

making disciples and  
new Christian  
communities

# Dying to live

# Vital Church Planting +Graham Cray

# Continuing the journey

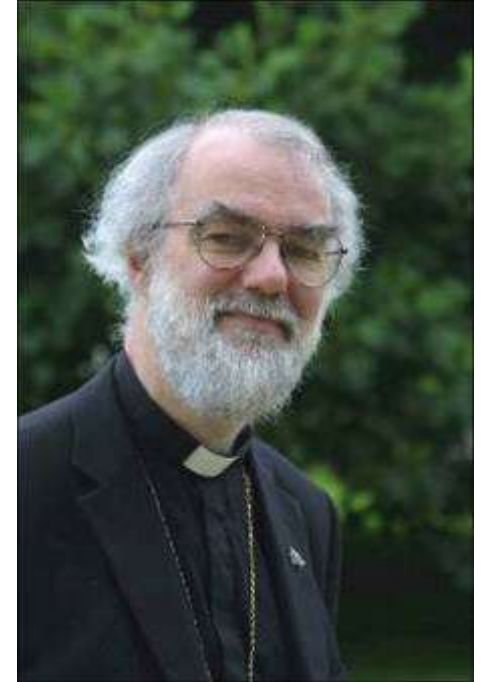
- the heart of discipleship is obedience to Christ
- the motivation for discipleship is a vision of Christ and his Kingdom
- part of God's work is to make us like Christ



“ If you said to a modern student or prospective student that the essence of being a student was to hang on your teacher's every word, to follow his or her steps, to sleep outside their door in case you missed any pearls of wisdom falling from their lips, to watch how they conducted themselves at the table, how they conducted themselves in the street, you might not get a very warm response.

“ But in the ancient world, it was a rather more like that. To be the student of a teacher was to commit yourself to living in the same atmosphere and breathing the same air; there was nothing intermittent about it.

Rowan Williams



- remaining missional
- transforming worship
- staging posts

# Remain missional

- there is no need for all to move at the same pace
- provide regular opportunities to go deeper
- maintain the missional focus





# Both modal and sodal

“ The two structures of God’s redemptive mission

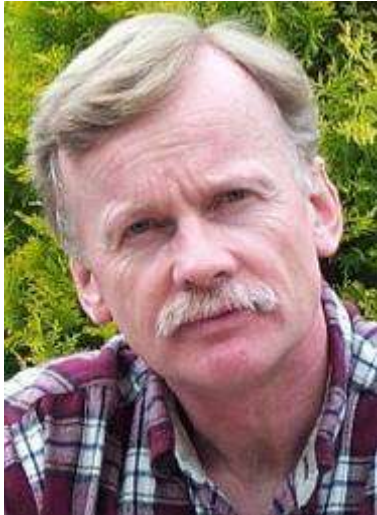
Ralph Winter

“ The first is where all age groups of local Christians gather, and the second was made of experienced workers who make a characteristic second decision, beyond commitment to the first form of church.

George Lings

- “ Both are part of God’s total plan for the church in mission. However if the mission is to be fulfilled the two must relate to one another in a dynamic way.
- “ A symbiotic relationship.
- “ It is possible for a local church to be a great deal like a sodality, and to the degree it tends that way it enjoys a higher growth potential.

# Modal and sodal



- George Lings
- <http://bit.ly/modalsodal>

- joining a community
- joining a community on the move
- joining a community which serves others

# How is disciple-making practiced?

## Dioceses of Liverpool and Canterbury

- one to one
- courses
- small groups
- serving teams

# One to one



# How are disciples made?

As Jesus made disciples.

“The founding of the whole Christian movement was initiated through the simple acts of Jesus investing his life and embedding his teachings in his followers and developing them into authentic disciples.

Alan Hirsch

# Lounge at Costa

# Transforming worship

# Worship as formation

“In much contemporary evangelism there is no mechanism or context in which the liturgical formation of the individual can take place.

Michael Vasey

Help them to learn the language.

# The power of worship

- “ But worship, to which pagans were denied admission, was all important in the spread of the church... because its rites and practices... made differences in the lives and communities of the worshippers.
- “ It performed the function of re-forming those pagans who joined the church into Christians, into distinctive people who lived in a way that was recognisably in the tradition of Jesus Christ.

Alan Kreider

“The principal object of liturgy is to worship God. Values that are generated in the process are a consequence of worship and not its object.

Robin Gill

# Worship and context

“The character of the local church will not be determined primarily by the character, tastes, dispositions, etc, of its members, but by those of the society in which and for which it lives - seen in the light of God’s redemptive purpose revealed in Jesus Christ for all.

Leslie Newbigin



# re-imagining worship



# Contextual worship

“ This brings us to a thorny issue, for the Church of England is very dependent upon its liturgy and use of authorised texts for worship, believing that these shape us into God’s people as we say the words together...

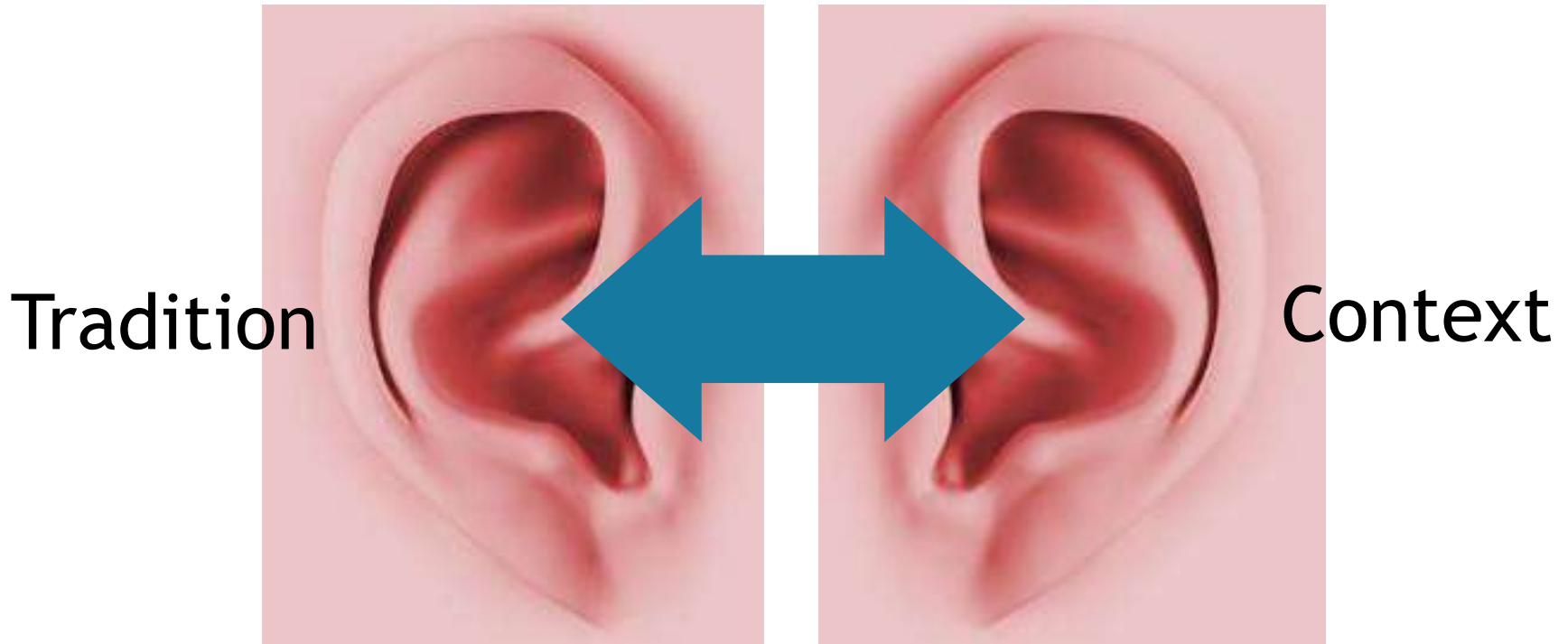


“However, we find many of these are words we cannot say as community, as they do not reflect our experience of life, or of God. These are not our words; culturally they have not come out of our hearts, our streets or our struggles, and so cannot easily come out of our mouths...

“ What happens in this situation is that many fresh expressions or new forms of church do not use the authorised texts and forms of worship, but creatively frame their own liturgy, empowering people who use indigenous language and expression to find their own authentic voice in lament and worship.

Kim Hartshorne, *The Upper Room*

# The two-way dialogue



“ A willingness in worship to listen to culture, to incorporate what is good and to challenge what is alien to the truth of God. It has to make contact with the deep feelings of people. It can only be achieved through an openness to innovation and experimentation, an encouragement of local creativity, and a readiness to reflect critically at each stage of the process - a process which in principle is never ending.

Author

“Our lack of inculturation has fostered both the cultural alienation of some Christians, and an over-ready willingness of others to live in two cultures, one of their religion and the other of their everyday life.

Author

- shape, flow and deep structure
- common core
- seasonal and contextual resources
- permission to experiment



# creative worship...

...reframes tradition



# Curating worship

- fresh expressions: an appropriate ‘performance’ or ‘improvisation’ of the scriptures and the faith they reveal?
- creating worship contextually, but informed by the tradition.
- drawing on the gifts and potential of those you work with.

# Staging posts

- contact work >
- club night >
- praise service >
- peer-led  
discipleship groups



# Moot - a relational approach to mission



Courtesy of Ian Mobsby

Catechumenate communities at the  
start:

- belonging before believing
- knowing very little
- expecting to participate

- **pilgrims**  
eclectic spiritual seekers
- **seekers**  
pragmatic therapeutic seekers
- **suppressors**  
vicarious religion - glad some one else does it for them!

Mark Berry

- suppressors need ‘apt liturgy’ to help them engage with transcendence. (Ann Morisy)
- empathy with the local story
- appropriate symbols
- connection to scripture



## pattern and creativity

- pattern for secure context and appropriate repetition
- creativity for participation and engagement of the imagination.

## prophetic counter images

“teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you

Matthew 28.20

- the whole gospel becomes a manual for the making of disciples
- much more than compiling a list of ethical requirements
- it is an integrated ethical code fulfilling and going beyond the Law of Moses

- not ethics alone, but mission and ministry
- word and deed, evangelism and social action, healing and deliverance
- baptism is mentioned before teaching, but no hint of the ethical implications of following Christ being introduced at a later stage

# Staging posts: marked in worship

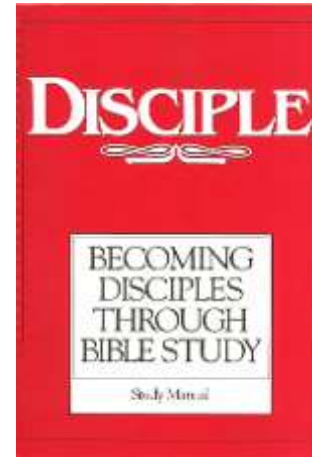
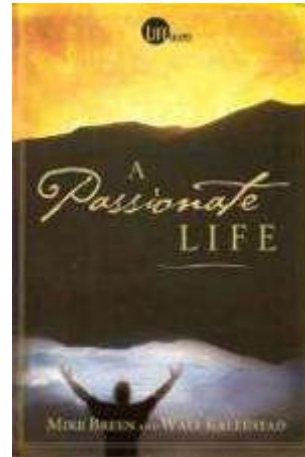
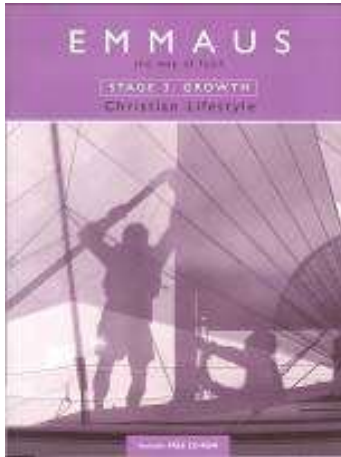
- ministry of the word
- creating a learning culture
- multisensory learning
- participative
- no unchallengable experts



# creative worship..

...creates space for a  
response





Foundations21  
the new way to do discipleship

# The right course for the context



- if there is church there will be the dominical sacraments.
- not a problem to solve
- a developmental stage to negotiate



# Laying a path to Jesus



a series of steps  
along the way - in  
which baptism /  
renewal of  
baptismal vows /  
confirmation has a  
natural place.

# Sorted, Bradford



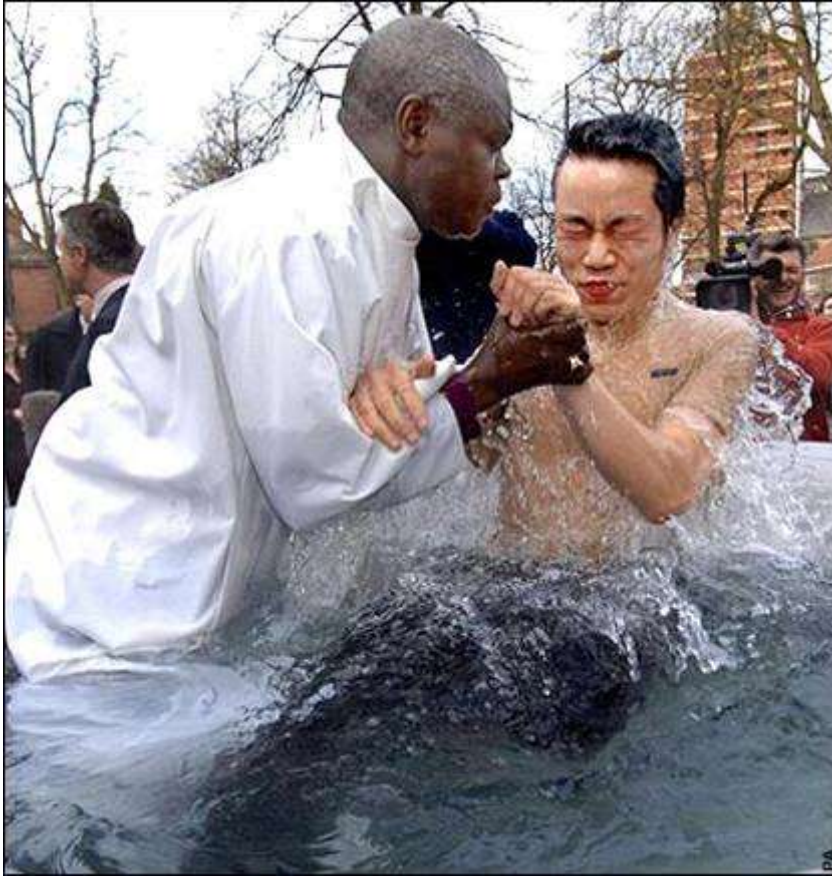
# Ignite, Cliftonville



# Messy Church confirmation



# Baptised into Christ's mission



“ As members of Christ's body they are baptized into his mission, equipped by the Spirit to make their distinctive contribution to the totality of the ministry of the church.

Eddie Gibbs



# Church plant at Asda



Develop an appetite  
for and an  
understanding of  
Holy Communion





“the appointed place at which the past, present and future of God’s dealings with humanity in Christ come to clear, concrete and climactic expression.

+Christopher Cocksworth

# Shaping a worldview

- ‘Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again’
- what Christ has done - expressed in new and old ways
- who Christ is - challenging today
- what Christ has secured - presented as a hope for the future

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