

Church Growth: FRESH EXPRESSIONS

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An analysis of fresh expressions of Church and church plants begun in the period 1992-2012

Strand 3b Church Growth Research Project

Work sponsored by Church Army & the Church Commissioners

Conducted as part of the consortium led by Cranmer Hall, St Johns College Durham

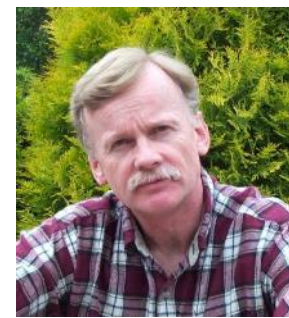
Jon Vivian



Claire Dalpra



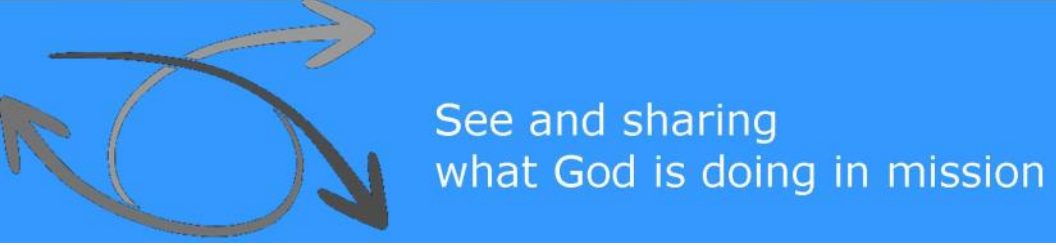
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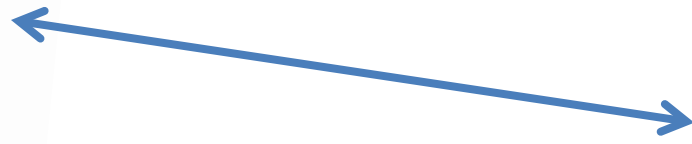


Elsbeth McGann

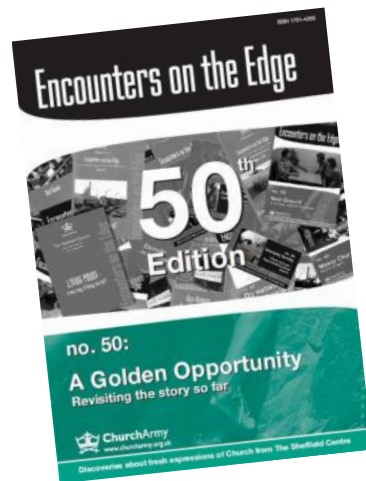


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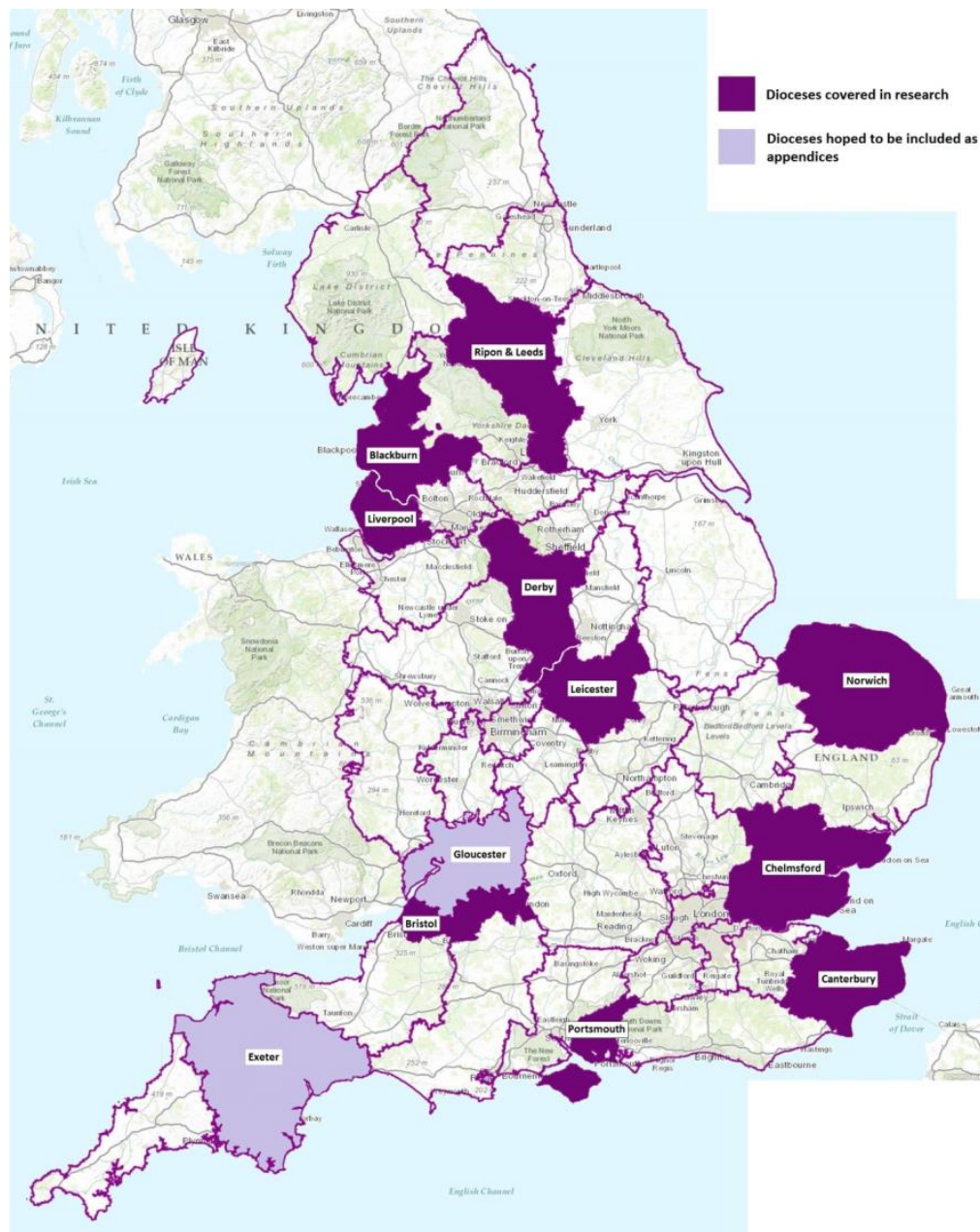




'Fresh expressions of Church save the world'



'I rather doubt it'



A representative selection of dioceses:

- North/south/east/west
- Urban – mixed – rural
- Pro fxC – unconvinced

All their fxC, begun in the period 1992-2012

We interviewed the leaders by phone, using a pre-set questionnaire

Result: 98.5% response rate from all the leads given

In the leader's view ...

Findings missional & ecclesial

H²O

Hydrogen with Oxygen = Water

Leave either out and you don't get water

'Fresh expression' = contextualised & missional

'of Church' = the identity is ecclesial

Missional with Ecclesial = fresh expression of Church

Omit either ... its not an fxC [it's OK to be something else]

Our ten criteria tested for the presence of both

Only 46% of all cases qualified

Some missional evaluations

It turned out to be against a hitherto unknown backdrop of decline in the dioceses selected

How many fxC and how many attend?

Diocese	nos of fxC	Diocese no. Ch's	fxC/dioc Ch's %	Dioc AWA 2011	fxC attd – all age	fxC/dioc %
Liverpool	78	258	30.2	28600	2933	10.3
Canterbury	72	328	22.0	19900	3177	16.0
Leicester	52	313	16.6	15900	1811	11.4
Derby	46	330	13.9	18000	1465	8.1
Chelmsford	50	598	8.4	41500	1830	4.4
Norwich	63	638	9.9	21500	2864	13.3
Ripon & Leeds	39	256	15.2	16100	1083	6.7
Blackburn	64	278	23.0	27200	2702	9.9
Bristol	33	205	16.1	17200	1727	10.0
Portsmouth	21	173	12.1	13700	1271	9.3

518

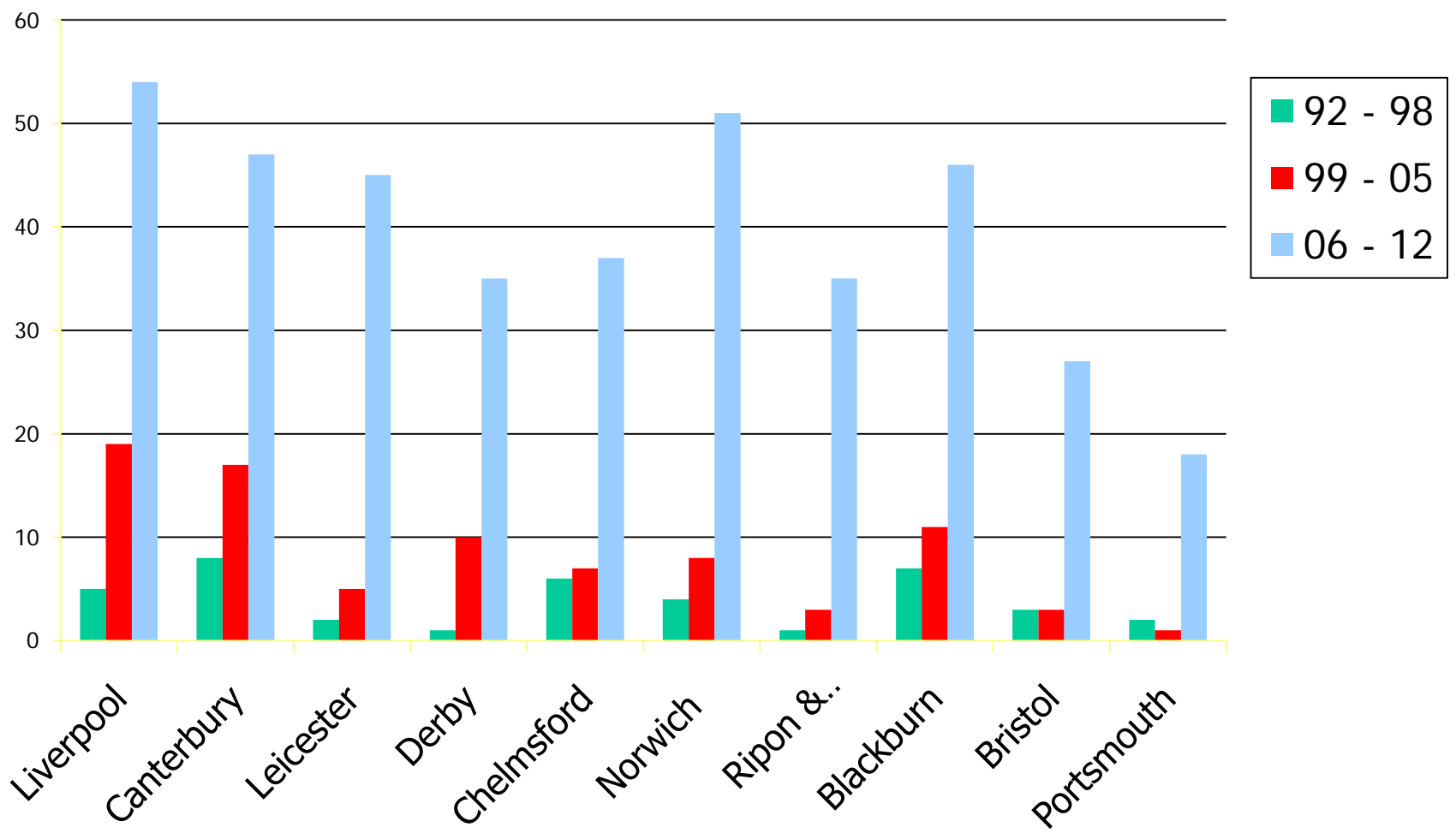
15.3%

20863

9.5%

In 7/11 cases the growth from the fxC reverses the decline in these dioceses in the 6 years [06-11] of their reported figures

When did the fxC start? – by Diocese

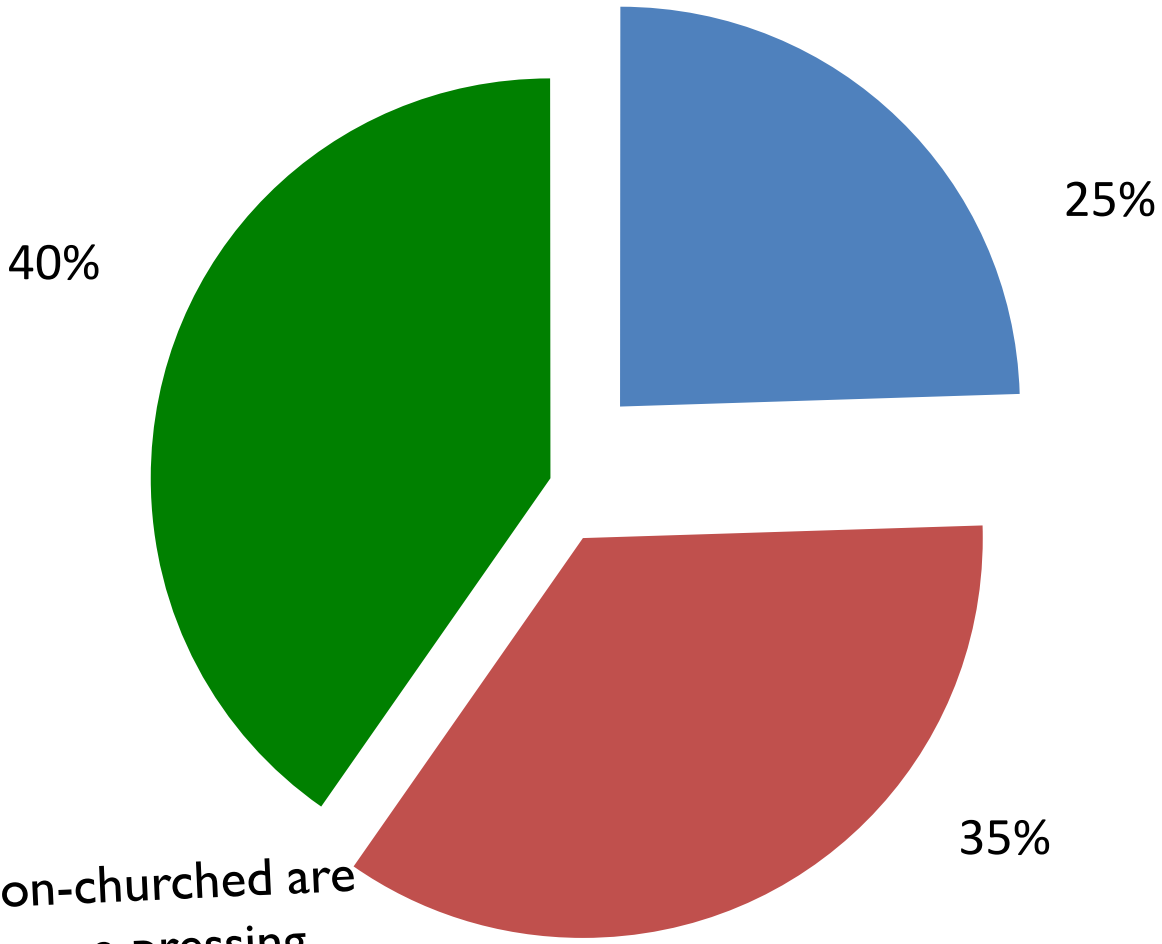


Most cases are post *Mission-shaped Church*
 The annual rate of starts is now x 4 compared with 2004



In the leaders' opinion ...

Rough proportions of three groups present



The de-churched and non-churched greatly exceed the already Christians

- Christians
- De-churched
- Non-churched

The non-churched are growing - a pressing major mission field

It would now be prudent to survey the attenders



Adults and teens/children at fxC

Diocese	Attendance [all ages]	Adult	<16	% Adult	% <16
Liverpool	2933	1693	1240	57.7%	42.3%
Canterbury	3177	1958	1219	61.6%	38.4%
Leicester	1811	1229	582	67.9%	32.1%
Derby	1465	858	607	58.6%	41.4%
Chelmsford	1830	1143	687	62.5%	37.5%
Norwich	2864	1703	1161	59.5%	40.5%
Ripon & Leeds	1083	648	435	59.8%	40.2%
Blackburn	2702	1474	1228	54.6%	45.4%
Bristol	1727	1069	658	61.9%	38.1%
Portsmouth	1271	625	646	49.2%	50.8%
Totals	20863	12400	8463	59.4%	40.6%



Context: <16s in 2011 Census 19%
 CE uSa <16s 17%
 CE AWA <16s 25%



A significant investment

Diocese name	Team sent	Attendance now	Ratio: of sent to attendance now
Liverpool	595	2933	4.9
Canterbury	1044	3177	3.0
Leicester	643	1811	2.8
Derby	373	1465	3.9
Chelmsford	616	1830	3.0
Norwich	719	2864	4.0
Ripon & Leeds	309	1083	3.5
Blackburn	702	2702	3.8
Bristol	502	1727	3.4
Portsmouth	317	1271	4.0

There is nothing else like this effect in the whole of the Church of England

Total sent 5820

Ratio average 3.6



for every 1 sent, you get 2.6 more

Some ecclesial evaluations

fxC: mostly *small* things – not a few big ones

Diocese:	Mean of attendance across the fxc	Average dioc' congreg'n size	% team size sent of 3-12
Liverpool	38.1	110.9	73.1%
Canterbury	49.6	60.7	73.6%
Leicester	37.7	50.8	69.2%
Derby	36.6	54.5	82.6%
Chelmsford	40.7	69.4	72.0%
Norwich	47.7	33.7	77.8%
Ripon & L	30.1	62.9	74.4%
Blackburn	48.3	97.8	71.9%
Bristol	54.0	83.9	72.7%
Portsmouth	66.9	79.2	57.1%
	Avg. 43.7		Avg. 73.4%

Small, but also young churches

44% of them were born
after 2010

These examples are but
three years old



Alternative Worship
Base Ecclesial Community
Café Church
Cell Plant - scratch or parallel
Children Focussed Church
Cluster based Church
Community Development Plant
Intentional Community
Messy Church
Mid Week Service
Multiple Congregation
Network Church
New Monastic Community
Older Peoples Church
School based Church
Seeker Church
Special Interest Group
Traditional Church Plant
Under Fives Church
Youth Church

The variety of fxC

All the kinds listed
proved to be needed

Different natural unit sizes
Different leadership resources

Who do they focus on?
Data across 10 Dioceses

Child focussed	7%
Adults only	19%
Serving all ages	74%

Some steps in discipleship

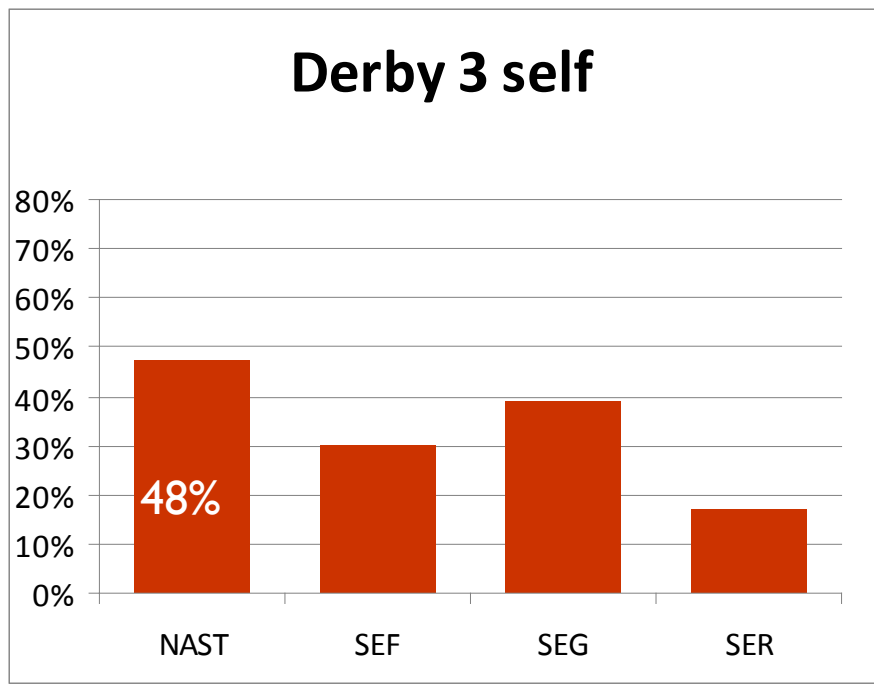
Diocese:	% taking some steps
Liverpool	79
Canterbury	81
Leicester	85
Derby	54
Chelmsford	80
Norwich	71
Ripon & Leeds	87
Blackburn	81
Bristol	82
Portsmouth	71

Question posed:
Tick which of these you do

small groups
meeting 1-1
running courses
serving in teams

Steps toward responsibility / maturity

Total: Not At This Stage	[NAST]	26%
Total: Steps toward self Financing	[SEF]	48%
Total: Steps toward self Governing	[SEG]	64%
Total: Steps toward self Reproducing	[SER]	38%







So 74% have started on this journey

This vulnerability was reported back



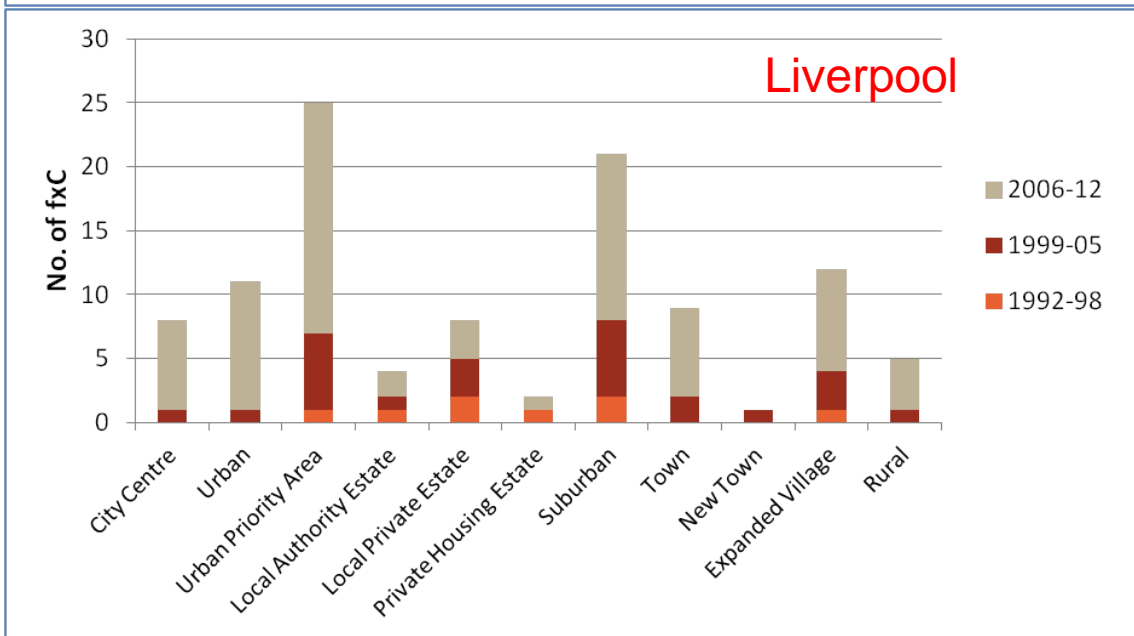
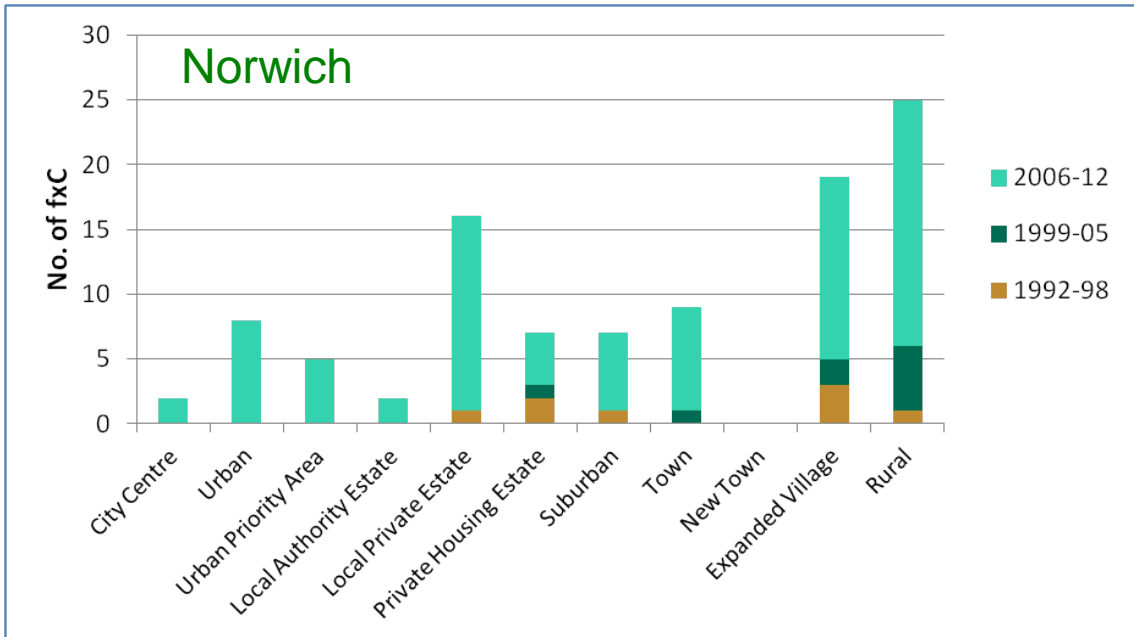
Steps towards sacramental life

Diocese:	Holds HC %	Baptism %
Liverpool	47.4	19.2 
Canterbury	48.6 	36.1
Leicester	40.4	26.9
Derby	21.7 	26.1
Chelmsford	36.0	34.0
Norwich	33.3	47.6 
Ripon & L	43.6	33.3
Blackburn	35.9	42.2
Bristol	33.3	42.4
Portsmouth	28.6	47.6

Practice varies with ...

- Type of fxC
- Clientele
- Frequency of meeting

Table 22



FxC share the CE instinct to serve all kinds of social area

Graphs 4 & 5

Who can lead an fxC?

Diocese:	Ordained led fxC %	All lay %	'Lay-Lay' led fxC %
Liverpool	50.0	50.0	39.0
Canterbury	43.3	56.7	43.3
Leicester	30.8	69.2	52.3
Derby	48.4	51.6	39.1
Chelmsford	47.7	52.3	41.5
Norwich	54.3	45.7	34.6
Ripon & Leeds	59.3	40.7	35.2
Blackburn	50.0	50.0	35.4
Bristol	50.0	50.0	35.0
Portsmouth	45.2	54.8	51.6

Averages

48%

52%

40.0%



What is learnt from this?



Traditions and fxC – variation

NB Many cases cited > 1 tradition

Diocese	Evangelical	Charismatic	Central	Anglo Catholic
Liverpool	73	23	24	9
Canterbury	64	44 ★	42	6
Leicester	77	44	31	4
Derby	61	41	48	4
Chelmsford	80 ★	34	28	8
Norwich	51	24	59 ★	14
Ripon & Leeds	44	41	46	23 ★
Blackburn	53	11	50	14
Bristol	61	21	55	12
Portsmouth	48	38	57	5
Averages	61.2%	32.1%	44%	9.9%

The tables show what percentage of cases owned one of the named traditions, at least in part

fresh expressions of Church and inherited Church
Is this comparing apple seeds with apple trees?

Helpful but ...

Their name claims ...

Their data shows ...

Their aspirations reveal ...

They *are* Church already – not seeds

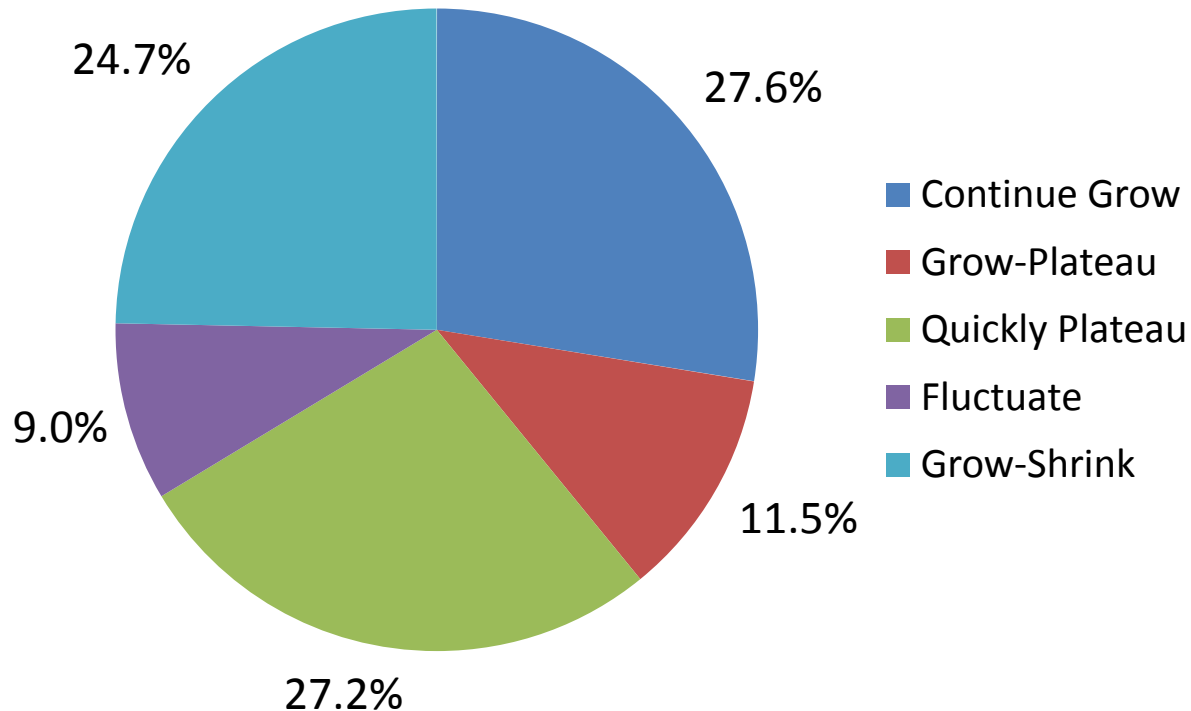


It's more like comparing growing children/ teens with adults

Maturity can occur in any of them and be absent too

Identity is deeper than competence or practice

Growth patterns across fxC in 10 dioceses



- An open question: how many of the 1st 3 categories count as success?
- A research question – what factors contribute to the variety?

The mortality rate in fxC

Diocese:	No. died
Liverpool	4
Canterbury	10
Leicester	4
Derby	7
Chelmsford	5
Norwich	4
Ripon & L	3
Blackburn	10
Bristol	1
Portsmouth	2

36% of the 'died' **took no steps towards discipleship**. The average of 'no steps' for the 10 dioc's = 22%

36% of the 'died' **took no steps towards a 'three self' ID**. That average in 10 dioc's = 26%

54% of the 'died' had **celebrated communion** but of those still alive, 38% had done so

Examples meeting **fortnightly** are the most likely [16%] to die

9.7% 50/518 fxC

Loose Ends

Chapter 7 Two pages on distilled lessons

Chapter 8 Future research tasks/ questions:
Should more dioceses be covered?
Could members be surveyed to test the leader view?
Could these links be a base to study sustainability?

The full report is available on the websites of
Church of England
Church Army
Fresh Expressions
Anglican Church Planting Initiatives

In conclusion

So far ...

about one quarter of the English dioceses have been surveyed for their fxC, at a 98.5% response rate

- How are we to think of these fxC?



Responses, questions etc

?

?

?

?

?

Is it an fxC? The 10 parameters used

1. Is corporately **Christian**; a new and further group, not an existing one that has been improved
2. Planters have tried to engage with non-church people in their **context**
3. Meets **at least** once a month
4. Has a **name**, that gives an identity
5. An intention to be **church**
6. Is it **Anglican**? – Bishop sees it as part of the family
7. Some form of recognised **leadership**
8. The majority of **members** see it as their church
9. Aspiration for the **4 ecclesial / creedal relationships**
10. Intention to become **3 self** – in context

An Inclusion / Exclusion example

Included were 33 examples

Reasons to exclude 54%

- A - Arch on from fxC or towards an fxC
- D - Died
- I - Infrequent [$<$ monthly]
- N - Not an fxC
- 2 - Duplicate record
- NY - Not Yet: planned not started
- X - eXcluded: outside of 1992 – 2012 period

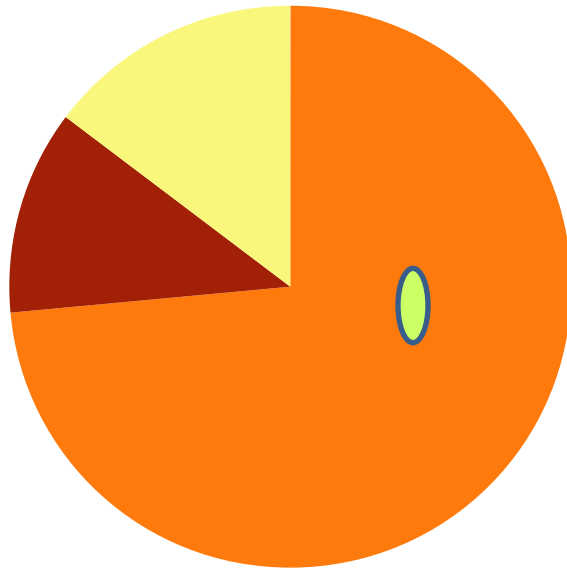
Bristol	
	9
	1
	1
	20
	2
	1
	6

[N]ot an fxC comprised:

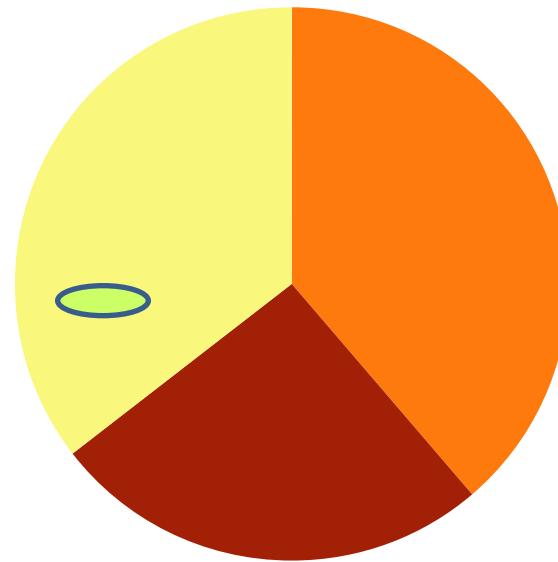
- 1 Rebadged existing service
- 6 Rebadged small group or social events
- 7 Outreach projects [to bring people back to existing churches]
- 4 New events for Christians
- 1 Chaplaincy
- 1 Never C of E

Work Status of the Leader by Gender

Chelmsford as an example



Male Leaders



Female Leaders

- Full Time
- Part Time
- Spare Time

Across 10 dioceses the most common combinations are:

Male, ordained, stipendiary, full time, leaders

Female, lay, voluntary, spare time, leaders