

PETERBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

MISSION AUDIT_RESOURCE

AUDIT OF EXISTING OUTREACH, MISSION AND FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCH –
SLIGHTLY ADAPTED FROM 'MANGO' SURVEY' OF FX AND FRESH WAYS

For the purposes of this audit, each activity - Outreach, Mission and FxC – is called a 'project'.

It is suggested that a separate audit is done for each 'project'.

Prayerfully reflect on each of the following questions, and, even if they do not seem relevant to your situation, think about what God is saying to you.

1. What is the name of the project?
2. How is it led?
 - a) how many leaders?
 - b) are they lay or ordained?
3. If you had an aim when starting the project, reflect on what that was, and whether that has changed/developed. Was/is it to...
 - a) encourage people who already attend church
 - b) attract people who are not churchgoers, or who have not been for some time
 - c) provide an opportunity for fellowship
 - d) deepen your pastoral connection with people
 - e) help people learn about the Christian faith
 - f) provide a space where people can give their lives to Christ
 - g) meet a specific missional need (eg. Feeding the homeless, nurturing children and youth)
 - h) attract people towards Sunday morning worship
 - i) give people an opportunity to worship at a different time (other than Sunday mornings)
 - j) form a new church (when the time is right)
4. who does the project reach out to?
 - a) people who have had little or no previous experience of church
 - b) people who had a poor experience of 'church' elsewhere, but who feel comfortable with this new context
 - c) people who were already part of the Methodist church, but who find that this project gives them fulfillment
 - d) people who attend other churches than the MC, but who also find fulfillment in this project
 - e) people with very similar needs
 - f) people who have very different needs

(The Church Army Research Unit, the Pitsmoor Cycle, 2010)

Evidence suggests that 4 key factors are at work as people become involved in Christian mission

- i) People experience God as they are **blessed** and feel that they **belong**
- ii) As people come to know and understand what we **believe**, their own beliefs are challenged
- iii) This learning is reinforced by our **behavior** and shared rituals (simple things we do repeatedly)
- iv) Newcomers reach a point where they are '**bothered**' by the Gospel to the extent that they respond, and crucially, encourage others

The following questions are aimed at helping you to understand how your project engages with people. It may be that your project is stronger in one aspect than another; most projects will link in with other aspects of church work.

In a growing project, identifying things that could be better is a strength rather than a downfall. Think about how your project blesses people and helps them grow in their sense of belonging.

5. How does the project help people to learn about the Christian faith, and grow in their understanding of what this means?
6. How does the project underpin this through 'rituals' for example, welcoming, worshipping together, studying, sharing meals?
7. How does this project help newcomers commit to Christ and grow as disciples?
8. How does this project continue to invite newcomers?