

Reaching New People



A Report from the Deanery Synod on the talk by Revd Alison Jackson our Fresh Expressions Advisor.

Alison invited the members of Synod to reflect together on “What is your prayer for your Deanery?”

Making New Disciples is the current priority for the Diocese and the Deanery. We want to see spiritual and numerical growth

- 1) Renewing existing modes of church and
- 2) reaching new people in new ways – Fresh Expressions (FX for short)

Reaching New People.

We can develop fresh new Christian communities of church and equip leaders. We seek 30 new communities per year for 10 years.

Alison showed a short film of young people in a FX/church situation and of Messy Church for children.

Alison proceeded to show a slide of the Journey that churches will be on at some point. This can be accessed on <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/reaching-new-people-journey/>

Alison asked: “Where is your parish at present?” in terms of its journey, and “What one thing will help you to move on from here?”

She stated that the project is about our imagination – it could be anything.

Training pathways.

- Webinars are available every other Wednesday on the Diocesan website.
- Learning events and Vision Days are currently being promoted.
- Training for Mission Shaped Ministers is happening now (1 year duration).

Support.

- ✓ Grants are available for students' living expenses and accommodation.
 - consultancy and training is available, also for PCCs.
- ✓ Reaching New People Guides were offered and remain available in church and online at <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/reaching-new-people-guide/>
- ✓ Questions can be emailed to Alison at ajackson@stalbands.anglican.org A prayer card is available.
- ✓ Story Telling is on Social Media and Icons on Vision Day leaflets.

Reaching New People in New Ways – Introduction by Bishop Michael (full text in the Guide)

‘Reaching New People’ spans the years 2018 to 2028 of our vision to grow flourishing Christ-centred communities, through Living God’s Love: ‘Going Deeper into God,’ ‘Transforming our Communities’ and ‘Making New Disciples.’

No one need be put off by the term ‘fresh expressions’, or think, ‘It’s not for me or my church’. Reaching New People is for ALL our churches, parishes and benefices, of ALL contexts and traditions as they reach out to those never known to the church and those with whom the church has lost contact.

Fresh expressions of church can take many forms from Café Church to Messy Mass; from those incorporating Taizé worship to those adopting a more sacramental approach.

My hope is that everyone, in every church, parish and benefice finds something in this project for them.

If you have unanswered questions or comments, please do email the RNP team at np@stalbands.anglican.org

+Michael Hertford