

Session 2 Our Mission:

Notes:



The Church and Attractional Mission: An invitation to others to come and join us



The Church as sign and witness: The Church's story is seen as a radical alternative to the world's story – others are invited into a different story, a different world.

The Church is at the centre of the evangelistic task.

The Church seeks to be distinct from the world but not separate from the world. The church is called to be the people of God in public.

The Church tries to hold onto its unique identity – it wants to be different rather than making attempts to adapt to become more acceptable to the world.

Leslie Newbigin [British theologian & Missiologists]

How is it possible that the gospel should be credible, that people should come to believe that the power which has the last word in human affairs is represented by a man hanging on a cross? I am suggesting that the only answer, the only hermeneutic [Interpretation] of the gospel, is a congregation of men and women who believe it and live by it



The Church amongst the people: Incarnational mission. People GO out from the Church
May include 'missional listening' - listening to God, listening to the culture around – perceiving where God is at work, joining him there,
It includes new or Fresh Expressions of Church –Muddy Church, Renew cafe etc

Don't go to church Sunday' (opposite to Back to Church Sunday) On a chosen Sunday the Church doesn't gather – instead they go into the locality to prayer walk, to speak to people, perhaps offer shoppers free coffee, perhaps to 'Treasure hunt'

It's about connecting with those beyond the Church walls who probably won't ever come to us as gathered Church



Faith forming: This is about a life long journey of discipleship – includes opportunities for experiencing, learning and practicing the Christian faith as people walk on with Jesus.

Built into the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20)– An integral part of church mission sometimes overlooked or even neglected.

The Church is not to be singularly focused on others becoming Christians –it's mission involves this but it is so much more – it is also about a strong focused intention to disciples those who now live in the Kingdom of God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: 'A Christianity without discipleship is a Christianity without Christ'



Do you recognise any of these facets of mission at New Life?

IS 'MISSION' integral to the life of the church or more focused on certain activities / events?