

Cell Members Notes for June: DOING EVANGELISM

Special Dates for Cells (See also benefice newsheet)

7th June - Presentation on Parallel Cell Church to Great Yarmouth Deanery Synod

8th June - Cell Leaders' Meeting

12th June - Worship "4ALL" - at Swainsthorpe Church at 4.30pm

12th-15th - Visit of the Rev'd George Lings (See below)

15th June - Alpha Garden Party at Saxlingham Rectory tel 499869

16th - Pub Meal for Thursday Morning Cell and Friends. The Mill 7.30 for 8. Ring Jo 473030

19th - 6.30pm - Praise Service at Tasburgh, led by Chris and Susie Millard

25th June - One Day Alpha Conference, The Well, Ashill, Norfolk.

10th July - 4.30pm Worship "4ALL", "OUT OF THIS WORLD"

5.30pm - Holiday Club Leaders' Meeting at Swainsthorpe Church

25th-29th July - Starship Discovery Holiday Club

31st July - Family Fun Day, Service and Picnic at Tasburgh Village Hall

5th-10th August - Living Water Event on Norfolk Show Ground. Ask Chris Gaze for details.

DEVELOPING THE WITNESS OF YOUR CELL

Over the summer, aim for the witness section of your cell meeting to become the climax of the evening. The best way, is to have this section led by the same person (or 2 people) every week and for these people to be ones who have a real passion for sharing God's love beyond the bounds of the cell meeting. Witness needs to be treated differently from the Welcome, Worship and Word sections of the meeting where there are clear activities and questions for each meeting. While ideas are given for a witness section in the cell notes each week, these are not so important as treating witness as a **process**. It is a process of growing in our motivation and ability to share God's love beyond the cell - bearing in mind the unique combination of cell members, gifts and opportunities. Each week, you need to pick up on and develop what the group has suggested in previous weeks and find ways to respond practically Here are 6 areas in which, it would be good to keep moving forward as a group:

1. Motivation

People often feel guilt or pressure about the need to witness or the word "evangelism". This is a lot to do with misunderstanding of what witness involves (see below) - But it is also because we need to experience more of God's love for ourselves and compassion for those who do not have that in their lives.

Goal - For our witness to be motivated by

a) Experiencing God's love and the transformation of our lives - it is so wonderful that we will want others to find faith too.

b) Loving other people - If we love them, we will want good for them - and there is nothing better in life than knowing Jesus.

2. Prayer

Prayer is where we experience God's love for ourselves and receive his love for others. Intercession is also something we do naturally for those we really love. Christ calls us to mean business about prayer, especially praying together.

Goal: To deepen the prayer life of the group. Increase the time you spend praying aloud or in silence together. If many members of your group pray silently, you need to make sure more time is given to talking about needs for prayer so that everyone prays for each other not each person for themselves and the prayer for each other can continue throughout the week. Develop a prayer list of 10+ friends and contacts of cell members who you pray for regularly. (It is probably better for these to be people who you invite to cell socials so that the whole group get to know them and know who they are praying for. Don't forget to pray for practical needs as well as spiritual ones.

3. Creating Community Christ said that the world would know that we are his disciples when we love one another. This is an in depth love not just ordinary kindness and courtesy which we would show to everyone. Love and service speaks louder than words when it comes to witness. **Goal:** For care for each other to spread beyond the weekly meeting - and also to spread to the group of people for whom the group prays/ who come to the socials, being ready to be practical/respond to needs. eg. A cell member's friend needs help with his car fixing so he goes round with another mate from the cell who knows about cars. to fix the car or having meals together. eg. Inviting cell members and their friends for a meal. Offering babysitting, help with shopping, lifts. The point is to be loving and serving together as a cell and not only as individuals.

4. Develop an interest group as a way of serving Another way of loving and serving as a cell is to develop an interest group. This is where members of a cell have a shared interest which they can use to be of real service people not in the cell. This could be almost anything eg. Worship 4ALL- worship accessible to young children planned by a young mums cell, a meeting for mutual support of Bereaved people or something purely social such as forming a table tennis team. The cell will then be committed to praying for and serving the contacts they have from this activity as well as their group of friends, as above. This is probably more appropriate if the cell's prayer list/additional people that come to social events is small in number or if a large number of friends of cell members would be interested in this particular interest group. It is important not to spread the efforts of the cell too thinly or overburden people.

5. Opportunities for friends to find out about the Christian faith - and if they wish, to become Christians eg. Alpha. Invitations to J. John talks or other explicitly Christian events. Also being able to tell our own story of faith and learning about faith so as to be able to answer people's questions.

6. Growing the Cell Group with New Christians This means learning about the foundations of the Christian faith and the disciplines of Christian faith together especially prayer and bible reading, confession and worship.

Introducing Rev'd George Lings

George is the director of the Sheffield Centre - which is a Church of England centre for research and consultancy in mission. He is the author of a series of booklets entitled "On the Edge" about fresh ways of being church. From 12th-15th June, he is visiting the Tas Valley Benefice, with the view that our cell church may be featured in his next "On the Edge Booklet". If you can offer George a meal and/or an opportunity to talk with you about your experience of cells, please ring Sally 470762.

Sowing Seeds - Week beginning 5th June

Aim: To write a group mission statement. To be encouraged that small deeds can be used to build God's Kingdom

Welcome Feedback ideas and insights you had about your cell and its mission through last week's session and your prayers this week. Have a go at writing a group mission statement with one or two action points of what you could do together.

CELL VALUES

All involved	Becoming disciples	Creating community
Doing Evangelism	Encountering God	

Worship. One or two people have been asked to share their stories of faith with the group. Once people have shared, make time to pray for them giving thanks as to how God has worked in and through his people.

Word - Read *The Parable of the Growing Seed* - Mark 4.26-29

Talk about this parable. What does God do? What do human beings do?

People often think of evangelism/witness as something very scary and risky, requiring a big effort from us like running a mission or asking someone to a weird event! But a lot of witness is like seed-sowing - we do a small act of simple service - cooking a meal, cutting someone's grass, babysitting - but we do it backed by prayer and love. And it is God you then leads this to become an opportunity for someone to ask about faith.. In other words, a lot of witness can be "low risk", "high grace". Do you like this idea?

What has been your experience of evangelism? Have you seen God grow a small seed into something big?

Witness -

- Look again at your Mission Statement ideas. Are your action points "low risk; high grace"? Plan and pray for the group's mission activity.
- Talk about the needs for prayer in the group and each pray for someone else's needs.
- If you have not already done so ask each person to think of 1 or 2 people who they would like the cell to pray for regularly.

- Pray for any you plan to invite to the Alpha Garden Party on 15th June and pray for all involved in the organisation of the party especially Phil and Yvonne and the Wednesday evening cell.

DURING THE WEEK -

- If you know someone who would enjoy finding out more about the Christian faith, invite them to the Alpha Garden Party - Details from Phil on 499869
- Either agree to each bring one or two pictures of Christ next week or assign the leader of the worship Section to bring a dozen images. Some could be downloaded from the internet. CMS produce a pack called "The Christ we share" with different pictures of Christ from different cultures. You may be able to borrow this from diocesan house if desired tel. 01603 880853
- Think of 1 or 2 people who you would like the cell to pray for regularly.
- If you haven't already done so, consider if you want to go to the one day Alpha Conference, The Well, Ashill, Norfolk 9.30am-8pm on Saturday 25th June. Your cell leader has application forms.
- Read Matthew 25.31-46. What appeals to you about this parable? What do you find uncomfortable? What does it say to you about encountering God in other people?
- Read "Tracey's Story". Is there anything in the story that you identify with?

Tracey's Story

Tracey Day was sitting out with her neighbours in a village on the outskirts of Kathmandu when she caught sight of a young girl washing her sister's leg on the side of the road. "I went over to see what the problem was and saw that the girl's leg was mushy with sores and smelt like it was rotting. From my nurse training, I knew it was osteomyelitis and that she needed an urgent operation"

Tracey and her husband Jason are new CMS mission partners working with the United Mission to Nepal. They went to help train nurses but were still on their intensive language study programme when they met the 8-year-old with the bad leg, called Pasang, whose family lives in one room.

Jason and Tracey took Pasang and her mother straight to hospital. "The doctors said that if she had waited any longer, her whole leg would have shattered it was so rotten with disease" says Tracey.

After a successful operation, Pasang started losing weight and vomiting constantly; Tracey thought they were going to lose her. "Every day we saw her she became worse and worse and wouldn't talk or look at anything; she just lay in bed, looking at the ceiling," says Tracey. "In desperation we asked her mum if we could pray over Pasang and said we believed God would heal her. Pasang's mum agreed; we also frantically e-mailed all our link-churches asking them to pray for her."

So do you believe in miracles?

"Two days later, we could not believe our eyes," Tracey continues. "Pasang was sat up, had been eating and was so loud and happy we could not shut her up. I checked her charts to see if she had been given any other medicine but she hadn't. Pasang is now back home with her family. Jason and Tracey had had doubts about their prayer being answered but knew they had support from home. "It was brilliant to see the answer and also to see how all our link churches rallied together and stood with us in prayer," says Tracey. "For me, that was one of the most touching things."

Tracey's Story was reported by the Church Mission Society (CMS) and distributed on their regular e-sorts by e-mail. If you would like to receive stories like this on your home computer, e-mail heart4god@cms-uk.org with the subject "Subscribe main list"

Pray for

- Pasang and her family as the disease can recur after 8-10 years.
- Jason and Tracey at Tansen hospital in Nepal
- an end to the violence between Maoist rebels and government forces in Nepal

When I needed a neighbour, were you there? - Week beginning 12th June

Aim: To be challenged about mission among the poor and marginalised. To encourage people to expect to meet with God as they step out in Mission.

Welcome Tell the group about a recent experience of sharing a meal with someone outside your immediate family circle **OR** Briefly, tell the group about the picture of Jesus you have brought with you. Where did it come from? What side of Jesus' personality does it communicate to you?

Worship Listen to a worship song/piece of music and look at the images of Christ. Use this time to pray and listen to God. Which images particularly strike you, challenge or inspire you? Why?

Word - Read Matthew 25.31-46 - The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

There are lots of issues addressed by this passage eg. judgement, discipleship and lifestyle. Talk about any issues, which arise for the people in your cell - but spend most of your time focusing on what this parable tells us about mission.

- Mission is not always glamorous. Sometimes, it involves getting our hands dirty or building relationships with people we would not normally be attracted to. Tracey's story is an example of this. Have you ever found yourself in a challenging situation- faced with a human need - and unsure of how to respond?
- Have you had any experience of mission that involved crossing boundaries - socially, geographically or culturally?
- What is Jesus teaching about mission through this parable?
- How is this parable relevant to the cell group's mission plans?

Witness - Continue to make plans for the mission action of your group
- Take some time to pray for this and for the Alpha Garden Party this week
- Make a list of the people who your cell will pray for regularly and pray for them!
- Pray for personal needs within the group.

DURING THE WEEK:

Verse to remember 1: *"Then the righteous will answer him. Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go and visit you? The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine you did for me" Matthew 25.37-39.*

Make a list of the people who you will spend time with this week from the closest family to strangers. Pray that you will see Christ in each of them.

Verse to remember 2: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" Romans 8.28
What problem in your life has God used to cause the greatest growth in you?

My Story - Week beginning June 19th

Aim: To understand how God has given each of us a story to tell that will help others

Welcome - Each tell the rest of the group about "Something I have learned from experience"

Worship - Read 1 Thessalonians 1.1-3

Spend some time giving thanks to God for the people whose lives and stories have inspired you.

Word - On 6 different occasions in the book of Acts, Paul tells his personal story. Why do you think telling a true personal story is often more helpful to people than quoting from the bible or intellectual argument?

Read Paul's Story - Acts 22.1-21

Can you identify 4 stages in Paul's journey of faith?

1. What his life was like before he met Jesus.
2. How he realised he needed Jesus.
3. How he committed his life to Jesus.
4. The difference Jesus has made so far in his life.

Are there similar stages in your journey of faith? In 2s or 3s, tell something of your story so far

Witness -

- Continue to make plans for the mission action of your group - and anyone you would like to invite to Alpha
- Pray for the people on your cell prayer list.
- Pray for personal needs within the group.

DURING THE WEEK

Read Luke 15.11-32

If you have not already done so, have a go at writing down the story of your faith journey. The following outline may be helpful to you:-

1. What your life was like before you met Jesus.
2. How you realised you needed Jesus.
3. How you committed your life to Jesus.
4. The difference Jesus has made so far in your life.

If doing this, makes doubts arise in your mind, pray and talk them over with a mature Christian cell member with whom you feel comfortable. If you find yourself wondering whether you have ever committed your life to Jesus, this prayer may help.

Lord Jesus Christ

I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life (take a few moments to ask his forgiveness for anything particular that is on your conscience). Please forgive me. I now turn from everything which I know is wrong and commit myself to try to live your way. Thankyou for dying on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free. Thankyou that you offer me forgiveness and the gift of your Spirit, I now receive that gift. Please come into by Life by your Holy Spirit to guide me and be with me. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.

Doing what Jesus did - Week beginning 26th June

Aim: To encourage the group to play their part in sharing the gospel and to consider how we might use the pattern of mission that Jesus taught and practised

Welcome - Who influenced you most when you were 12 years old. Who influences you most now?

Worship - In a time of silence, ask the group to come before God in repentance, confessing wrong attitudes and evidence of selfishness in your lives. You may choose to focus on repentance around attitudes to people who don't yet know Christ.

Worship God together by thanking him for his accepting love and forgiveness.

Word - Read Jesus Strategy for Evangelism - Luke 10.5-12

Try to work out Jesus strategy for evangelism - the pattern which he encouraged his disciples to use. Where does prayer fit in? Is it something that the disciples do alone or together?

What are the characteristics of a "person of peace"? How would you recognise a "person of peace" in the 21st century?

Jesus lived in a world much like our post-modern culture. How do you think the pattern Jesus taught would apply to us as a group of disciples today.

Witness - Thinking about the pattern that you have identified from Jesus' teaching. Work out the next step for those in your network of friends who the cell

is praying for regularly. Is it for you to do something practical to help, to spend more time with them, to have the courage to offer to pray with them or to know how to answer questions about faith. Pray for opportunities for each other and God's blessing as you reach out to these friends.

DURING THE WEEK -

- Reread Luke 10.5-12. Do you know anyone who you think may be a "person of peace"? Pray for them.
- Read 2 Peter 3. Make a note of any questions or things which challenge you.

Loving the Lost - Week Beginning 3rd July

Aim: To be inspired by God's heart for "the lost". To ask God for a sense of his timing in evangelism.

Welcome Devise a fun but simple "Stop Watch Challenge" for the Group. eg. eating 3 cream crackers in a minute, transferring dried peas sucking up a straw. Be inventive!

Worship - Use some of the hymns of praise in Revelation to focus on God in Worship: eg. Revelation 4.8-11, 5.12-13, 11.17-18, 15.3-4

Word - Listen to Diane and Jane's Story Part One on your Cell CD - an example of God reaching out through a friendship. In what ways did Diane feel lost? What difference has her friendship with Jane and her new found faith made?

Read "That none should perish" 2 Peter 3.8-10

- The context of this letter seems to be Christians struggling in their faith, discouraged by persecution and the delayed return of their Lord. Verses 8-10 give encouragement that God is faithful to his promises and that he wants none to perish.
- Can you think of an example of being challenged by God's timing? Tell the group what happened.
- What reason does God give for his patience? How does this affect your motivation in evangelism?
- Ask God to give you his heart of compassion for the lost. Have you ever experienced this before?

Witness

- Ask each other about answers to prayers that you prayed for particular friends last week.
- Listen to Diane and Jane's Story Part 2.
- Pray and plan for the mission activity of the cell. If it would be useful, revise the cell's mission statement that you made earlier.
- Keep praying for the people on your cell's prayer list. Specifically pray for "people of peace".

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Cell Leaders' Meeting Outline

AIM: To be encouraged by sharing stories from cells in the Tas Valley and Mattishall.

To help cell leaders to know how to help their cell find a shared vision for Mission and then to facilitate the group in such a way that the members work towards realising that vision.

Welcome (7.30pm): Briefly introduce yourself and your cell. Share one of your dreams for the future of your cell and what you would like to see happen to it over the next 12 months

Worship (7.50): Lead by Mattishall Cell Leaders

Word (8.10): Look at Jesus' Mission statement: Read Luke 4.18-19 & Luke 19.10. Split up into 3s and create his mission statement in your own words

Back in the whole group, share when have you personally experienced the results of this mission statement? In which area of your own life would you like to see more of this? In pairs pray for each other.

Witness (8.30): The Mission of your cell:

20 mins: As far as you can, explain to the group what is the mission of your current cell. For example, is it to reach out to a particular group of friends, a workplace, school, neighbourhood etc? Try to think of a group of people known to most of the cell members. It could be simply to reach everyone's friends.

20 mins: Join with one or two others to discuss how you might develop the mission of your cell – you may wish to choose a cell leader who is facing similar issues to you. Pray together for the Mission of your cells.

Closing Prayer/Worship (9pm.)

Saviour, we hear your call
Help us to follow

Glory to God

whose power at work among us can do infinitely more than all we can ask or conceive to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

For Tas Valley Cells:

Dates to draw to the attention of cell members

15th June - Alpha Garden Party at Saxlingham Rectory tel 499869

16th - Pub Meal for Thursday Morning Cell and Friends. The Mill 7.30 for 8.
Ring Jo 473030

19th - 6.30pm - Praise Service at Tasburgh, led by Chris and Susie Millard

25th June - One Day Alpha Conference, The Well, Ashill, Norfolk.

10th July - 4.30pm Worship "4ALL", "OUT OF THIS WORLD"

5.30pm - Holiday Club Leaders' Meeting at Swainsthorpe Church

Future of Thursday Morning Cells: - To merge? If so how? – Meal on 16th

Make dates for cell leader training (8 sessions) Would you like to do these as a course on successive fortnights or at monthly/6-weekly cell meetings. Please talk to Sally about who else in your cell might benefit from cell leader training.

Please grab Sally And fix a time to meet, talk about your cell and pray about once a month: Available slots = 2-5 17th June, daytime 21st or 28th June, evening 2nd, 3rd or 9th July (come for a meal!)

Visit of George Lings George is the director of the Sheffield Centre - which is a Church of England centre for research and consultancy in mission. He is the author of a series of booklets entitled "On the Edge" about fresh ways of being church. From 12th-15th June, he is visiting the Tas Valley Benefice, with the view that our cell church may be featured in his next "On the Edge Booklet". Please ask your cell members if they can offer George a meal and/or an opportunity to talk with you about your experience of cells

George's programme so far:

12th – 4.30 – 4All Service

Evening – Meal with Gazes and/or?

13th – Morning – Orientation – Tour of Benefice with Sally

Lunch – Chris and Susie Millard (12 noon)

Afternoon – Sheila Buchanen (2.30pm)

5pm – Tea with Gazes

6.30pm – Visit Teresa Stevens

7.30pm – Youth cells

14th – MORNING?

Lunch – with Jo and Tanya's cell, Saxlingham Church Room

AFTERNOON?

Evening – Susie's and/or William's cell

15th – Morning – Staff meeting with Phil and Sally

Afternoon - ? Home?

We pray for strength to follow Jesus
Jesus said, "As the Father sent me, so I send you"
Saviour, we hear your call
Help us to follow

Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to be great among you
must be your servant
Saviour, we hear your call
Help us to follow

Jesus said, "Unless you change
and become humble like little children.
You can never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
Saviour, we hear your call
Help us to follow

Jesus said, "Be merciful as your Father is merciful
love your enemies and do good to them"
Saviour, we hear your call
Help us to follow

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you;
there is no greater love than this,
to lay down your life for your friends
Saviour, we hear your call
Help us to follow

Jesus said, "Go to people everywhere
and make them my disciples
and I will be with you always to the end of time
Saviour, we hear your call
Help us to follow

Glory to God
**whose power at work among us
can do infinitely more
than all we can ask or conceive
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
for ever and ever. Amen.**

A changing context

Among the changes in our society listed by the report are:

- Greater mobility
- Weakening neighbourhoods
- A network society
- Consumer culture (buying into ideas and lifestyles)
- Christendom is over – Move from religion of obligation to religion of consumption

Discuss in 2s and 3s:

- **Can we recognise this “changing context” in our area and the people we know?**
- **Are there identifiable groups of people who are absent from our churches?**

The need for a “Mixed Economy Church”

Mixed economy means

- Assessing the old and valuing where and for whom it works
- Investing in, creating and nurturing a diversity of the new

Discuss:

- **Where and for whom do the existing ways of being church work well?**
- **Where are “fresh expressions” of church needed in order that other groups of people may see and hear the reality of Jesus?**
- **What sorts of “fresh expressions” of church are beyond the reach of individual parish churches but achievable if a number of churches in a deanery work together?**

Recommendations

- **A readiness to explore and bless church-planting and fresh expressions of church**
- **A strategy for each diocese for the mixed economy church**
- **Both old and new accountable to the bishop, held, enabled and supported within the Anglican family**

Prayers

We pray for strength to follow Jesus
Jesus said, “As the Father sent me, so I send you”
Saviour, we hear your call

Help us to follow

Jesus said, “Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant
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Jesus said, “Unless you change and become humble like little children. You can never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
Saviour, we hear your call

Help us to follow

“The change is to an outward focus: from a “come to us” approach, to a “we will go to you” attitude, embodying the gospel where people are, rather than embodying it where we are and in ways we prefer.”

MISSION SHAPED CHURCH PG 41