

# Outline of Study Day...

## Mission and Evangelism Module

9am	Opening Prayer
9.15am	Part 1: Post-Modernity, Post-Christendom & Secularisation... <i>(please have material/notes from online activities to hand)</i>
10.15am	Coffee Break
10.30am	Part 2: Missional engagement in our contemporary context
11.30am	Tea Break
11.45am	Part 2: continued...
12.30pm	An Introduction to Growing Faith (Rev'd Aidan Watson)
1pm	Closing Blessing

# Post-modernity...

# Post-modernity...

- Do you see any of the characteristics of Post-Modernity evident in your local community?
- Are there ways in which your local community has changed and become more Post-Modern over the past 50 years?
- Make a list of any elements of your local community where you see elements of Post-Modernity.
- Do any elements of Post-Modernity expressed in your local context provide challenges or opportunities for your church community as you seek to engage with God's Mission?

# Post-Christendom...

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- In your local context do you see any evidence of the decline of Christendom and a decline in the influence which the Church had upon peoples lives?
- How has the life of your local parish church and other local church communities changed over the past 50-100 years?
- Make a list of where you see elements of the decline of Christendom and other significant changes in the life of your local church community over the past few decades.
- Do any elements the decline of Christendom and the decline of the influence of the Church expressed in your local context provide challenges or opportunities for your church community as you seek to engage with God's Mission?

# Secularisation...

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- Can you identify any examples of “believing without belonging” in your local context or community?
- Do you encounter any examples of “vicarious religion” in your local context?
- Check the percentage of people who identify as Christian in your local context (click on the parish area map for stats). Compare this to the number of people who attend church in your parish (consult other local churches if you are able, to get a more full picture of how many people attend church in your geographical area). In your local context are there many people who indicate that they believe, yet don't regularly worship or belong to a church community?

## **To Recap:**

- 1) Mission is wide ranging
- 2) Mission belongs to God and God works throughout the whole world through the Holy Spirit
- 3) The Church's influence and ability to engage with wider society is in decline/desperate need of evolving

**SO:**

**How do we engage in Mission in our contemporary context?**

**How do we find out what God is doing and join in?**



SO:

How do we engage in Mission in our contemporary context?

How do we find out what God is doing and join in?

**1) Prayer**

**2) Engagement with scripture**

*(I know that these two should go without saying...  
but we do sometimes forget...)*

**3) Develop a good “toolbox” for mission**

# Process Evangelism

Approaches to evangelism using a structured process rather than seeing conversion as a momentary event.

Most common form:  
**the evangelism course**

# Alpha is...

- An idea
- A story
- A tool

“DO I HAVE A PURPOSE?”

“IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?”

“WHAT'S THE MEANING OF LIFE?”

“IS THERE A GOD?”

“WHAT AM I DOING HERE?”

IT?

Alpha

FIND OUT ABOUT THE ALPHA COURSE

- Started in 1977, first published in 1993
- 27m people in 169 countries in 112 languages



# Process Evangelism

## Does it work?

The main reasons why it might work are:

- Process
- Belonging first
- Gets people involved
- Network evangelism
- An easy to follow recipe

# Process Evangelism

## **Criticisms of Courses (e.g. Alpha)**

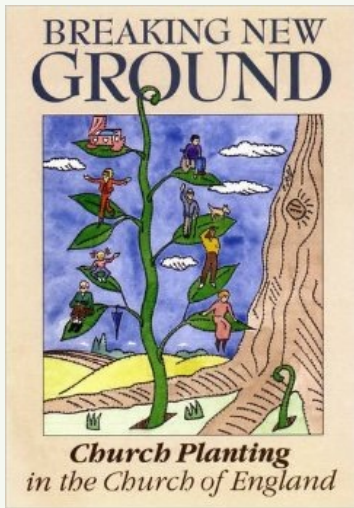
- Copyright
- McDonaldisation
- Contextualisation
- Use of video speakers
- Theologically monochrome

# Fresh Expressions:

Arose out of church planting movement  
which rose to prominence in  
1980-1990s...

...tension between Church planting and  
traditional parish system.



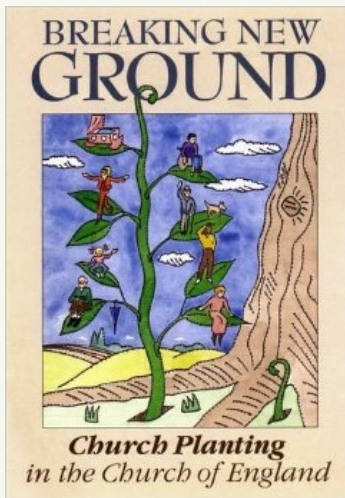


1991 Bishops standing committee working party conclusions  
*(published in Breaking New Ground report - 1994):*

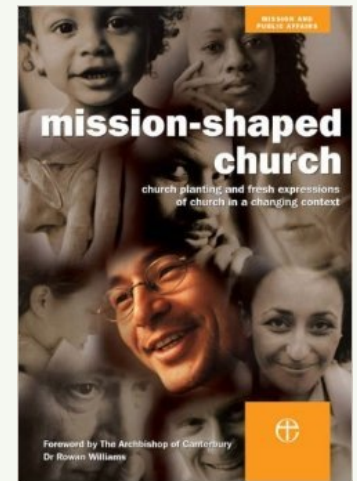
- Church planting is legitimate
- “Parish” and “network” are both valid

Church of England General Board of Finance.  
*Breaking New Ground: Church Planting in the Church of England*  
(London: Church House Publishing, 1994)





# Mission Shaped Church: Paradigm shift in missional thinking?



*Mission shaped church*  
(Church house publishing, 2004)

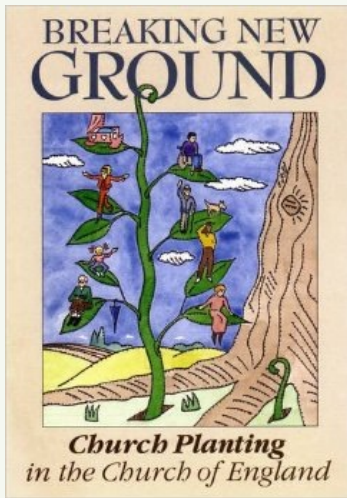
Created a new “brand” in the church?

Subsequent publication of titles:

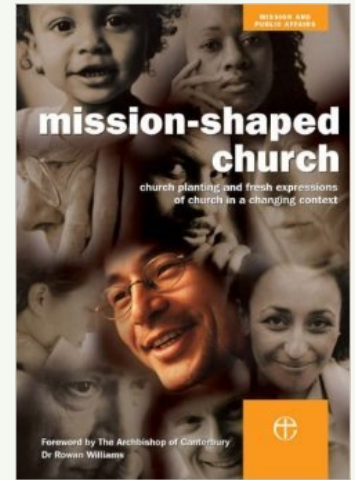
*“Mission shaped x, y, z ...”*

Most influential aspects of MSC: Mixed economy  
concept & Fresh Expressions movement



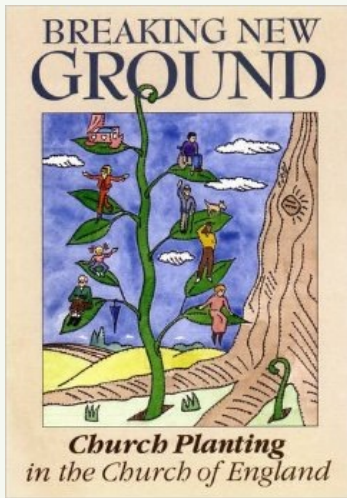


# Mission Shaped Church: Paradigm shift in missional thinking?

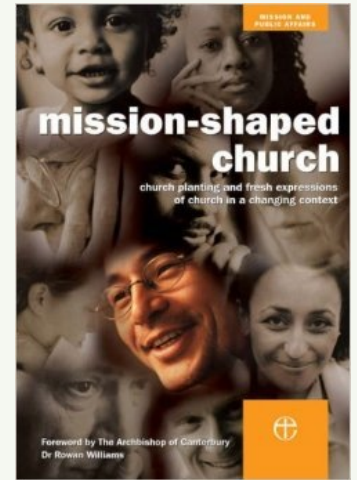


Changes between 1994 & 2004...

- From cross boundary to non boundary  
*Taking into account the nature of 'networked society' more and more 'non-boundary' churches had been planted (i.e. Cafe Churches and Messy Churches)*

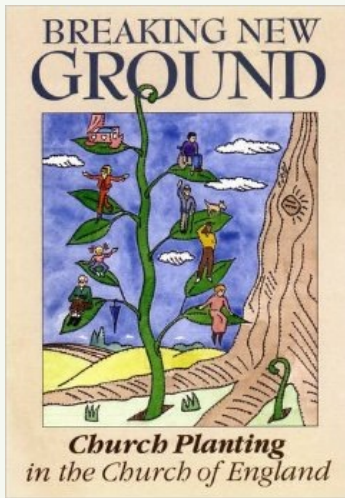


# Mission Shaped Church: Paradigm shift in missional thinking?

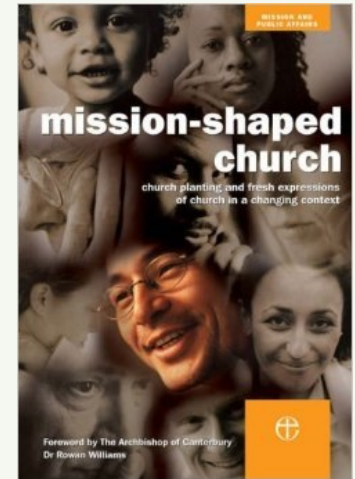


Changes between 1994 & 2004...

- Explosion of diversity  
*Number of new church plants didn't increase significantly, however, the diversity of new forms of church being planted did increase*



# Mission Shaped Church: Paradigm shift in missional thinking?



Changes between 1994 & 2004...

- Create, don't clone  
*Church planting became less about more churches of the same style, and more about new forms of church that are appropriate to their context*

# WHAT IS A FRESH EXPRESSION OF CHURCH?

- **Missional:** serve those outside the church (unchurched and de-churched)
- **Contextual:** listen to people and enter their context (church shaped by gospel and culture)
- **Formational:** make discipleship a priority
- **Ecclesial:** be a new congregation - not a new way to reach people and add them to an existing congregation

# The mixed economy

While he was Archbishop of Canterbury  
Rowan Williams championed the concept of a  
**“mixed economy of church”**

Inherited Expressions of Church and Fresh  
Expressions of Church co-existing side by  
side...

...Truly resourcing each other...

Creating an Interdependent Church which is  
capable of reaching out to a wider range of  
people

# The mixed economy

- Attractive concept: vibrant churches reaching into varying contexts and subcultures
- Where it works well the vision is of accountability and connectedness

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- Attractive concept: vibrant churches reaching into varying contexts and subcultures
- Where it works well the vision is of accountability and connectedness
- *(But what about where it doesn't work well...?)*
- Wonderful vision... difficult to resource and maintain in reality...



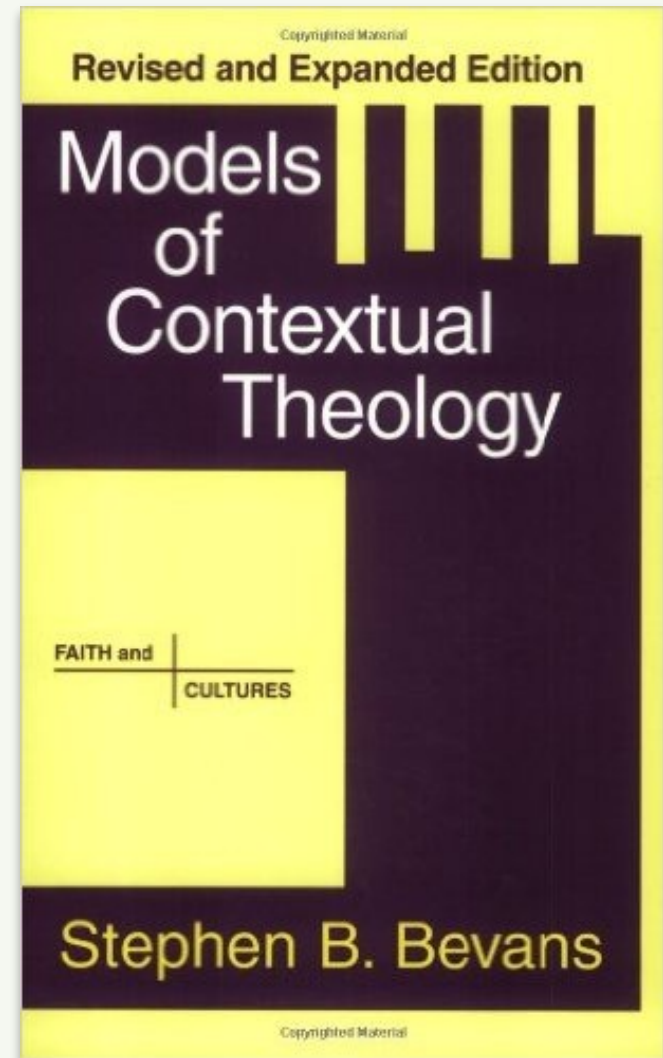
# In Christ God Became Man





# Bevans

- All theology is contextual
  - Embodied
  - Particular
  - Located



# Gospel and Culture

- “Is this particular aspect of culture”...
  - Gospel positive
  - Gospel negative
  - Gospel neutral
- Is the relationship one in which some things are...
  - Assimilated
  - Transformed
  - Contradicted



What examples can you think of from contemporary British culture that in your opinion are gospel **positive**, **negative** or **neutral**?

In practice what elements of recent British culture has the church **assimilated**, sought to **transform** or **contradicted**?