Chelmsford diocese’s fresh expressions of Church

A presentation to the diocesan synod, March 2014

Church Army’s Research unit

Seeing and sharing what God is doing in mission

Chelmsford diocese was surveyed as part of NATIONAL research. It is funded, in part by Church Army, and in part by the Church Commissioners. Both work with the Church of England in areas of need and opportunity.
Why was the research done?

• Church Commissioners want to discover, and invest in, what is effective
• Our Research Unit saw the need to move from telling stories to finding stats

‘Fresh expressions of Church save the world’

‘I rather doubt it’
What makes something a fresh expression of Church [fxC]

- Missional [aims to reach outsiders]
- Contextual [fits for where people are]
- Formational [makes Christian disciples]
- Ecclesial [aims to be church]
Try this analogy ...

\[ H_2O \]

Hydrogen with Oxygen = Water
Leave either out and you don’t get water

‘Fresh expression’ = contextualised & missional
‘of Church’ = the identity is ecclesial

Missional with Ecclesial = fresh expression of Church
Omit either ... its not an fxC  [it’s OK to be something else]

Our ten research criteria tested for the presence of both
Only 46% qualified on both counts and 42% of Chelmsford examples
Missional measures
refresh expressions of Church [fxC]

How many examples does Chelmsford have?
How big are they?
How many people go to them?
What sort of people go to them?
When did they start?
Why did they start?
Where are they?
Is it worth it?
The number of fxC and their sizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>No. of fxC</th>
<th>Begun</th>
<th>Live</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>under 20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 49</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 69</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 to 99</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100+</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average dioc. church congregation: 70.2
fxC percentage of churches: 8.4%
Number of churches in diocese: 598
Number of fxC: 53
How many people go to our fxC?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>1143</th>
<th>Chelmsford AWA</th>
<th>42200</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>fxC attendance</td>
<td>1830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1830</td>
<td>% of whole</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This number more than reverses your AWA decline 2006-11 of 2.8%
NB In the same period the population grew 12.8%

So how good is that?
The fxC are **8.4% of your churches**
and the attendees are **4.4% of your diocesan family**
The average across 10 dioceses is ...
fxC are **15.3% of the churches and 9.5% of the attendees**

It could be said - there is further to go
What kind of people go to our fxC?

Here’s the average from 10 dioceses

Rough proportions of three groups

- Christians: 25%
- De-churched: 29%
- Non-churched: 46%

Chelmsford does better!

- Christians: 25%
- De-churched: 29%
- Non-Churched: 46%
When did the fxC start? – by Diocese

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diocese</th>
<th>92 - 98</th>
<th>99 - 05</th>
<th>06 - 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leicester</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwich</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ripon &amp; Leeds</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blackburn</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most cases are post *Mission-shaped Church*

The annual avg. rate of starts is now x 4 compared with 2004

CHELMSFORD is starting >five times as many as ten years ago
It’s a big leap forward in the last 7 years

When Chelmsford fxC started

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>No. of fxC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992-98</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-05</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-12</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lessons from why the fxC started

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Diocesan Initiative</th>
<th>Growth Philosophy</th>
<th>Unreached People Group</th>
<th>Inadequate Penetration of Parish</th>
<th>New Housing Opportunity</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1992-98</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What was the Geographical Area planted into?

- **Easier Contexts?**
- **Tougher Contexts?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Urban Centres</th>
<th>Urban Priority Areas</th>
<th>Local Authority Estates</th>
<th>Local Private Estates</th>
<th>Private Housing Estates</th>
<th>Estate Towns</th>
<th>Suburban Towns</th>
<th>New Towns</th>
<th>Expanded Villages</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-98</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TC**
Where are they within the diocese?

GREEN = genuine fxC
BLUE = fxC that has died
YELLOW = Arch towards fxC
What did the Chelmsford attendees come from?

Average from 10 dioceses:
Network = 37%

Conclusion - Both parish and network matter in the mission of the C of E.
Is starting an fxC a worthwhile investment?

For every one person sent ... there are now two more – or 200% growth

How many other churches can match that?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sent</th>
<th>Now</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>1143</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>1830</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ecclesial evaluations
re fresh expressions of Church [fxC]

What kinds are there?
Do they make disciples?
What are they doing about Sacraments?
Where and when do they meet?
Who can do this?
- by church tradition
- by team size
- by varieties of leader
How many are ecumenical?
Can Church change and still be really church?
The variety of fxC

All the kinds listed proved to be needed [Many double classify]
So in that mode of calculating …

Messy Church 17%
For older shut-ins 4%
Adults only 23%

Those aiming to be 67%
for all ages

If single type classification is used
Then
Messy Church 34%
For Older shut ins 8%

The other figures still stand
How do fxC disciple people?

- Not at this stage
- 1-1
- Small Groups
- Courses
- Serving in teams

NB Many examples offer more than 1 of these paths. The pie chart shows the distribution.

Only 20% said ‘not at this stage’: Chelmsford is above average.
Steps towards sacramental life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diocese</th>
<th>Holds HC %</th>
<th>Baptism %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>47.4</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leicester</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwich</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>47.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ripon &amp; L</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackburn</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>42.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>42.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>47.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practice varies with ...
Type of fxC
Clientele
Frequency of meeting

Table 22
Does the fxC offer Communion?

- Yes: 54%
- No: 36%

At fxCs that do not offer Communion, what is the reason?

- Not Yet: 59%
- No Presider: 17%
- See No Need: 17%
- Impractical: 7%
Does the fxC offer Baptism?

- Yes: 64%
- No: 34%

At fxCs that do not offer Baptisms, what is the reason?

- Not Yet: 65%
- No Presider: 24%
- Other: 9%
Where does the fxC meet?

66% do not meet in the church building.
Chelmsford scores the highest seen for not meeting in church.
maybe that it fits with your high non-churched figure.
When they meet and how frequently

Non Sunday examples @ 59%
That's typical

Frequency:
- Weekly: 42%
- Fortnightly: 10%
- Monthly: 48%
Who can do this?

- Is it only one tradition?
- Does it take a large team?
- Does it need a full time specialist?
Traditions and fxC

NB Many cases cited > 1 tradition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instances</th>
<th>Evangelical</th>
<th>Charismatic</th>
<th>Central</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest %</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlight – all traditions can do this if they choose to

The table shows the % of cases owned one of the traditions, at least in part
How many does it take to do this?

Size of Team taken

A team of 3-12 people is chosen by 74% of cases. This could mean many more churches can do this.
Is the Leader Lay or Ordained?

- Lay: 52%
- Ordained: 48%

42% of all leaders have no recognized leader status – they are ‘lay lay’
The changing leader picture over time

- **1992-98**: 78% Ordained, 22% Lay
- **1999-05**: 55% Ordained, 45% Lay
- **2006-12**: 40% Ordained, 60% Lay

Legend: Lay, Ordained
Gender of the Leader

- Male Leader: 52%
- Female Leader: 48%

Work Status of the Leader

- Full Time (FT): 57%
- Part Time (PT): 18%
- Spare Time (ST): 25%

Averages

- FT: 48.5
- PT: 17.9
- ST: 33.6
Work Status of the Leader by Gender

Male Leaders

Female Leaders

- Full Time
- Part Time
- Spare Time
Ecumenical partnerships?

Chelmsford

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active partners</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church of England only</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal ecumenical cooperation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal LEP</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures are typical elsewhere
In conclusion ...

• About one quarter of the English dioceses have been surveyed for their fxC, at a 98.5% response rate

• The survey in Chelmsford shows how far you have come, reveals strengths and weaknesses, and prompts today’s debate

• How are we to think of these fxC?
An fxC? The 10 parameters used

1. Is corporately Christian; a new and further group, not an existing one that has been improved
2. Planters have tried to engage with non-church people in their context
3. Meets at least once a month
4. Has a name, that gives an identity
5. An intention to be church
6. Is it Anglican? – Bishop sees it as part of the family
7. Some form of recognised leadership
8. The majority of members see it as their church
9. Aspiration for the 4 ecclesial / creedal relationships
10. Intention to become 3 self – in context
### Inclusion / Exclusion

**50 examples did qualify**

Exclusions = 70

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Arch on from fxC or towards an fxC</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Died</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Infrequent [&lt; monthly]</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Not an fxC</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Duplicate record</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Not Yet: planned not started</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>eXcluded: outside of 1992 – 2012 period</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chelmsford:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

‘N’ category unpacked:

- 4 Rebadged existing services
- 19 Outreach projects
- 2 Lasted under 2 years

- 5 Rebadged groups / events
- 7 new events for Christians
The mortality rate in fxC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diocese</th>
<th>No. died</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leicester</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwich</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ripon &amp; L</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackburn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

36% of the ‘died’ took no steps towards discipleship. The average of ‘no steps’ for the 10 dioc’s = 22%

36% of the ‘died’ took no steps towards a ‘three self’ ID. That average in 10 dioc’s = 26%

54% of the ‘died’ had celebrated communion but of those still alive, 38% had done so

Examples meeting fortnightly are the most likely [16%] to die

9.7% 50/518 fxC