

A Shared Vision for a Missional Christian Community at Windrush Place, Witney



The photo above shows the marquee erected for our Harvest Food Bank event

INTRODUCTION

We see Pioneering as being about listening to and responding to the community we aim to reach, and about listening to God. By writing down our vision as we see and hear it now, we hope this will inspire others to join us or partner with us on this exciting journey.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is all about Jesus, seeing what He is doing in people's lives and walking along side.

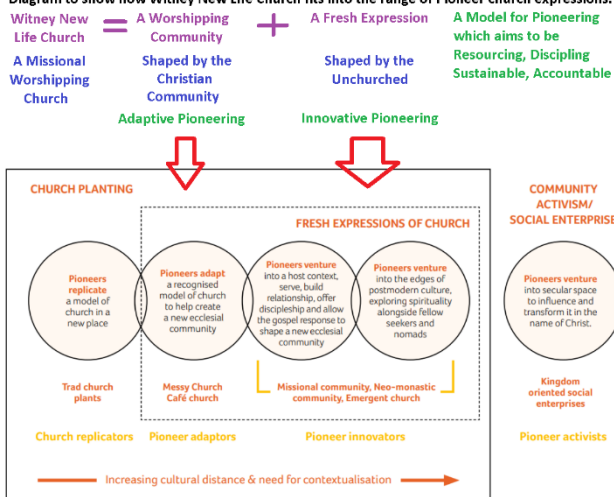
"To reach out to the residents of Windrush Place and the surrounding communities, seeing those who live there become disciples of Jesus."

VISION STRATEGY

The exciting part of Pioneering, is that we don't know what the new Expressions of church will look like! We are listening and responding to the Christian and unchurched communities in West Witney, to help establish activities and gatherings which meet their needs.

We have a diagram which for the academics explains how this model of church planting compares to traditional approaches.

Diagram to show how Witney New Life Church fits into the range of Pioneer church expressions.



Adapted from Pioneer Spectrum diagram Ref: Anvil Pioneering Mission Spectrum Vol 34 Issue 1

A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

We see a Missional and worshipping community of Christians meeting regularly on Sunday mornings, providing the resource to enable mission activities and helping to disciple those who come to faith. This will be *Shaped by the Christian community*.

Whilst we may continue activities at different times, we would encourage those called to Mission at West Witney to make this church their home. Jesus calls us to Go, not to just visit. To become part of the community we are called to share Jesus with.

Once a month we propose to hold a service focussed on Bible teaching, worship, and communion to ensure the spiritual needs of the Christian community are met.

On other Sundays we plan to be creative for example: café style church, special events, inviting artists, or speakers with powerful testimonies to our gatherings.

Our vision is for these gatherings to stay approachable to the unchurched, which means the style and language of presentation should deliberately be kept close to mainstream cultural norms.

We will gather informally to start with and to see what components of worship, teaching, children's activities and prayer, people would like to see.

A FRESH EXPRESSION

As a Missional Church our focus will be on supporting the development of a second Fresh Expression of church, which will be *Shaped by the unchurched*.

The approach is called *Innovative Pioneering*, since it will be led by the Holy Spirit working through the unchurched members to bring a fresh and new expression which meets their needs and fits the context.

Again we do not know what this will look like! It might look like Forest Church, Art Church, Allotment Church, Pub Church or more likely something completely new.

THE LOCATION

Witney New Life Church has a vision to serve the communities on the new estates in West Witney centered around the larger Windrush Place estate. The other estates include Colewell Green, Lakeview and Spring Meadow.

With the opening of Windrush Church of England Primary School in September 2021, the Windrush Place community will have its first venue for indoor events. The use of this space has been offered to the church.



The design of the building includes a meeting hall which will be equipped with data projectors and a screen, and have a cross symbol in the largest outside window, indicating it's combined role as a place of worship and school assembly area. Extra rooms for

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smaller events are available and a kitchen area is provided. The school seeks to reach out to the community and has invited Jacky to be part of their planning. One of the other members of the missional team has become a school governor.

This creates an incredible, God-given opportunity to establish a Christian Community at the heart of Windrush Place.

SERVING THROUGH COVID LOCKDOWN

Looking back over the last year we are amazed at how Covid-19 has provided incredible opportunities to serve the community and to build valuable relationships.

We have a team of helpers who support Jacky in providing regular Trails around the estate and craft activities for young children. Our hope is for these activities to continue through lock-down and beyond.



Easter Trail



Easter Tree decorations



Distribution by Jacky



Lemonade craft



Stone decorating craft



House building craft

In the summer of 2020 we held a Teddy Bears Picnic, with social distancing. This was well supported by the community and by town and district councillors.



PRAY, PRAY and PRAY

The three most important things we can do are to pray, to pray and to pray again. We hope to be able to join with those who share our vision, to regularly pray for the emerging church in West Witney.

Please pray for our leaders and helpers as we seek to make the love of Jesus known.

Pray whether God might be calling you to help or support or to join us.

BAPTIST OR ECUMENICAL

Jacky's ministry at West Witney has been funded and supported by the Baptist denomination. We are open to partnering with other churches to form a more ecumenical or independent church.

We see building of God's kingdom as our greater mission above building our denomination.

WORKING TOGETHER

The recent Christmas activities which featured the Cogges church Carol van which visited six locations at Windrush Place, demonstrating how working together we can achieve far more.

Our activities also included a Christmas Trail, Christingle craft, Carol Window craft and an online video Carol Service.



Carol Van, Andy and Jacky



Carol Windows



Christingles



Carol Van



Carol Van



Nativity Trail

FINALLY

If you would like to know more about what we are doing do drop me a line.

Above all, please pray for the communities in West Witney.

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