The Gospel According to Peanuts
Charlie Brown: I’m going to sail my boat
Lucy: You know what they say about people on boats?
Lucy: They say that what a person does with their deckchair tells you a lot about them.
Lucy: Some like to face the stern to remember where they have been.
Lucy: And some like to face the bow to see where they are going.
Lucy: What about you Charlie Brown – which way do you like to face?
Charlie Brown:

I can’t even get my deckchair to stand up!
Church Can Be Like This!

- Which way are you facing?
- Which is more important to you the past or the future
- Or perhaps like Charlie Brown you just can’t seem to get the hang of it.
What is Church?

‘Church is what happens when people gather round Jesus.’

Expect growth in 4 directions:

- **UP** – toward God
- **IN** – fellowship
- **OUT** – mission
- **OF** – connected to the whole church
What is Church?

- **UP** – toward God (Holy)
- **IN** – fellowship (One)
- **OUT** – mission (Apostolic)
- **OF** – connected to the whole church (Catholic)
Mission Shaped Church

A report which considered the future of the church and in particular the relationship between church and mission.
The Relationship: Church and Mission

“It is not the Church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission who has a Church in the world”

Church and Mission – how are they bound up?

Church is the Fruit of Mission

MSC pp 85-91.
Mission Shaped Church From The Start

God’s mission begins

Church

But the fruit is:
Church – not individual converts
The creation of a People of God
It’s Not That Simple

No sooner is church the consequence of mission than it becomes the conductor of mission.

Church is also the sower in Mission.
Changing Times
Why are Fresh Expressions on the agenda?

• Society is changing:
  External rules, duties and obligations
  Replaced by desire for relationships & experiences

Organisations and institutions
Replaced by emphasis on informality & networks

Standardisation
Replaced by desire for diversity
Why are Fresh Expressions on the agenda?

• End of Christendom

  % England’s pop. in Sunday church:
  9.9% (4.7m) in 1989
  6.3% (3.1m) in 2005 (Christian Research, 2006)

How can you defend Christendom if Nobody believes in God?
Why are Fresh Expressions on the agenda?

- End of Christendom
  
  29% of people have never been to church
  
  31% used to go but have no plans to return
  
  TEAR fund survey, 2005.
Changing Cultures

The church used to be at the centre of a stable, single culture
We are now at the edge of our culture... trying to get back to the centre....
Changing Cultures

...but there are now lots of different cultures
Changing Cultures

...and everything keeps moving around...
God calls us to take the gospel to all of these different cultures and groups
Why are Fresh Expressions on the agenda?

• Interest in spirituality but not church

  76% of pop. admitted to having a spiritual experience (e.g. answered prayer) in 2000 – up 59% since 1990 (BBC Soul of Britain survey)

  But young people have an increasingly ‘material’ existence (Sara Savage, *Making Sense of Generation Y* 2006)
What are fresh expressions?

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 & 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
What Principles Lie Behind Fresh Expressions?

• Community in mission – the Trinity
• Experimentation – the Creator
• Community – Israel
• Cultural immersion – the Incarnation
• Transformation – the Kingdom
• Discipleship – Jesus’ followers
• Sacrifice – the Saviour
• Reproduction – the Ascension
• Diversity – the indwelling Spirit
• Unity – the return of Christ
A Variety of Fresh Expressions

- Renewal of existing congregation
- Reinventing a ‘fringe’ group
- New form of church within parish
- Larger initiative across several parishes
The Inherited Church Practice

Worship

Community, Discipleship, Mission
The Fresh Expressions Journey

Listening and Loving Service

Prayer Support and Connection
The Fresh Expressions Journey

Listening and Loving Service

Forming Community

Prayer Support and Connection
The Fresh Expressions Journey

- Listening and Loving Service
- Forming Community
- Evangelism & Discipleship

Prayer Support and Connection
The Fresh Expressions Journey

- Listening and Loving Service
- Forming Community
- Evangelism & Discipleship
- Evolving Worship

Prayer Support and Connection
The Fresh Expressions Menu

1. Meals and Table Fellowship
The Fresh Expressions Menu

- Hospitality
- Welcome
- Community
- Dialogue
- Worship in the company of others
3. Journey

- Searching for metaphors
- Journey and movement in worship
- Journey and movement in development of worship
The Fresh Expressions Menu

4. Participation

- Taking part
- Demanding
- Accessible
- Arising from community
The Fresh Expressions Menu

5. Holistic

- Whole life discipleship and mission
- Community engagement
What is the Emerging Church?
CONSIDER ME AN EMERGENT, PURPOSE-DRIVEN META-SEEKER WITH A MODERATE, POSTMODERN, FREETHINKER-BASED WORLDVIEW ... I'M NOT SURE WHAT I BELIEVE YET, BUT I CERTAINLY NAILED MY LABEL
Characteristics of the Emerging Church

1. Identifying with the Life of Jesus: Modernism misses this point.
2. Transforming secular space: Live faith in culture. No secular/sacred
3. Living as community: Church meeting decentralized.
Definition and Practices

“Emerging churches are communities that the practice the way of Jesus within postmodern cultures.”

• Welcome the stranger
• Serve with generosity
• Participate as producers
• Create as created beings
• Lead as a Body
• Take part in spiritual activities
Brian McLaren describes it as a conversation which is an idea that has also gained currency.

“I generally don’t even use the term movement at this point . . . I think it’s more of a conversation. It’s a group of people who are talking about the Gospel and church and mission, especially in terms of changes going on in our culture that some people call a shift from modern to postmodern culture.”
The Mixed Economy Church

Inherited and Emerging
The Future?

**current edges**
separate, reactive

**future edges**
broadening, invigorating
What is Pioneer Ministry?
New Resources

Larger growing churches and Fresh Expressions produced a wave of Pioneer candidates who did not fit the settler mode.

An unknown animal – the pioneer - appeared in the church zoo. Was the dominant reaction interest or fear? How would the new animal fare in the parish?
C of E list of Qualities for Pioneers

- Authentic integrated understanding of this ministry
- Capacity to innovate and initiate
- Mature and developed devotional life
- Well developed abilities to initiate change and enable others to face it in flexible and balanced way
- Demonstrable maturity and robustness in face of demands of pioneering
- Self motivation
- Good understanding of Gospel and Culture
- Clear vision of how pioneering fits with the wider Church’s response to the Missio Dei
- Ability and desire to work in teams
- Commitment to reshaping the church for mission
4 Enduring Features?

• Dissatisfied
  – Not grumbler but wanting change for the better

• Visionary
  – Looks beyond what is to what could be

• Hopeful
  – Change is possible and this inspires others

• Risk Takers
  – Acts on convictions and out of comfort zones