



NEWSLETTER

EDITION 3



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TIM LOMAX

WELCOME TO THE REACHING NEW PEOPLE NEWSLETTER.



In this time of waiting and reflecting in the build up to Christmas it's so good to be able to share with you all that has been happening around the Diocese as more and more parishes of all traditions begin and continue to engage with the work of the Reaching New People team.

We've been gathering information from the various new worshipping communities which are springing up and maturing in each archdeaconry – examples of café church, forest church, Friday church, dementia café, walking groups and so many more. What you're telling us shows that **the Holy Spirit is inspiring many creative local initiatives** which are reaching new people where you are.

The evidence is also showing that plenty of younger people are getting involved in new worshipping communities too. That's so encouraging for all of us to see.

We're thrilled to welcome to the team the **Revd Annie McTighe** as the new Development Officer for St Albans archdeaconry. You can read more about Annie on page 5.

There's also news about the brand new **training for Lay Pioneers** which

we're offering in collaboration with CMS on page 6. And as it's nearly Christmas, the RNP team has taken a selection of books focusing on **Advent** and provided a short review of each one. We'll be posting our reviews on Twitter (@RNPStAlbans), Facebook (Reaching New People) and Instagram (@rnpstalbans) and if you'd like to use one of the books yourself, please do get in touch and we'll post it out to you as a gift – first come first served!

The Diocese has also joined with friends at Red Letter Christians UK to run an **Advent Challenge**. Sign up here to take part <https://bit.ly/32FBGrJ> You'll get an email each day with a story to inspire you to reflect personally on Jesus and Justice. Each Sunday there will be a longer reflection which you could use in a small group. Please share this with others who you think would like to take on the #JesusAndJustice challenge.

We know what a busy time this is in all of our churches, so as we prepare to welcome the Christ-child we pray for wisdom for each one of you.

There is in wisdom a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, Subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, Keen, irresistible, beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure, free from anxiety, all-powerful, overseeing all, and penetrating through all spirits that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle.

For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God

The Wisdom of Solomon 7: 22-25

HISTORY OF ANGLICAN FRESH EXPRESSIONS

It has been 15 years since the *Mission Shaped Church* report came before General Synod in 2004. This report was the first to use the phrase “fresh expressions of church”, although it was by no means invented by them! The report was simply the first to analyse and catalogue these new forms of church which had been appearing over the last two decades.

The phrase “fresh expressions of church” originated from a pledge within the ordination vows of the Church of England clergy to “proclaim the gospel afresh in each generation.” At its most basic, a fresh expression of church is one that should strive to reach out to those unconnected to church, whether those

with some previous church experience (de-churched) or with no church experience at all (unchurched).

Research shows that after the *Mission-Shaped Church* report, around 20,000 people subsequently became involved with fresh expressions of church, and between them planted over 2,000 new worshipping communities.

At its core a fresh expression of church incorporates the following essential components:

- Missional (looking to benefit non-churchgoers)
- Contextual (seeking to fit the context)
- Formational (aiming to form disciples)

FROM FRESH EXPRESSIONS TO NEW CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Today, we are increasingly moving away from the language of ‘fresh expressions’ towards that of ‘New Christian/Worshipping Communities’ in recognition of the sometimes complicated relationship between these communities and existing parish

churches. But also as recognition that all churches ‘proclaim the gospel afresh in each generation’, whether they meet in a bar, football club, or a medieval church!

The aim is the same - to see people transformed as they encounter Jesus Christ.

ANNIE ARE YOU OKAY?

LAST MONTH THE REACHING NEW PEOPLE TEAM WELCOMED A NEW TEAM MEMBER TO ITS ROSTER, ANNIE MCTIGHE, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR ST ALBANS ARCHDEACONRY

“Last month, my husband Jamie and I moved to St Albans with our dog Jasper, a red-haired Daschund. We moved from east London, where my last post was as Pioneer Minister on the Olympic Park. Previously I had been an associate minister at All Saints, Woodford Wells after training at Trinity College in Bristol. Prior to theological training I was a senior teacher in a secondary school with my first degree being in Natural Sciences, focusing on Physics and Biology.

This will sound familiar to many of you, but I sometimes find that it is hard to find time for activities outside the church, but when I do, I enjoy feasting with friends and family, gardening and reading. I have also been known to sail but mainly in hotter climates! I am a coffee drinker (never from a jar!!) and an Arsenal supporter. Between us, Jamie and I have 3 grown up children.”

I have a hope for a mixed economy church, growing, blessing and providing for our established congregations along with developing new ways of worship that attract those who do not feel that conventional church is relevant to their lives. I come from an Anglo- Indian Catholic family and at an early age was impressed by how the Priests and Nuns would hold a Saturday school that today we would call ‘Messy Church.’”



You can email Annie at amctighe@stalbans.anglican.org or give her a call on **07741194443**.

Mark Dunwoody

Development Officer for the Bedford Archdeaconry
mdunwoody@stalbans.anglican.org
07741194082

Alison Jackson

Development Officer for the Hertford Archdeaconry
ajackson@stalbans.anglican.org
07587829480



LAY PIONEER TRAINING

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO:

- HAS THREE NEW IDEAS BEFORE BREAKFAST?
- GETS DEEPLY PASSIONATE ABOUT THE LONELY, THE LOST, THE POOR OR ANYONE ON THE MARGINS OF SOCIETY?
- FREQUENTLY ASKS TO START NEW SERVICES, OR START NEW EVENTS TO INVITE OTHERS TO?

If so, the Reaching New People team are delighted to be able to tell you about a new opportunity starting in September 2020.

Designed especially to encourage the pioneer gift in different missional contexts and to nurture innovative mission on the ground, the lay pioneering training will be delivered in partnership with Church Mission Society (CMS) and based centrally within the St Albans Diocese. This forms part of the restructuring of lay training within the diocese and on successful completion of this one year course the pioneer will be commissioned by the Bishop as a "Pioneer Enabler" within their sending parish.

Why Pioneer Enablers, You Ask?

The Church of England currently defines "pioneers" as "people called by God

who are amongst the first to see and respond to the Holy Spirit's initiatives with those outside the church within a particular context, around which others will gather with them and together establish new Christian communities."

Pioneer Enablers might work with a Parish, Chaplaincy or Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) in partnership with clergy and other lay people. Pioneering will be the main focus of their ministry and most of their time will be spent with people outside of the local Church. Pioneer Enablers have a role in enabling others in pioneer mission. We are looking for those explorers and adventurers who want to follow their God-given dreams to reality; those who can see the culture gap between the church and the local community context and want to help bridge it.

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS...

The training will be delivered by recognised Pioneers and will look at 6 different areas of Pioneering Mission in the following Modules:

- Pioneer Mission
- Mission and Church
- Reading the Bible
- Doing Theology
- Mission Spirituality
- Transforming Communities

Each module is a mix of 14 hours of teaching all together and small group sessions. Over the entire duration of the course, students will build up a portfolio which will include components for each of the modules. This is designed to be creative and flexible. For this reason all students work will be assessed and

feedback given. The portfolio is for the students to keep as a record of their learning and how it has applied to their pioneer context.

There is no financial cost for the course/ church but we will need a reference from the student's incumbent and a statement of why they feel this course will be important to them in their particular context. Anyone is welcome to apply, regardless of their family or work commitments standard of education or church membership.

Chelmsford, Bath & Wells and London Dioceses are all working with CMS to provide Pioneer Training in their Diocese. They express their vision for training Pioneers in the quotes below:

Pioneer Training in Chelmsford Diocese

“Pioneer Ministers are reaching out to new communities and other places where the Church might otherwise have little contact with people. Pioneers are people who are called, trained and authorised to be entrepreneurial agents of change”.

Pioneer Training in Bath & Wells Diocese

“Pioneers are people who go to new places to live and tell the story of Jesus in creative, informal ways. They go specifically to places where there is no obvious Christian witness or community, and start where people are at by listening, serving and loving. Over time Christian community forms through this work, and through the prayer and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit”.

Pioneer Training in London Diocese

“We are working to encourage a culture of pioneering through church plants, fresh expressions and missional communities throughout the diocese and through the School of Pioneers, we will be able to train and commission lay people to lead new forms of church in new places for new people.”

Questions and Applications

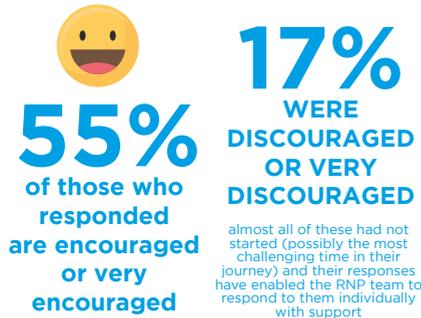
For any questions about this course or to have a discussion, please contact Sue Hughes at the RNP Office on shughes@stalbans.anglican.org or pioneer@stalbans.anglican.org or telephone 01727 818114. Application forms will be available from January 2020 and further course details in the coming months.

DATA, DATA, DATA

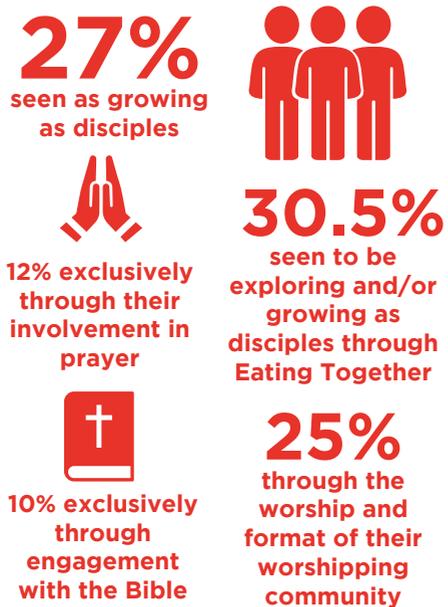
“NO BRICKS WITHOUT CLAY”

THE RNP TERMLY SURVEY RESULTS

ACROSS 42 CHURCHES SURVEYED
WE HAVE 52 ACTIVE COMMUNITIES
OR CONGREGATIONS



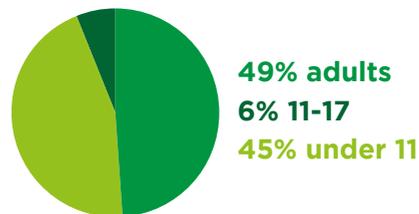
REAL SIGNS OF THOSE
ATTENDING EXPLORING AND
GROWING AS DISCIPLES



AN INTERESTING MIX OF
WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES
AND CONGREGATIONS



THERE IS AN EVEN SPLIT
BETWEEN ADULTS AND YOUNG
PEOPLE ATTENDING



ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF
COMMITMENT THROUGH
BAPTISMS, THANKSGIVINGS AND
CONFIRMATIONS



KATH OATES ST ANDREW'S, HERTFORD



KATH OATES WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL COHORT ON THE ST ALBANS MSM (MISSION SHAPED MINISTRY) COURSE BACK IN 2017/2018 AND HAS DONE THE RNP TRAINING AND WORKED CLOSELY WITH OUR TEAM SINCE THAT TIME. THIS IS CHAPTER ONE OF HER STORY IN HER OWN WORDS:-

In early November we are starting a new toddler group, not in one of our church buildings but on a housing estate at the opposite end of our parish. The story of how we have got to this point very much follows the Explore part of the RNP development cycle.

Combatting loneliness had been identified by our PCC as a priority and we had been identifying groups of people who often feel isolated. I remembered from my own experience as a new mum what a difficult time of change and loneliness this can be, especially if the local toddler group has a long waiting list! I began to wonder if we should we start another toddler group in our church building...

In April, our church and its sister parish went for a weekend away and we held a mini Vision Day where we looked at maps of our parish to see what we noticed. The first thing that struck us was that the church buildings are now in completely the wrong place! It made perfect sense in 1870, but most of the population now lives in housing a mile or so away and a steep hill lies between them and the church. The biggest concentration is on a large housing estate with a mix of private and social housing. We acknowledged that not many of the folk who live up the hill come to us, so maybe we needed to go to them.

On returning home, the PCC decided to set up our own RNP team and a group of us are looking at various new ways in which we can serve our community. We are listening hard both to our context and to God as we weigh up various options.

I have run groups for young people of all ages but never toddlers. However, the idea of a toddler group wasn't going away and I began to wonder if this was God's prompting. It was confirmed for me when I found out that our Curate, Wendy, was having exactly the same thoughts and the search for a venue on the housing estate started in earnest. We looked at various options, including meeting in a housing development for older people, but felt sure that we had found the right place when the Church of England Primary school invited us to meet there.

So we open our doors next week. Many months have been spent listening to our neighbours and to God and we believe it has been time well spent. We are now moving into the Integrate part of the RNP cycle - Loving and Serving, and Building Community. We're not sure exactly where this will take us but know that God will be with us every step of the way.

Kath Oates
Hertford St Andrew's

INNOVATION IN THE BOX



In our time, because of the tremendous upheaval and seismic shifting of culture, we are experiencing significant reframing of the forms of church that communicate the message genuinely and faithfully.

The church as 'historical' lives at a particular time, the church as 'geographical' lives in a particular context. For these reasons, ecclesiology has and must be expressed differently in different times and places.

“ The best way to honour our parents is not to wear their old clothes, but to pass their story on. ”

We need to pay attention to tradition and even traditional forms, but those will adapt and evolve. Hence as the beauty of change continues towards a blended ecology of Church, we believe Innovation in the box will be bringing together denominational church leaders who seek to enable change through the lens of Design Thinking.

Do you ever wake up in a morning and think what's the point of all this Church stuff? ... and why am I doing it?

If you answered yes to those two questions, then we would love you to join us on a journey of creativity in 2020 as we seek to partner with you in exploring new ways of being a blended ecology of Church.

You can read the info below or skip the details and get in touch with us.

COMMUNITY OF IMAGINATION

Interactive learning conversations exploring the 'why?' of contextual mission

Revd Canon Tim Lomax (Diocesan Director of Mission)
Dr Mark Dunwoody (Reaching New People Project Leader)

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

We have a mad idea to create space for unconventional ideas which can (sometimes!) give rise to creative leaps.

So we're planning two days of learning to inspire light bulb moments which reveal God's desire for local mission, by delving into Biblical, theological and historical stories.

• Luke's gospel - designing for a Christian Life

Why making new disciples through new Christian communities is key in today's missional context

• Acts - designing for Christian Community

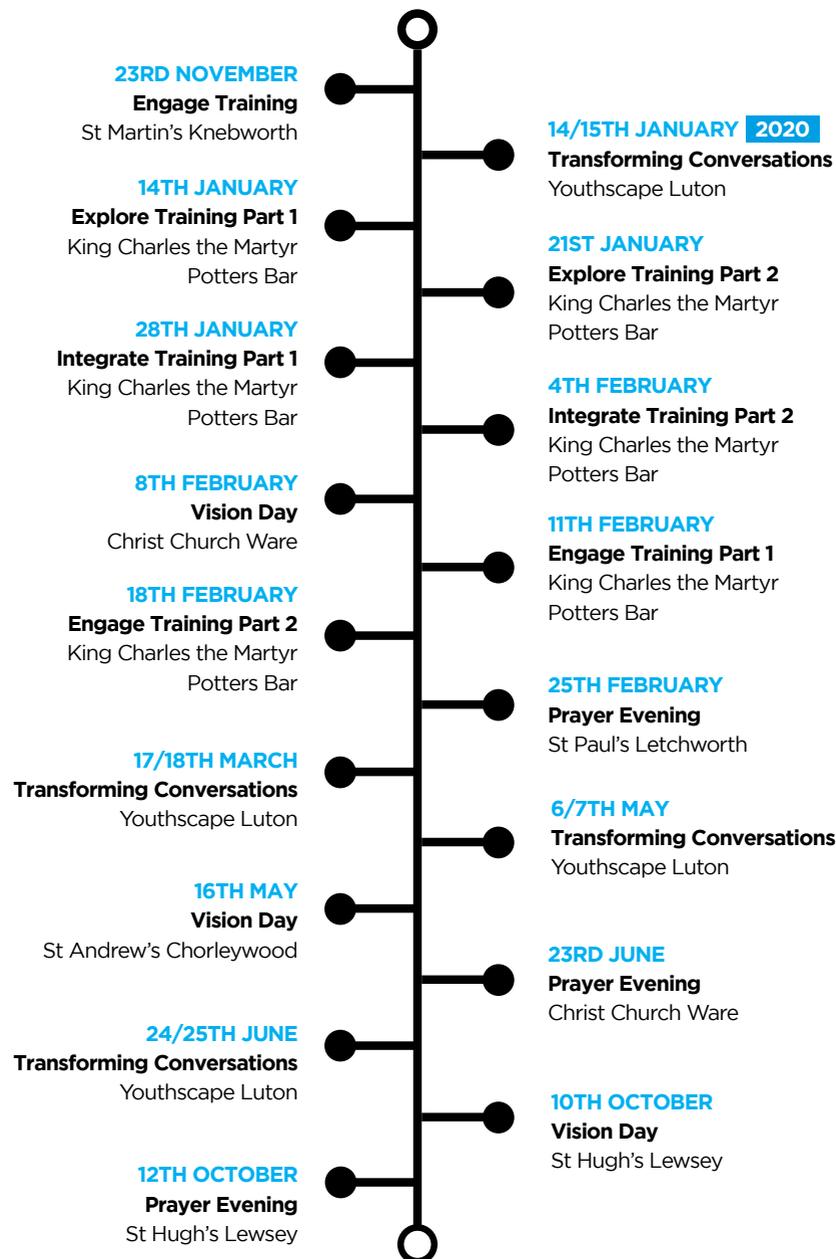
Why new Christian communities are an expression of the life of the Trinity

It is hard to discover new thinking when you're busy doing the same stuff all the time. Our time together will be fun and interactive.

We believe some of the biggest successes are slight variations of not-so-great ideas. A wild notion might be two or three steps away from a transformational idea. So bring your oddball idea, receive positive feedback and take away some fresh thinking to try.

Thursday 27th February and Tuesday 5th May 2020
from 9.30am to 3.00 pm at Youthscape, Luton

UPCOMING EVENTS



[HTTP://RNPSTALBANS.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://rnpstalbans.eventbrite.com)



**DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS**
Living God's Love

so that God's Kingdom might grow in our world

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