentre.org.uk

Cost: £50 per delegate which includes midday and evening meals. (£20 per delegate for those only able to attend one day. Please specify which day on booking form.)

Input from: Rt. Revd Graham Cray, Bishop of Maidstone, Andrew Jones (Emergent village) Paul Maconochie (St Thomas Church, Philadelphia Campus, Sheffield) and each other.

Issues to tackle: risk-taking, survival of plant after pioneer leader, Christ and culture, reflection on what is church, sustaining dispersed communities, nature of authority in network (de-centralised?), where do you make contacts? funding, creative discipleship, leadership development, support networks for network church, leaders maintaining vision

To register: Fill in registration form and send with payment to Claire Dalpra at The Sheffield Centre, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield, S3 7RZ

Bookings close on November 12th

Names of other delegates in your party:

Name of Church/Diocese/Organisation:

Registration fees enclosed (£50 per person) £ _____ (Cheques payable to “Church Army”)

Tick if you need a receipt