

changing church for a  
changing world

# Fresh Expressions



- What are fresh expressions?
- Why plant fresh expressions?
- How to plant fresh expressions
- How to sustain fresh expressions

# WHAT ARE FRESH EXPRESSIONS?

what is happening &  
why it is important



# 1. signs of hope

all around the country

- God's spirit is on the move
- Christians are trying new things
- new types of churches are being formed



# boldly going nowhere



# three characteristics

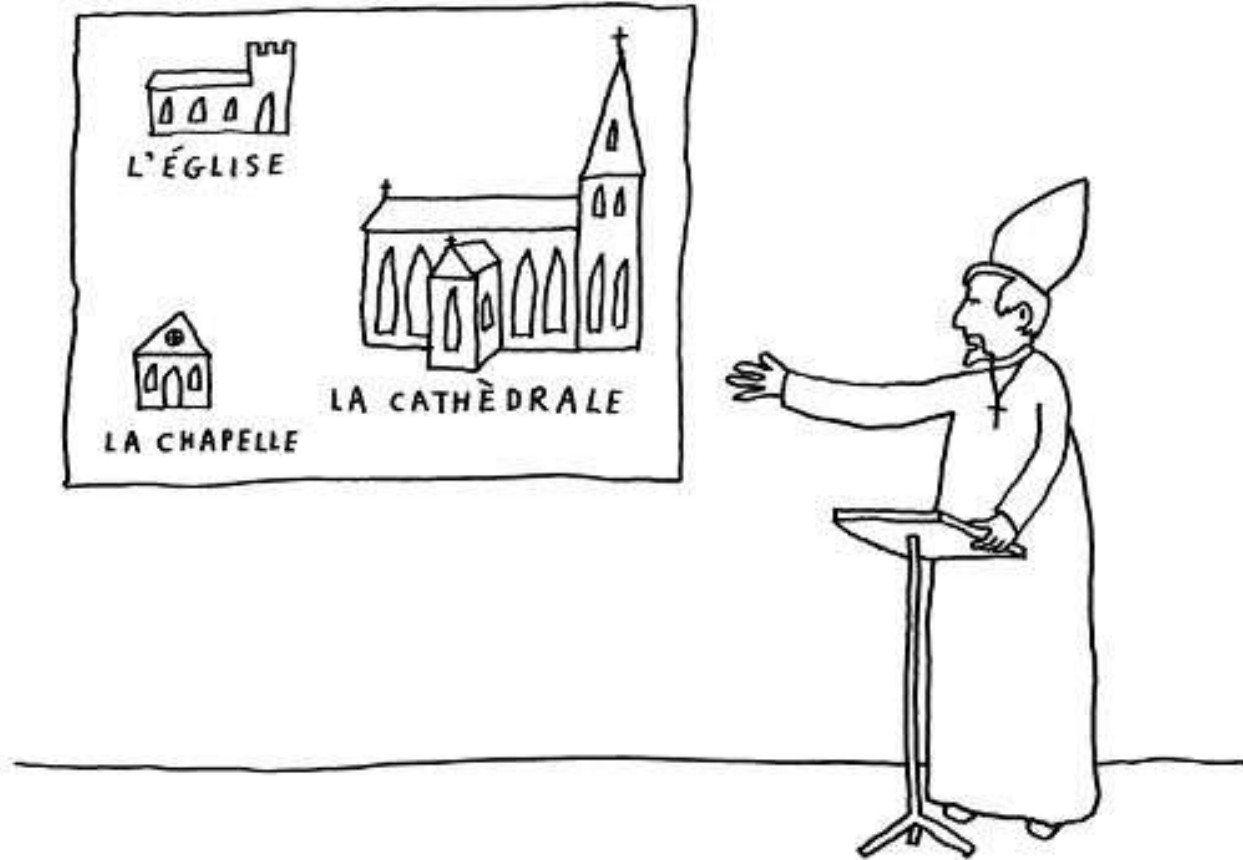
- strong mission focus
- willingness to re-imagine church
- commitment to both existing and new forms of church





- B1
- Messy Church
- Legacy XS
- Mind The Gap

# What's in a name?



GRAHAM CRAY INTRODUCES 'FRENCH EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCH'

Dave Walker / [www.churchtimes.co.uk](http://www.churchtimes.co.uk)

# what is a fresh expression?

- 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
  - it will come into being through principles of listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples
  - it will have the potential to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its cultural context

# CHURCH EXPRESSES CHRIST

- ‘If Christ is the embodiment of God, and the Church is his body on earth. Then no single expression of church can ever exhaust Christ.’ Rowan Williams

# called to proclaim afresh

- ‘Which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation.’
- ‘Bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation.’

# fresh expressions

- Not the opposite of ‘stale’
- Not a rebranding of existing work
- Not a bridge project designed to bring people to existing church
- Not the opposite of traditional - the complement to it.



- Not church-lite
- But deep church
- taking the right shape
- in the right place
- at a price ... the comfort and convenience of those who plant it

# the mixed economy

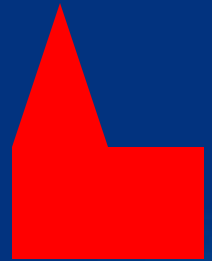
Celebrating and building on what is mission-shaped in traditional forms of church...

...and finding new, flexible, appropriate ways to proclaim the Gospel afresh to those who do not relate to traditional ways

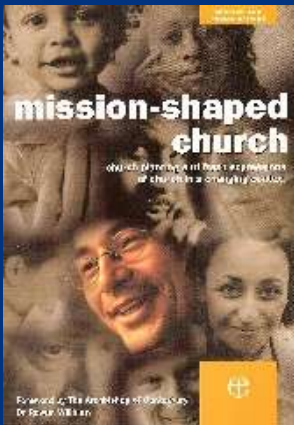


# both-and

continue to grow and develop  
the church as it is



establish fresh expressions  
of church



please continue to  
discuss and reflect upon  
what you have heard



# morning break

# WHY PLANT FRESH EXPRESSIONS?

# why plant fresh expressions?

- they reach out to a changing society







*Sir, Mr. Yate*

*It is now many moons since I and Mary were baptized by you, in the Chapel at Kerikeri: and since then, I have been thinking many things, and doing many things.*

*Sometimes I think of the things of this world, and sometimes I think of the things of God: sometimes I do right, and then I do wrong.*

*Does anybody, who has the love of Jesus Christ in his heart, ever do wrong, and laugh when he sees others do wrong? I do so: here am I, and I do so.*

*It is when we two do not remember the love of the Saviour, that we sin. When I and Mary think of His love, we love Him, and try to do what he says in His Holy Book.*

*If you let me, and my wife Mary, come to the sacred table, perhaps we shall remember more of Jesus' death and love.*

*Say Yes, Mr. Yate; or perhaps say, No. There are many mistakes in our two's Letter: and Mary says "Do not send it: wait, and talk when he comes to the Kerikeri."*

*Here we are writing to you, your friends,*

**JOHN TAUA MARY TAUA**

Hooi & Meer Taua were two redeemed slaves who both lived for many years with James & Charles Kemp. Both were amongst the earliest Maori converts to Christianity in New Zealand. This letter expresses their desire to take Holy Communion.



## a changing context

- ‘Ministers in the Church of England must pursue their vocation increasingly aware of the missionary context in which the church is set.
- In previous generations ministry was exercised in a culture where Christian beliefs and behaviours were the norm: today’s context is more of a spiritual and moral market place.’ Criterion H

# A CHANGING CULTURE

- Greater mobility
- A network society
- Weakening neighbourhoods
- Porous boundaries

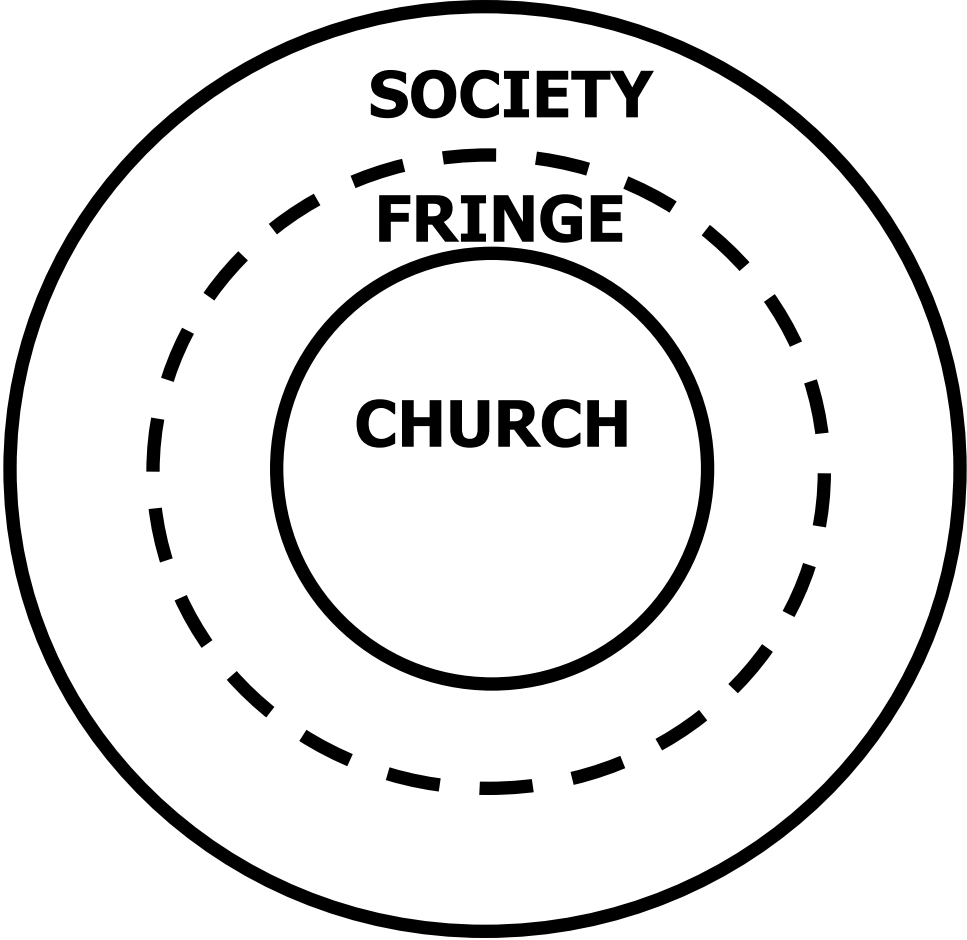
# A CHANGING CULTURE

- A consumer society
- The power of choice
- The poor excluded

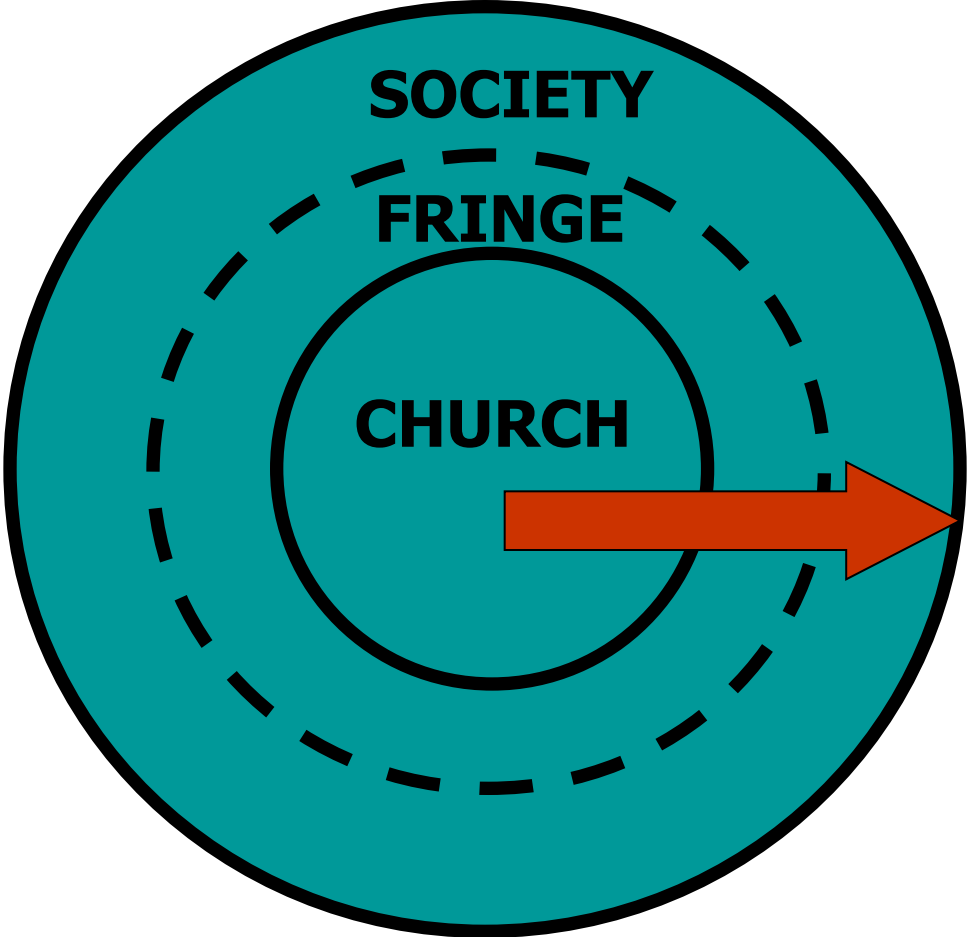
**‘Culture is now an organised diversity with little sense of defining centre.’ Alan Roxburgh**



# CHRISTENDOM CONTEXT

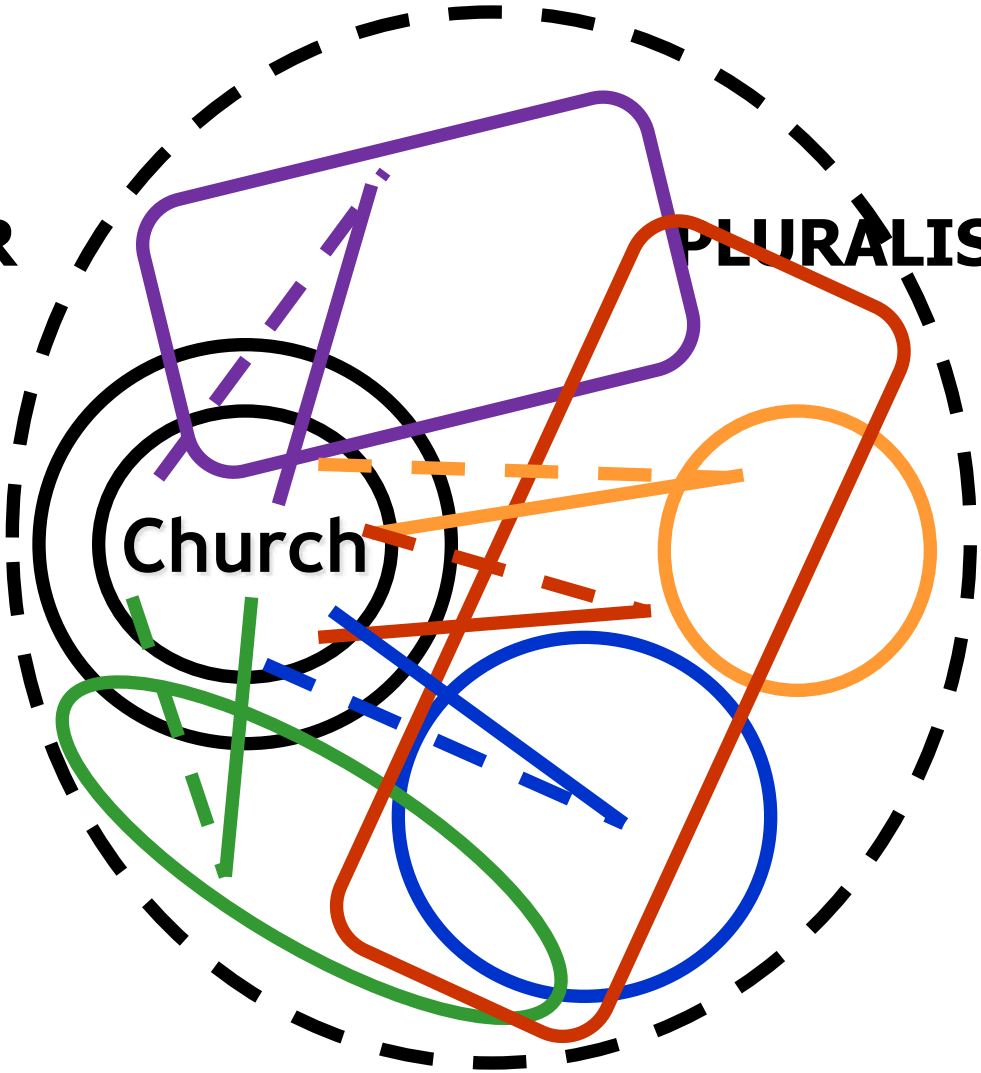


# CHRISTENDOM CONTEXT



**SECULAR**

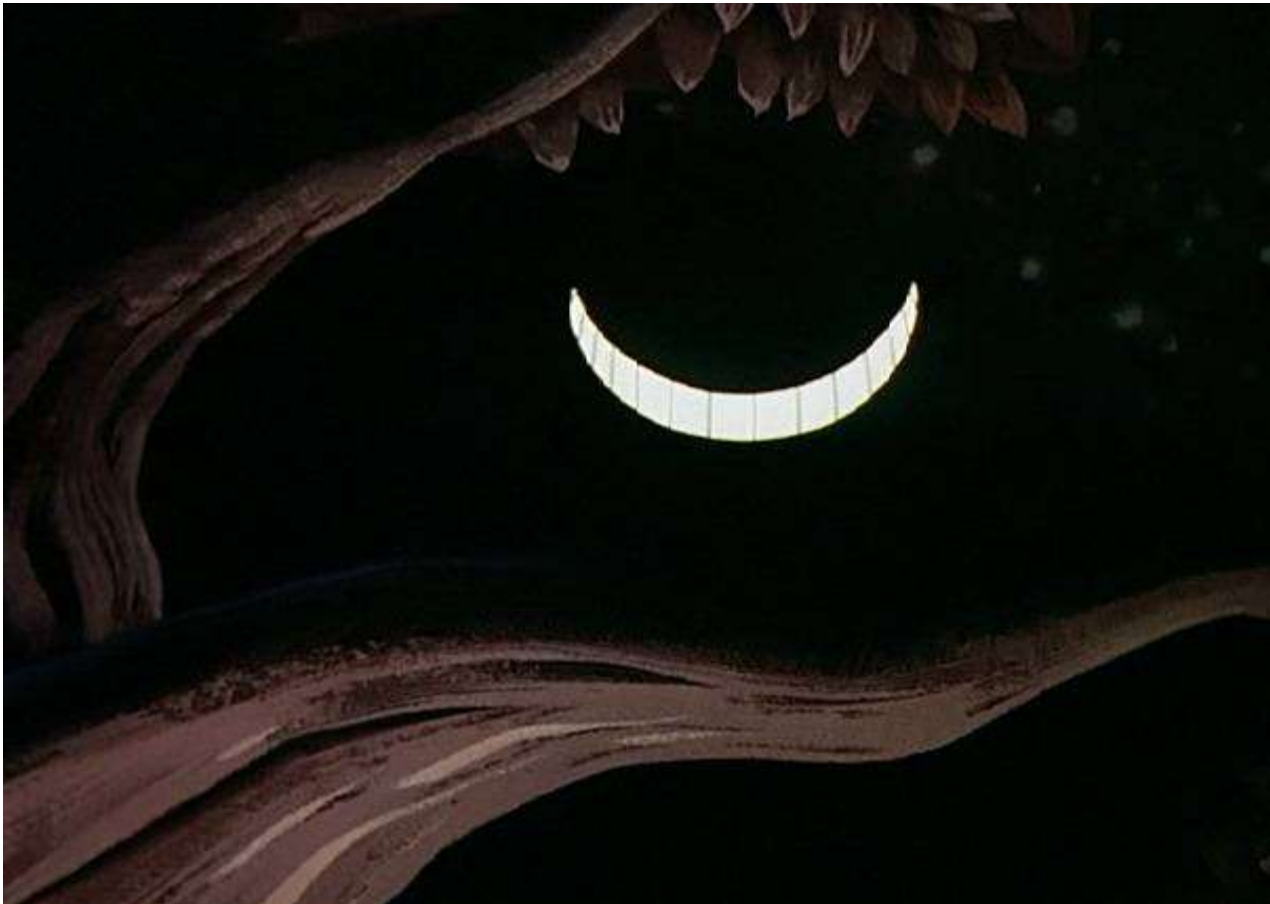
**PLURALISM**



# Christendom is 'fading like the smile on the Cheshire Cat's face' +John Finney



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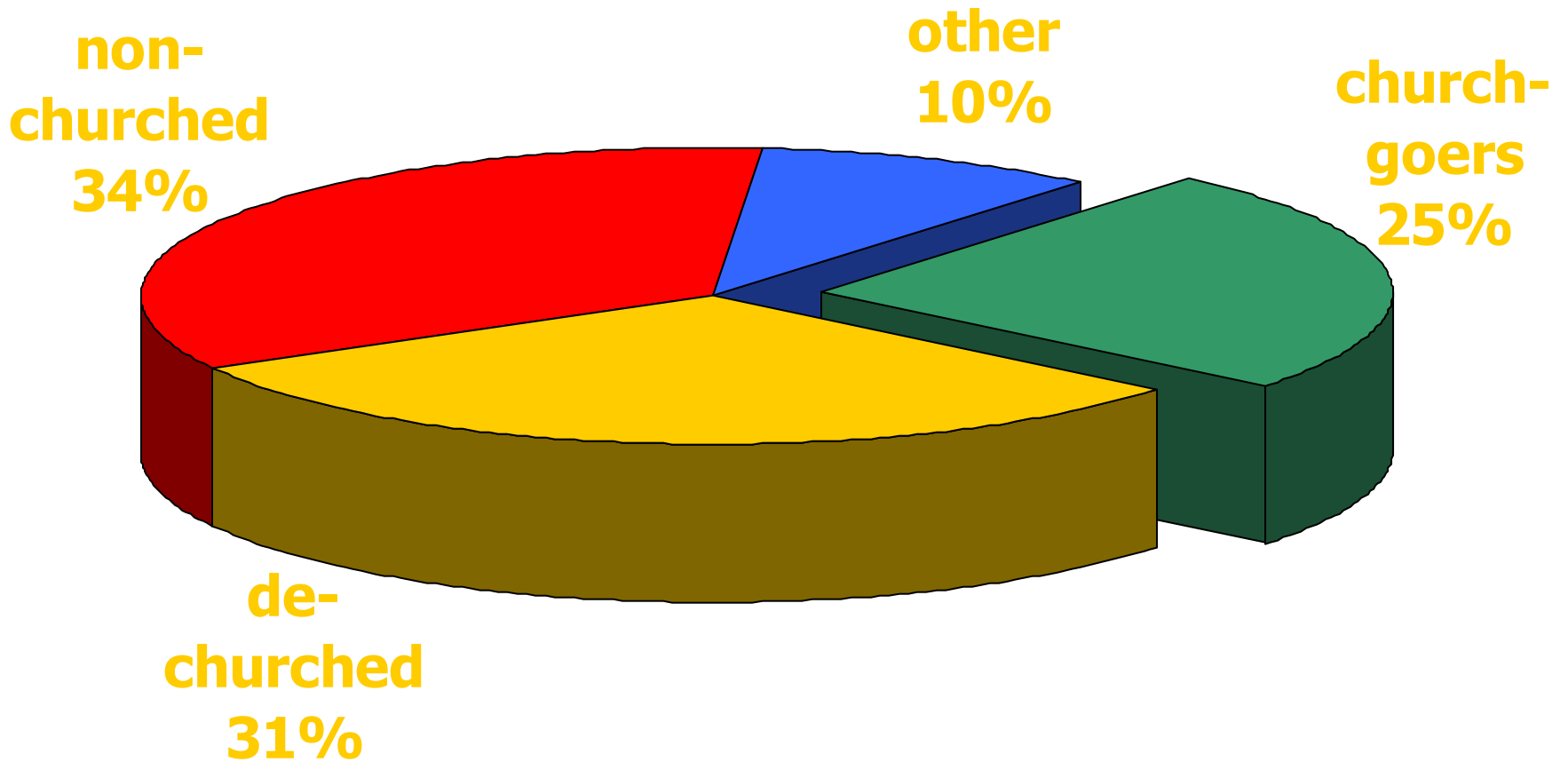
# Christendom is 'fading like the smile on the Cheshire Cat's face' +John Finney



# THE DEATH OF CHRISTIAN BRITAIN - Callum Brown

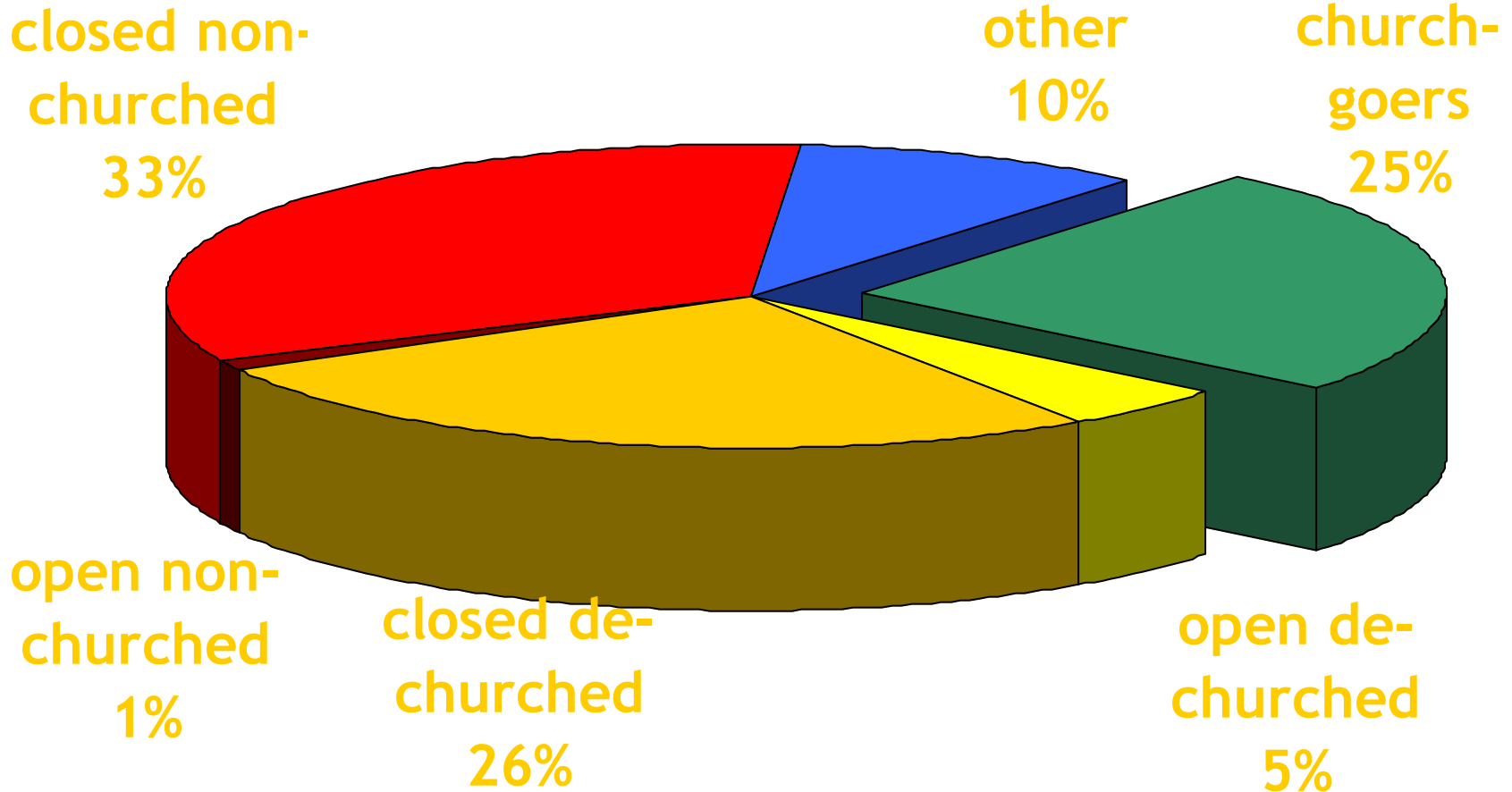
- ‘What is taking place is not merely the continued decline of organised Christianity, but the death of the culture which formerly conferred Christian identity upon the British people as a whole. If a core identity survives for Britons, it is certainly no longer Christian. The culture of Christianity has gone in the Britain of the new millennium.’

# the major challenge



Church attendance - England (2006)  
Tearfund research

# the major challenge



Church attendance - England (2006)  
Tearfund research

# Ignorance of ‘the little man’



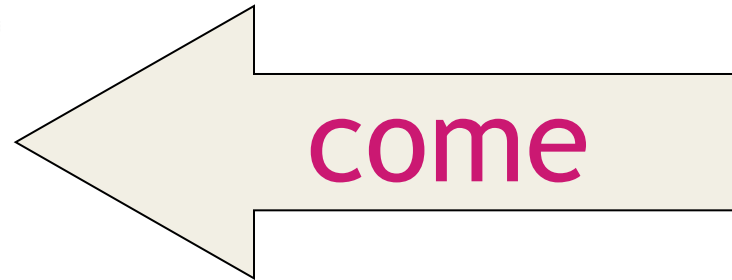
# Ignorance of ‘the little man’

Are we indebted  
to those whom  
our present  
churches cannot  
reach?  
(Rom. 1:14)





# attractional method



BackToChurchSunday

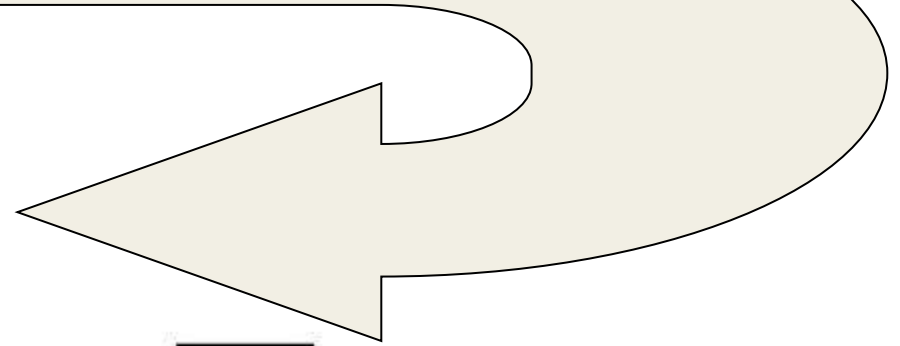








go and then come



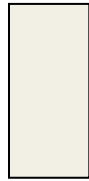
*in our villages, towns & cities*



© Vincent J. Musi



[freshexpressions.org.uk](http://freshexpressions.org.uk)



go and then stay



- Riverforce
- Tas Valley
- Goth Eucharist
- Tubestation





# Why plant fresh expressions?

- they are part of God's call to mission



# THE DEEPEST SOURCE OF MISSION

- 'Mission has its origin in the heart of God. God is a fountain of sending love. This is the deepest source of mission. It is impossible to penetrate deeper still: there is mission because God loves people.' David Bosch

- 'It is not the church that has a mission of salvation to fulfil in the world; it is the mission of the Son and the Spirit through the Father that includes the church.' Jurgen Moltmann

# the priority of mission

- 'The Church of God does not have a mission, but the God of mission has a Church.' Tim Dearborn
- 'There is church because there is mission, not vice versa.' David Bosch

# The essence of church

- ‘Mission is so much at the heart of the Church’s life, that rather than think of it as one aspect of its existence, it is better to think of it as defining its essence.
- The Church is by nature missionary to the extent that, if it cease to be missionary, it has not just failed in one of its tasks, it has ceased being Church’ Andrew Kirk

## We share in Christ's mission

- 'The mission of the Church is the gift of participating, through the Holy Spirit, in the Son's mission from the Father to the world.' James Torrance
- John 20:21f 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you ... Receive the Holy Spirit'

the word became flesh and moved  
into the neighbourhood...  
(John 1)



# Christ takes flesh

- ‘Christian faith is embodied faith; Christ takes flesh among those who respond to him in faith. But there is no generalized humanity; incarnation has always to be culture specific.’ Andrew Walls

- ‘The issue is not relevance so far as the church is concerned. The issue is incarnation. When so called “traditional” churches are out of touch with the people who live around them, the problem is not that they are irrelevant, but that they are not incarnational.’ Tex Sample

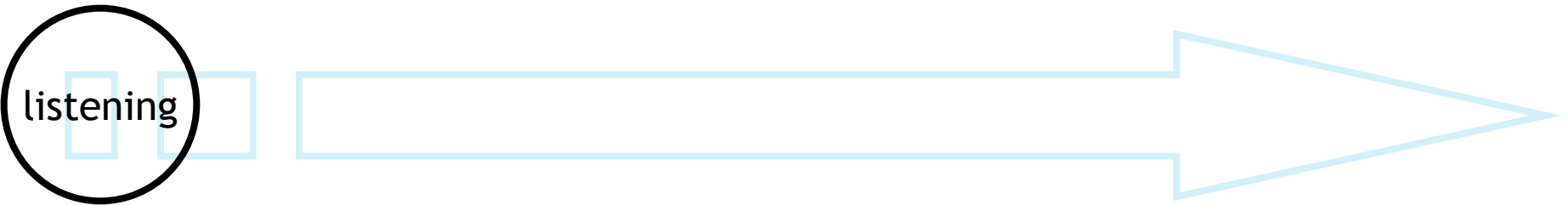


please continue to  
discuss and reflect, or  
browse the books and  
resources available

# lunch break

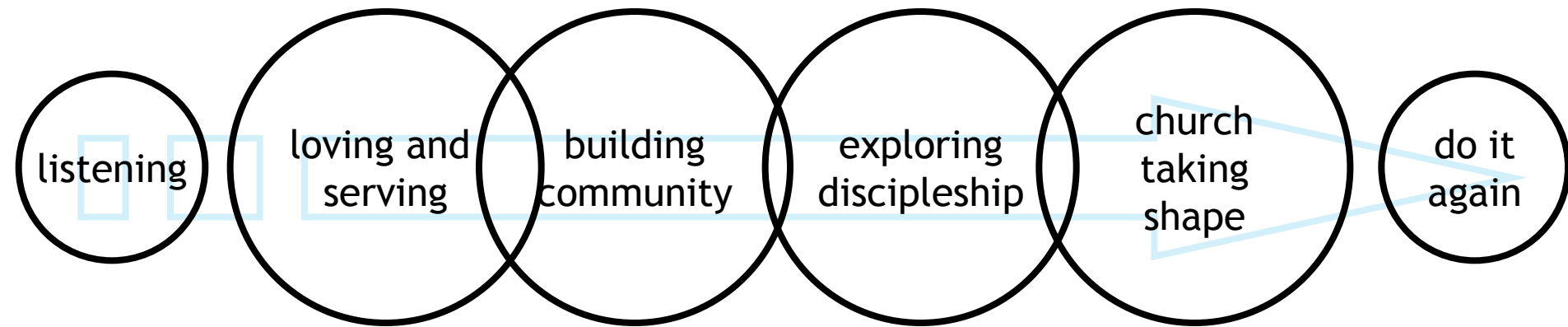
# HOW TO PLANT FRESH EXPRESSIONS

# a process of discernment



underpinned by prayer, ongoing listening and relationship with the wider church

# a formative journey



underpinned by prayer, ongoing listening and relationship with the wider church

- Somewhere Else
- Sanctuary
- Cable Street

# Imitating the Son



# Following the Spirit



# Listening not Cloning

# somewhere else



- ‘We must relinquish our missionary presuppositions and begin in the beginning with the Holy Spirit.
- This means humbly watching in any situation in which we find ourselves in order to learn what God is trying to do there, and then doing it with him.’ John V Taylor

# HEALTH WARNING!

- Listening not cloning
- Don't Take 'Models Of Church' off The Shelf.
- Follow The Holy Spirit.
- An Invitation To  
Improvise!

- To the Spirit
- To the church
- To the community or network

- ‘Leadership is about cultivating an environment that innovates and releases the missional imagination present in a community of God’s people.’



# THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT



- ‘An environment in which the Spirit given presence of God’s future may emerge among the people of God.’  
Al Roxburgh

# Sacrifice - not church as you would like it!



# KEY PRINCIPLE

- Inculturation  
(Embodying the Gospel)
- Planting not cloning.
- 'Dying to live'
- Something new grows

# THE PRICE OF MISSION

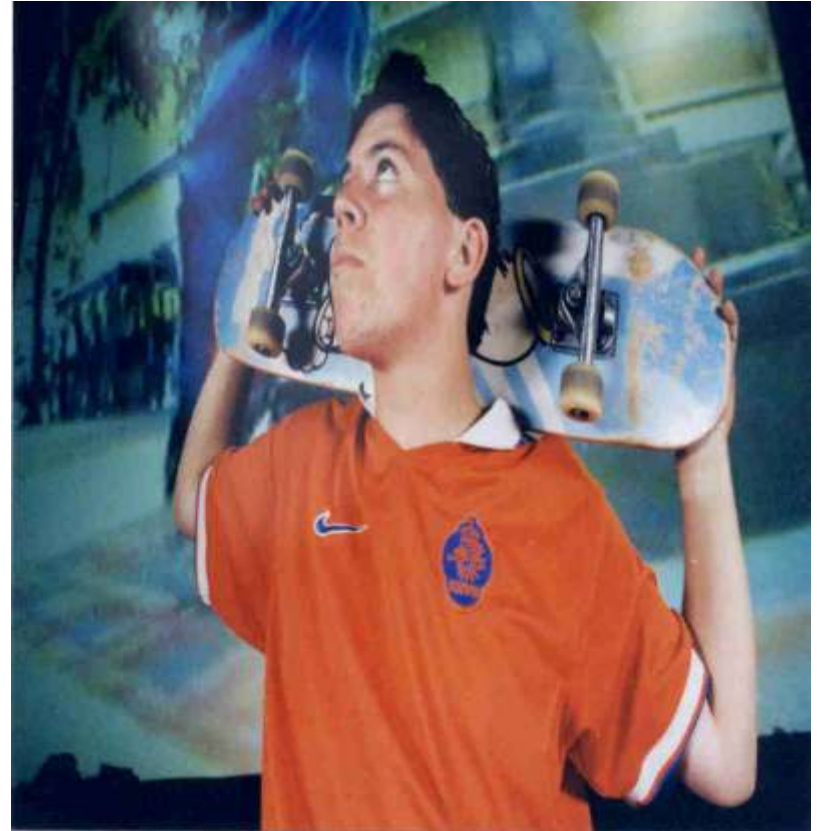
- The church must always be willing to die to its own cultural comfort in order to live where God intends it to be.
- John 12:24 ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit.’

- ‘The seed loses its previous identity, which was to be part of the sending church with its particular manifestation and culture. It will become something different from what it was before.

- Dying to live is inherent in the planting process.' Mission Shaped Church

# INCARNATIONAL

- Entering their world.
- Taking it as seriously as they do.
- Helping them to find Christ there.



# The gospel is a seed which contains the church



# A BOTANICAL MODEL OF GROWING CHURCH

- 1 Corinthians 3:5-9
- SEED - the Gospel
- GOD'S FIELD
- PLANT AND WATER
- GOD GIVES THE GROWTH

- ‘Church planting is the process by which the seed of the life and message of Jesus embodied by a community of Christians is immersed for mission reasons in a particular cultural or geographic context.

# Church Planting

- The intended consequence is that it roots there, coming to life as a new indigenous community of Christian disciples well suited to continue in mission.’ MSC

# HOW TO SUSTAIN FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCH?

# When is It church?

# It all depends who is asking!

# It all depends who is asking!

- Those planting

# It all depends who is asking!

- Those planting
- Those attending

# It all depends who is asking!

- Those attending
- Those planting
- Those authorising

- Visions
- Contemplative Fire
- Feig

# DNA of fresh expressions



- Everything that will grow is present at the beginning

# DNA of fresh expressions

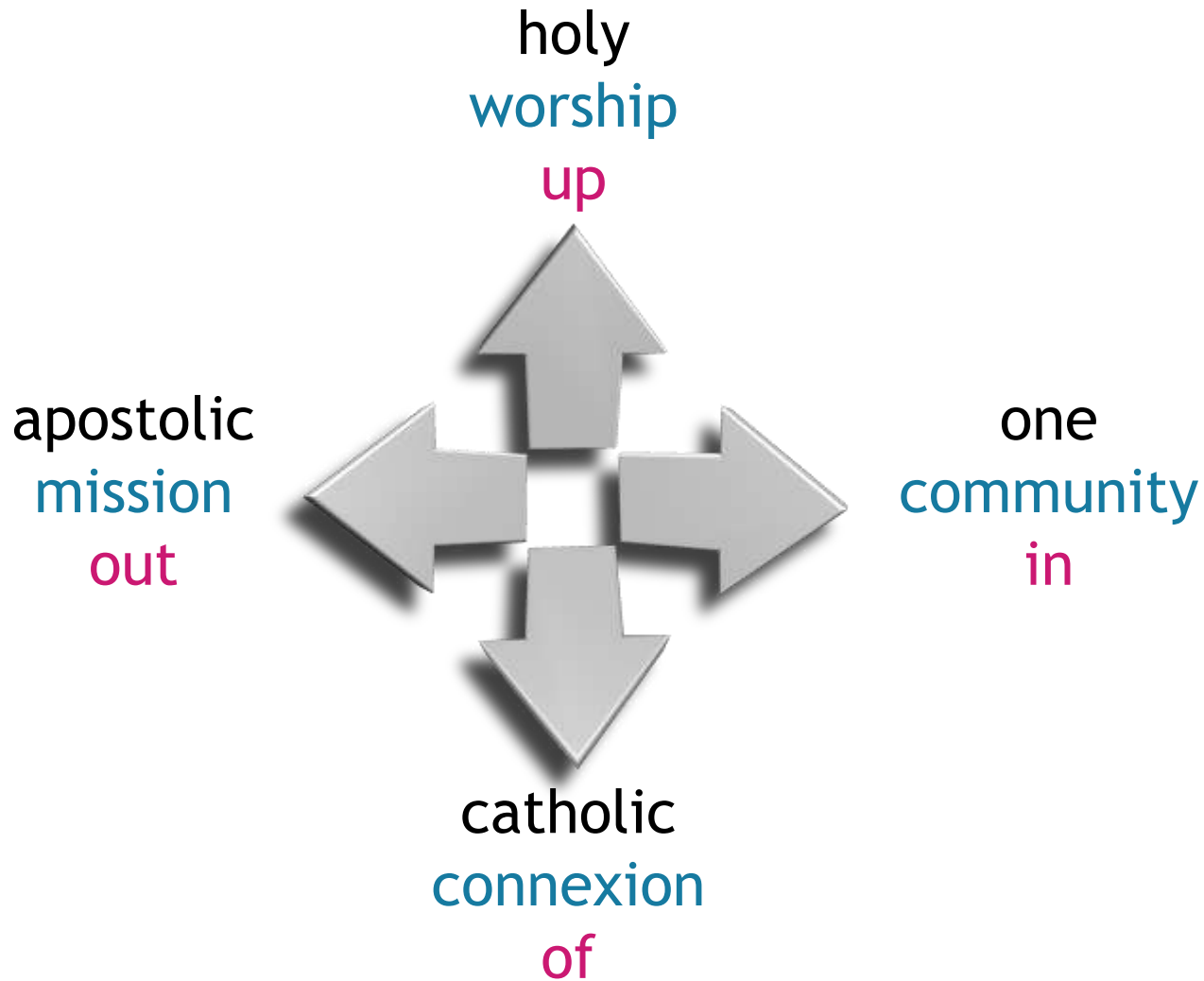


- Only what is in the seed can grow

# DNA of fresh expressions

- Focused on God the Trinity
- Incarnational
- Transformational
- Disciple making
- Relational

# becoming mature church



changing church  
for a changing world

# Fresh Expressions

