



A city centre resource church is a church which, working closely with the local bishop, intentionally resources mission across a city, by planting and revitalising churches, developing leaders and providing other resources for mission. Its aim is to help evangelise the city and transform society.

Definition

- City or Town
- Designated as such by the diocesan bishop
- Intentionally resources mission across the city

By:

- Planting
- Revitalising churches
- Developing a pipeline of leaders for further planting
- Providing other resources for mission

Aims to:

- Help evangelise the city and transform society

Transferable?

- Very high population density
- Rapidly growing population
- Many young adults moving there
- Very diverse ethnic communities
- Geographical mobility/easy transport
- Meeting in third places
- People looking for their thing to do
- Concentrated wealth & professional skills

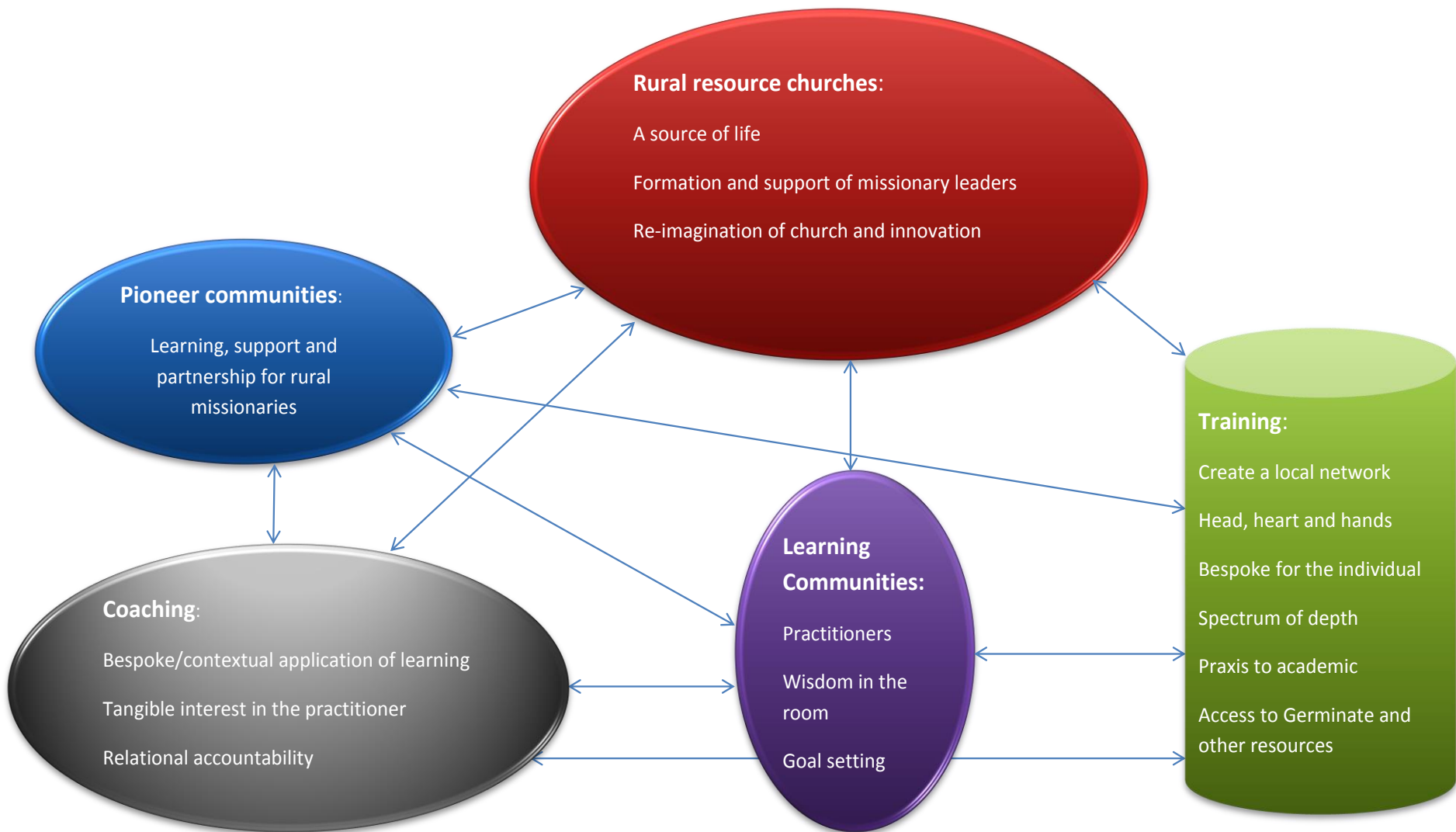
Fresh Expressions in Rural areas

When identifying more:

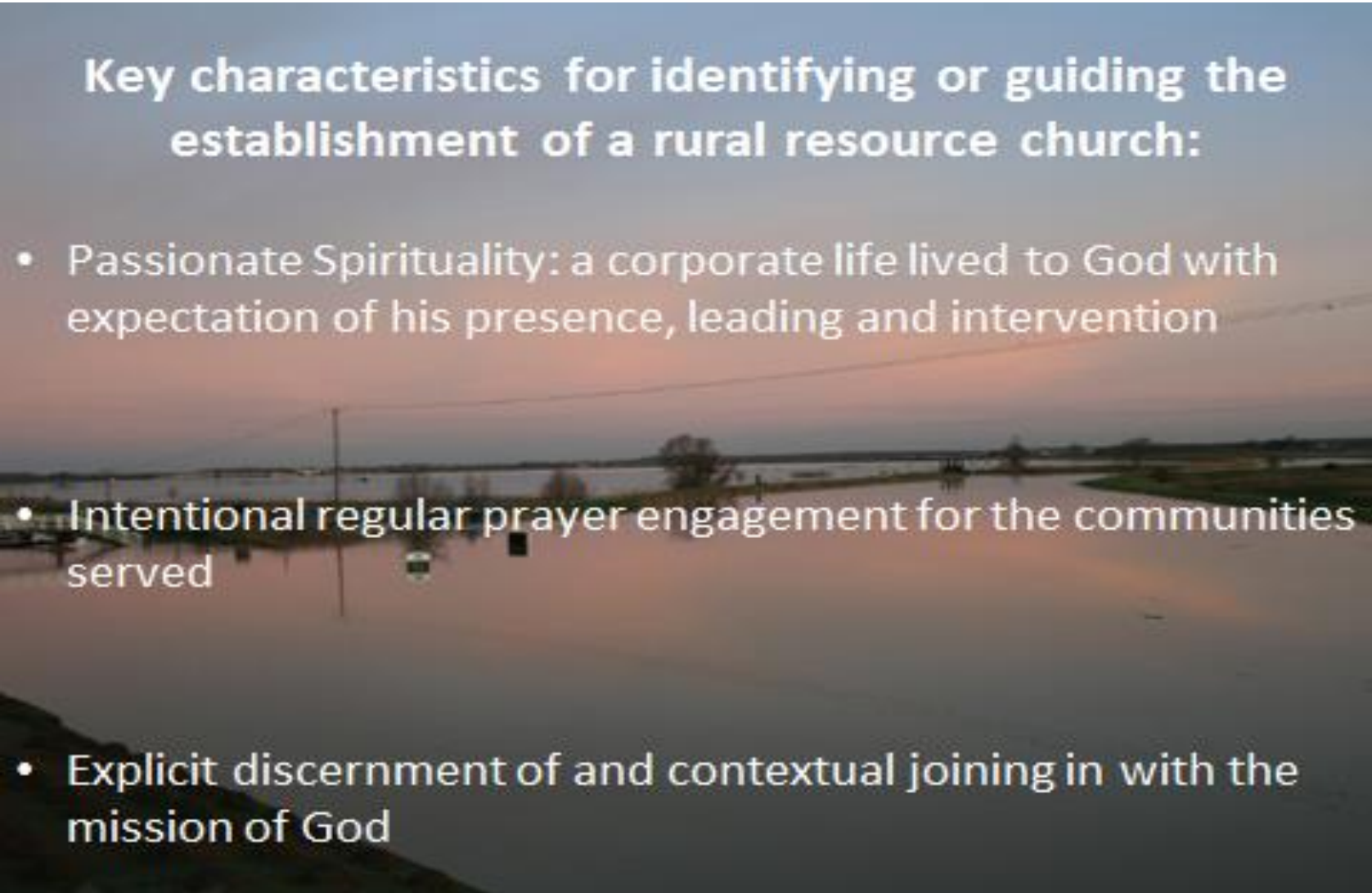
- Messy
- Café
- Youth

Have we found what is being tried rather than what may be most fruitful?

Rural mission strategy



Integrate with prayer, research, communications, deployment, funding, vision, leadership

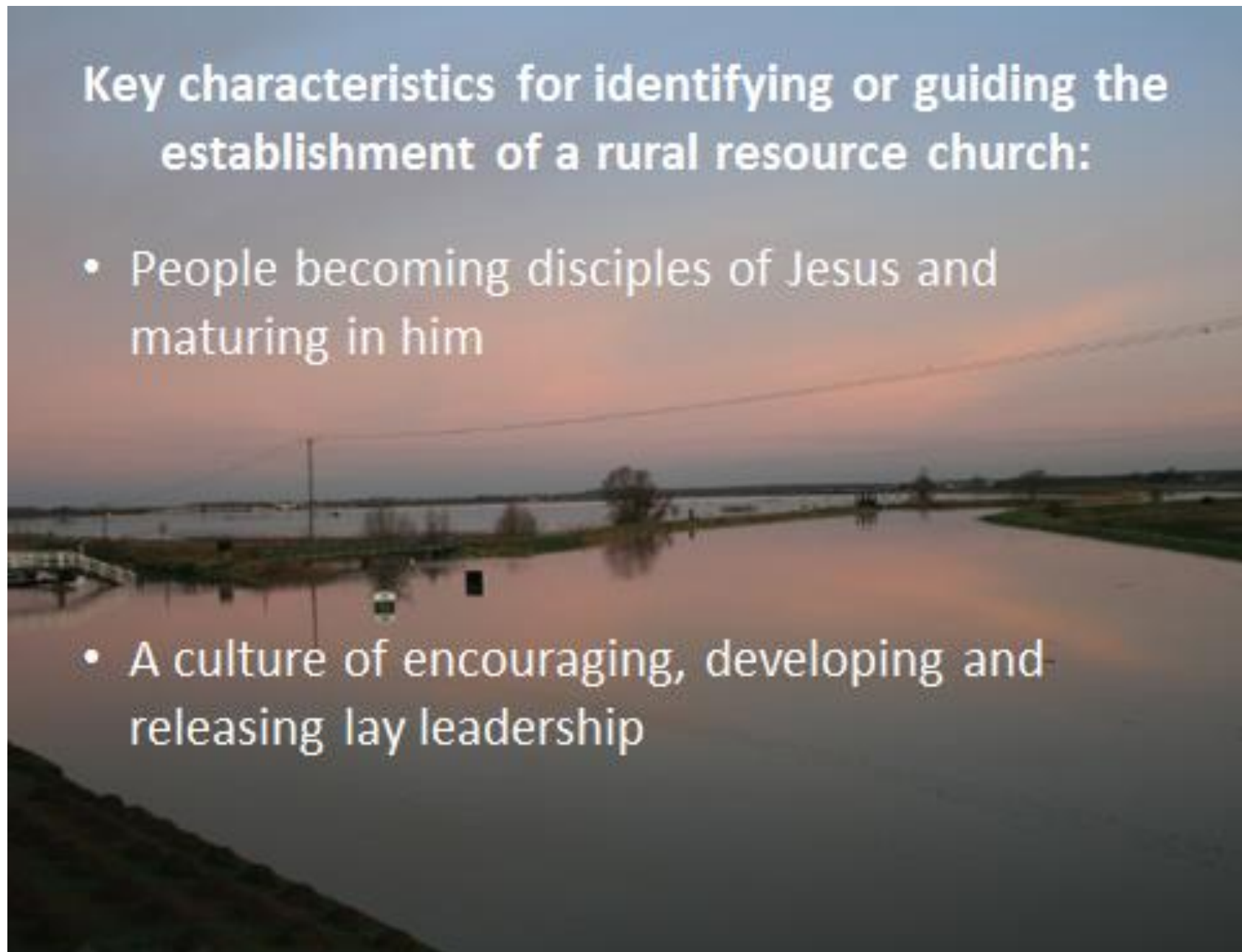


Key characteristics for identifying or guiding the establishment of a rural resource church:

- **Passionate Spirituality:** a corporate life lived to God with expectation of his presence, leading and intervention
- **Intentional regular prayer engagement** for the communities served
- **Explicit discernment of and contextual joining in with the mission of God**

Key characteristics for identifying or guiding the establishment of a rural resource church:

- People becoming disciples of Jesus and maturing in him
- A culture of encouraging, developing and releasing lay leadership



characteristics for identifying or guiding the establishment of a rural resource church:

- Commitment to the mixed economy of traditional and innovative forms of church with love and respect for both
- A vision beyond the local which is servant and integrating not colonising or collecting



Key characteristics for identifying or guiding the establishment of a rural resource church:

- Generosity which seeks the Kingdom not the churches' own "brand" or flag
- Ecumenical sharing of mission planning and ecumenical working practice where possible
- Commitment to seeing local communities flourish in every way



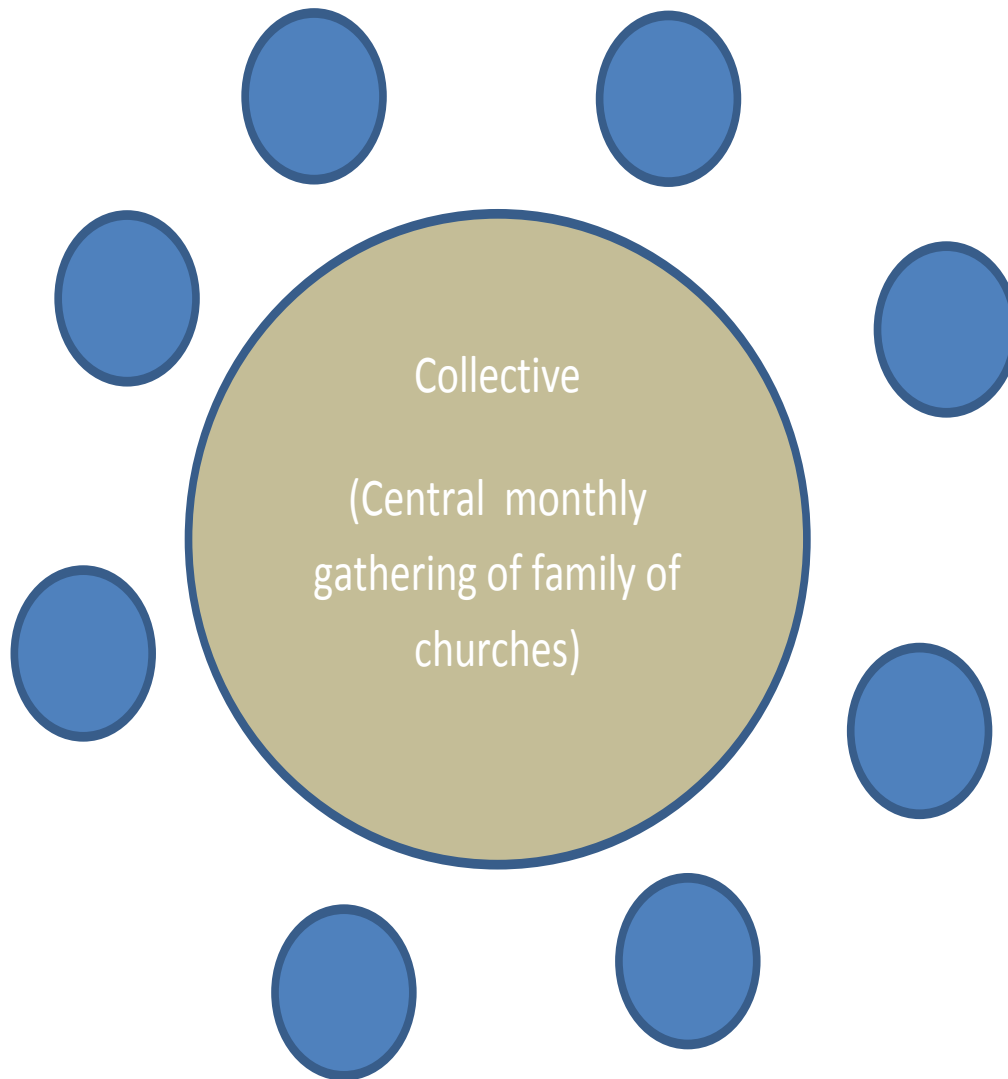
Pioneer Community



Shaping ministry around a mission strategy

- The model for mission embraces & develops a culture that grows missional disciples
- 4 core elements....
 - **Mission**
 - **Pursuit of vision and vocation**
 - **Prayer**
 - **Community – serving, blessing, building, loving**

Threshold model: Collective and Mission 'edges'



Collective: Leadership with a wide vision

- Resourcing for Mission, evangelism, discipleship, prayer, coaching, accountability, safeguarding, finances and admin and provides for example a critical mass for the young / young families
- Leadership with wide vision
- Resourcing for mission: interest, prayer, coaching, accountability, insurance, safeguarding, finance, extra hands
- Critical mass - the young need each other
- Common values
- Weekly gathering : one community with worship and teaching

- ***Mission edges:- Dispersal***
- We encounter those who don't believe – the edge of the Church
- Two or more are called to seek God, to see people become disciples, to form community
- All are needed: all gifts, experience and personalities have a vital and unique place
- All can grow as disciples and care for each other as we live mission together.
- Local leaders with contextual mission engagement and community building
- Discipleship, pastoral care, accountability with freedom to move
- Ecumenical relationships, approach and working

Bardney mixed economy



Threshold – some mission edges

Schools work

Biblical wine
tasting

Friday
church

Prayer-based
community

Messy
churches

REAL Club

- Spiritual renewal / Vocation and Call / Gifting / Lay leadership / Developing, release, resource lay leaders
- Core aspects of Mission Strategy
- **Encounter with God** – passionate spirituality (NCD) – same as Threshold
- **Release new vision and energy for vision** – God is doing something new
- **Release leaders** – lay – calling out, training, developing core teams
- **Mixed economy** – ‘Both And’ – church and other buildings / worship style etc

Fountain of Life - Norfolk

Missional Communities

- ❑ Lightweight + lay-led
 - ❑ Formed around geography, demography or interest
 - ❑ Size: 20-50
 - ❑ Places of welcome and discipleship
 - ❑ Not a bridge into church: are church
-

Fountain Network

- Develop Network of resource
 - Support leaders
 - Equip for mission
 - Fountainnetwork.org
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Resource church

- Resource mission to children
 - Network children's workers
 - Digging Deeper: discipleship programme
 - Pastoral Courses
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1 Encounter with God

- 'No matter what your preferred spiritual styles are, passionate spirituality deals with the question of how to make the Christian faith the holistic experience of a personal encounter with Christ.' Christian Schwartz Natural Church Development



2. Releasing Vision

- Prioritise primary gifting and calling
- Vision and passion
- Relational rather than rules-based
- Open to new ways of engagement



3. Releasing Leaders

- ‘to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up’ Eph 4:12
- Missional communities
- Trained **and** released
- Development of leadership core
- Low on control; high on accountability



4. Genius of 'both' 'and'

- 'Small' and 'Large'
- 'Scattered' and 'Gathered'
- 'Come' and 'Go'
- 'Welcomed' and 'Sent'
- 'Local' and 'Central'
- 'Children' and 'social action'



5. Perseverance

- Faith and patience to never give up
- Loyal radicals
- Dissatisfaction with status quo
- Commitment to mission and unity

