

Why the name moot?

by Elizabeth Mowbray, moot © 2003

Name anything new: a person, a project or a plan of any kind and people may wonder what brought you to that choice. Why is Moot moot?

"Moot" is a word which has its linguistic roots in old English, Old Saxon and Old German. From its varied background it means many captivating things. This multi-layered word points us to the crossroads from which we can start new ways of thinking things through, and contribute to 'being church' at the beginning of the twenty first century. "Moot" means to "bring up for debate". It can be used as a verb, as in "to moot upon"; or as an adjective, "such and such was a moot point".

It may be a moot point that we bring up for debate in our lives current practices of thinking and being. It can be a challenge to us that we endeavour to raise such questions about contemporary scenarios and views. "Moot" also means "to plead or argue". It is fundamentally about relationship and exploration. We want to facilitate an environment where than can happen. Moot is about walking towards the important stuff and anticipating a dialogue with it. We only question something if we harbour thoughts about the possibility of the situation changing, don't we? When we "moot over" something, we ponder upon it as well as plead, and give it the weight it deserves. We want to moot upon and listen to the presence and absence of God in our lives.

At Moot, we are dwelling upon new ways of being, encountering and thinking over new ways to discuss, debate and direct our spiritual enquiries: finding visual and verbal ways of communicating with and encountering our Creator God.

It may be that we feel some kind of 'spiritual dyslexia' when reading and unravelling our daily lives. By using creative worshipful encounters, discussion and debate as essential "vocabulary" at Moot, we can glimpse the kind of grammar that God uses when speaking into our world. A belief perhaps best summarised by Archbishop Rowan Williams:

"If there's one thing I long for above all else, it's that the years to come may see Christianity in this country again able to capture the imagination of our culture."