



Ministry in the Lightwave Community

The Lightwave Community is a supportive community of small missional groups across the whole of Suffolk

- to help bring new Christians to faith
- to help both new and established Christians to grow in discipleship, vocation and leadership
- to enable new culturally appropriate fresh expressions of church and other mission initiatives develop in a healthy and sustainable way in both rural and urban contexts.

In a Lightwave Group, every member is involved in ministry although only a couple of people will be the commissioned group leaders or facilitators. Lightwave group leaders may be lay or ordained, have completed theological degree or be new Christians, just starting out.

What do Lightwave Groups do?

Lightwave groups pray, study the bible and seek to live life growing in God together. They see themselves as being on mission with Jesus. Some Lightwave groups are the team for a fresh expression of Church. Others may themselves become the church for people new to faith. The small groups meet regularly (normally weekly) to build their group life round a simple set of values:

All involved

Becoming disciples

Creating community

Doing evangelism

Encountering God

Discerning God's call

If you have a sense that God is calling you to reach out with others to share his love in your local community or network, then the Lightwave Community may well help you to follow this call.

- Pray about this with others and explore by joining an existing group or taking part in one of the Lightwave courses such as small group leader training or msm-flexi
- If you want to start a group/be commissioned, seek an informal interview with the leader of the Lightwave community and talk with your local church leader (unless you are the vicar yourself)
- Potential leaders of small groups will need a DBS check and to complete a Safeguarding training course.

Accountability and support

As well as discerning the mission to which God is calling you, there will be a need to discern the structures of accountability which will be needed by the small group. These need to be locally discerned, however if your Lightwave group is contained within a Church of England parish you will normally meet under the authority of your local PCC and Incumbent. If you are an ecumenical group or your group works over a several parishes, the Bishop's Mission Order for Lightwave will usually provide an alternative framework.

Wherever the accountability of your Lightwave Group lies, ongoing support for Lightwave group includes:

- Coaching for leadership of small missional groups
- Evangelism coaching
- Missional Listening training
- msm-flexi (a year-long course in which your small group is coached and facilitated to learn about and start pioneering mission together)
- 'The Gathering' – a monthly meet-up for people engaged in pioneering mission.

Training for leaders of missional small groups

The course for small group leaders and potential or assistant leaders in the Lightwave community takes place over six sessions. Each session consists of a missional small group meeting for 1¼ hour plus a ½ hour evaluation. Each session will focus on a different area:

1. Values of the group
2. Vision of the group
3. Leadership skills
4. Healthy small group meetings
5. All involved
6. Growth.

On completion of the course, participants will:

- Have experienced healthy meetings of a small missional group
- Have been 'infected' with the values
- Gained an understanding of the nature of what a healthy missional small group looks and feels like
- established relationships with other people involved in innovative mission and fresh expressions of Church
- experienced leading different parts of the small group meeting in a learning environment.

Courses take place over six evenings and are home-based usually at the home of the course facilitator or over two Saturdays at a venue provided by you.

Small group leaders are also offered the support of a coach to help them to facilitate their group to be effective in reaching out with God's love.

Lightwave as a Community for fresh expressions of Church

"Fresh Expressions of Church are one of the amazing ways God is blessing us at this time, especially in reaching parts of the population which otherwise aren't being reached. So it's wonderful that the Lightwave Community is to fostering these ways of doing Church and following Jesus!"

Bishop Mike



Getting in touch

Find out more about the Lightwave Community at www.light-wave.org

Please get in touch, especially if:

- You want to start a small missional group or a fresh expression of church
- You are starting an outreach initiative and need to build in prayer and sustainability from the start
- You want to reach out and share the gospel – but are feeling a bit stuck
- You are seeing people come to faith and are willing to share good news and good practice
- You want to pray for the Lightwave Community or join our mailing list
- You have a small missional group in a rural area and could build upon this with a little extra funding (most of the Lightwave support is available in both rural and urban areas – but this particular funding is for rural only)

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 **Growing in God**

Produced by Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

November 2019.

