

## Slides from Ian Mobsby's keynote address

Sleidiau o brif anerchiad  
Ian Mobsby



Esgobaeth  
Bangor  
The Diocese  
of Bangor



**MEATH &  
KILDARE**  
DIOCESES



**To the Light**  
**The 2017 Joint Clergy Conference of the**  
**Dioceses of Bangor and Meath & Kildare**  
St George's Hotel, Llandudno  
20-22 November 2017  
**At y Goleuni**  
**Cynhadledd Glerigol at y Cyd 2017**  
**Esgobaethau Bangor a Míth a Chil Dara**  
Gwesty San Siôr, Llandudno  
20-22 Tachwedd 2017

**Cydnabod ac ymateb i oleuni Crist yn ein cyd-destunau cyfoes**  
**Encountering & Responding to the Light of Christ In our contemporary contexts**  
 Ian Mobsby, Nov 2017

I dtreo an tSolais Ag teacht agus ag tabhairt freagra ar sholas Chríost i saol ár linne  
 At y Goleuni Cydnabod ac ymateb i oleuni Crist yn ein cyd-destunau cyfoes  
 To the Light Encountering and responding to the light of Christ in our contemporary contexts

The 2017 Joint Study Programme on the Ministry of Pastors and Priests of the Diocese of Meath & Kildare

**How do we shift from being Pastoral to Apostolic? In a Post-Secular Culture**  
**Sut ydym ni'n symud o fod yn Fugeillol i Apostolig? Mewn Diwylliant Ôl-Seciular**  
 Ian Mobsby, Nov 2017

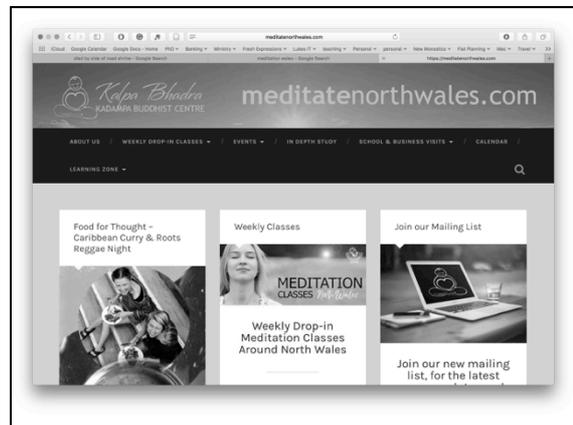
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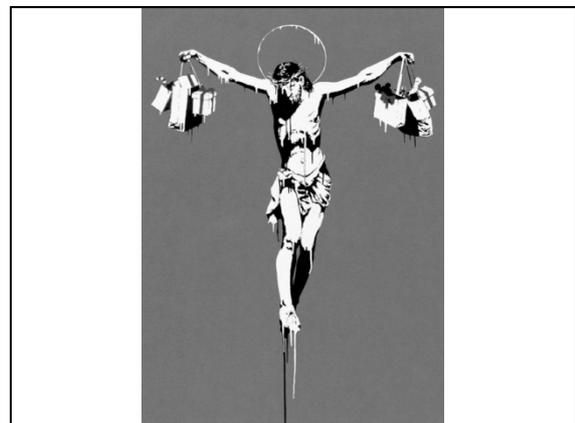
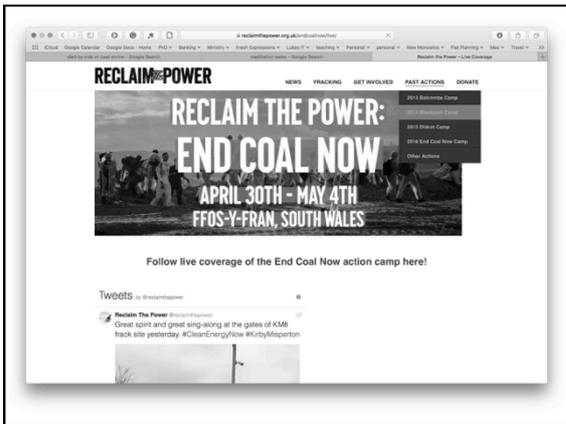
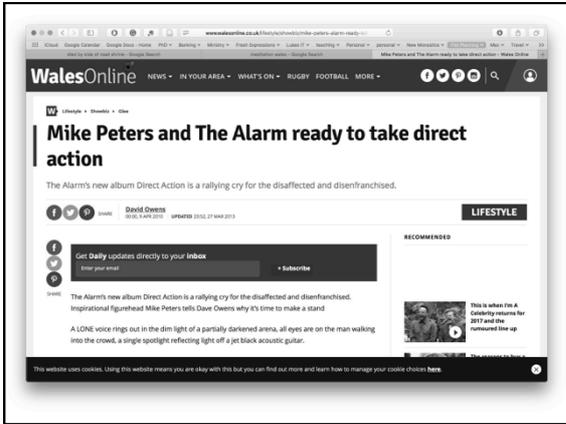
The 2017 Joint Study Programme on the Ministry of Pastors and Priests of the Diocese of Meath & Kildare

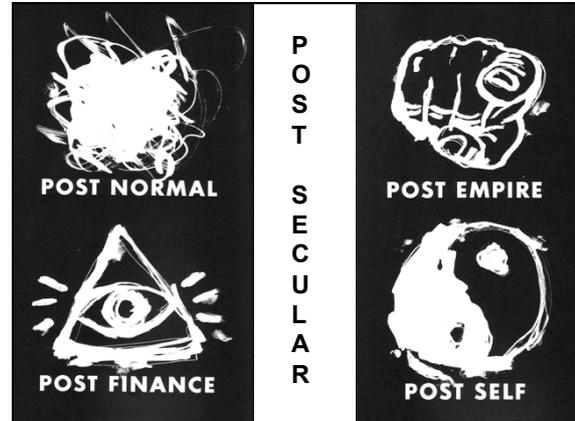
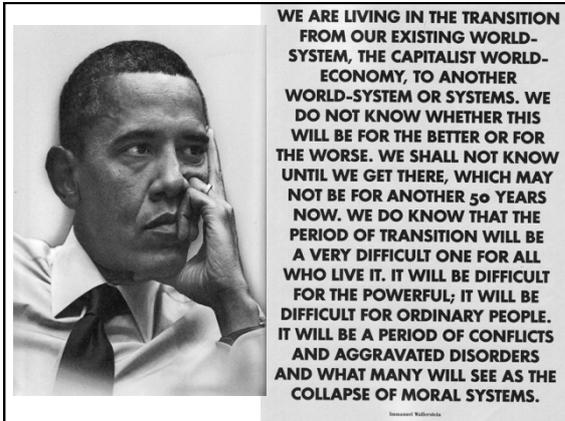
*Rydym yn byw mewn amser arbennig ym myd y Gorllewin, pan fydd mynychu'r eglwysi'n lleihau ond mae newyn ysbrydol yn codi.*

*We live in an extraordinary time in the Western world, when church attendances are diminishing but spiritual hunger is rising.*

(Dave Tomlinson, 2010).



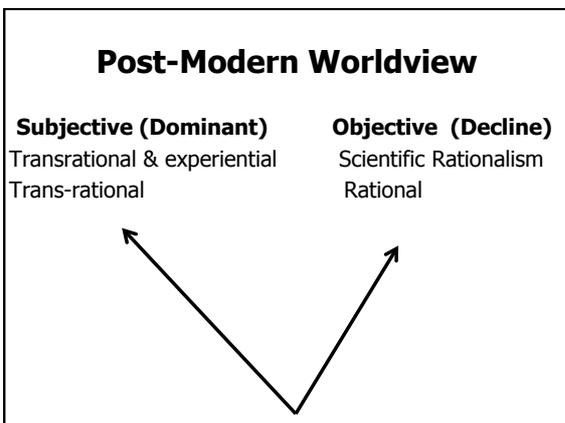
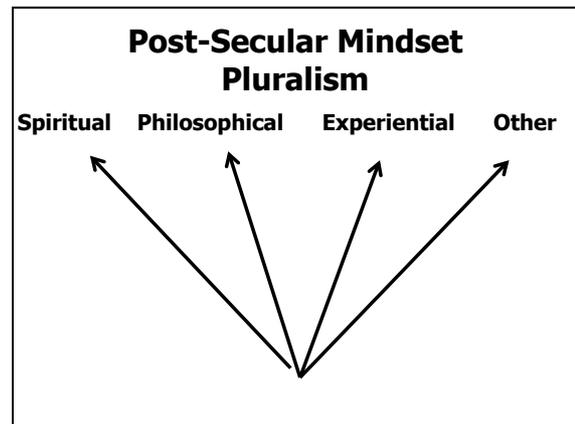


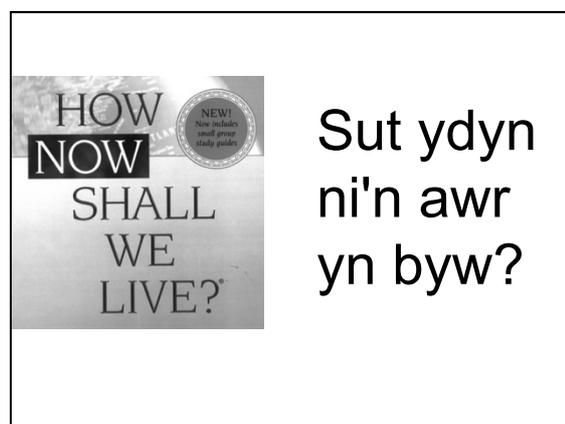


**Post-Secularisation**

Post-secularisation denotes a time when the forces of secularization have not only stopped, but where social forces have driven a renewed appreciation for the place of spirituality in general society. Whether post-secularization is actually ongoing is hotly contested. It is my contention that it is not only happening, but here to stay.

Ian Mobsby,  
*Spirituality and Mission* (London: Canterbury Press, 2012), xiii.

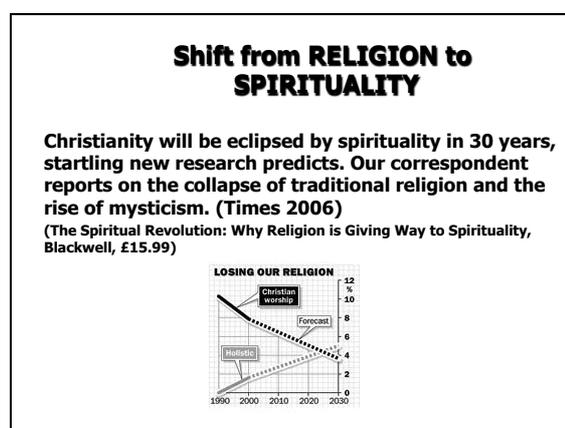


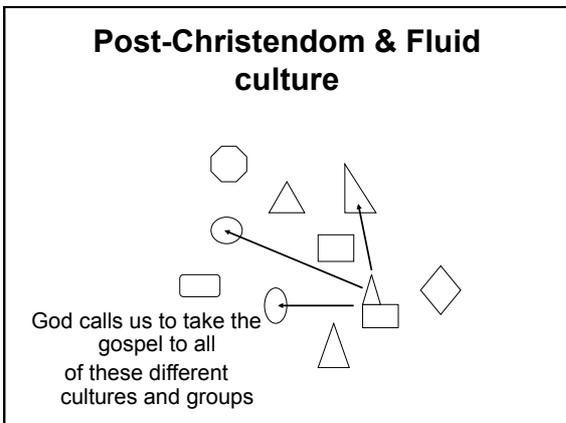
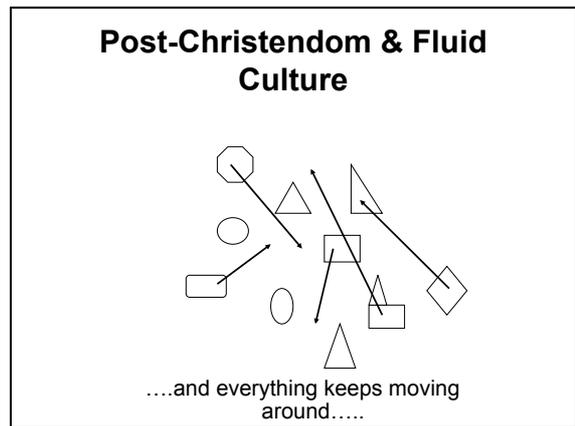
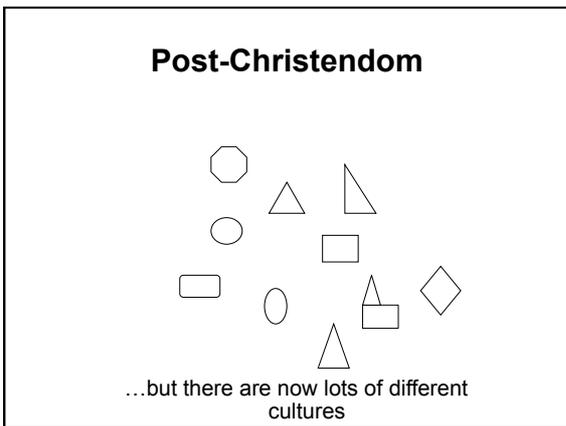
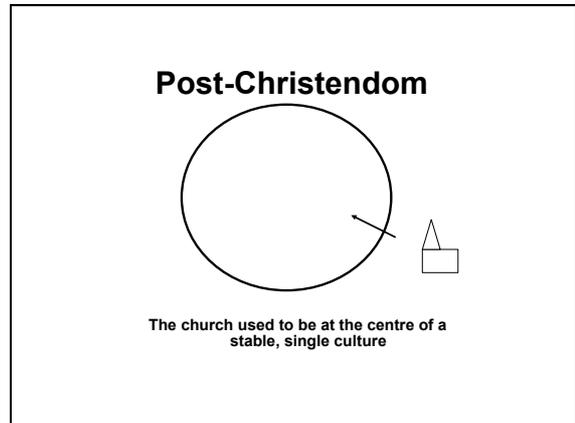
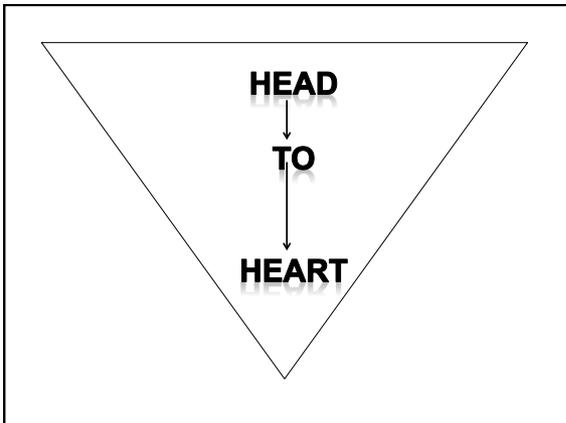


*A revolutionary dynamic is currently at work in our culture. Western culture is in the process of completely re-evaluating and revising virtually every aspect of the human condition.*

Barry Taylor, 2008

Mae dynameg chwyldroadol wrthi'n gweithio yn ein diwylliant ar hyn o bryd. Mae diwylliant y Gorllewin yn y broses o ail-werthuso ac adolygu'n gyfan gwbl bob agwedd o'rcyflwr dynol.





**A world in flux**  
**PREMODERN + MODERN + POST-SECULAR**

**Much of the Global South**  
Premodern -> Modern  
Some remains Pre-Modern

**Most of the Global West & North**  
Modern -> Post-Modern -> Post-Secular  
Some remains Modern

**= Different World Views & Sensibilities**

**A world in flux**  
**DECHURCHED + UNCHURCHED**

**Open- Dechurched**  
*An-eglwysig ac agored*

**Closed Dechurched**  
*An-eglwysig ac ar gau*

**Open Unchurched**  
*Cyn-eglwysig ac agored*

**Closed Unchurched**  
*Cyn-eglwysig ac ar gau*



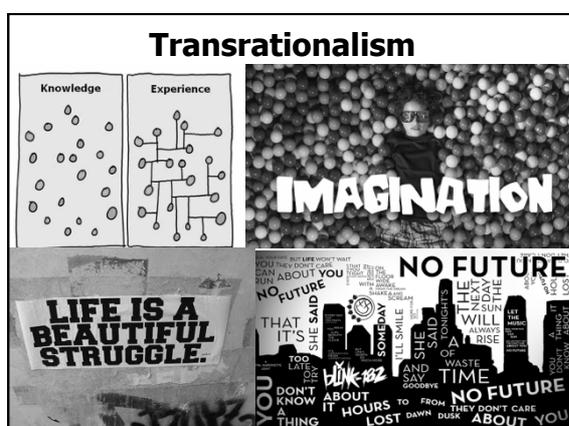
**How do you know what you know?**

**Sut ydych chi'n gwybod beth rydych chi'n ei wybod?**

**KNOWING**  
Gwybod

**Rationalism**  
*Rhesymoldeb*

**Trans-rationalism**  
*Trawsresmoldeb*



**KNOWING - Gwybod**

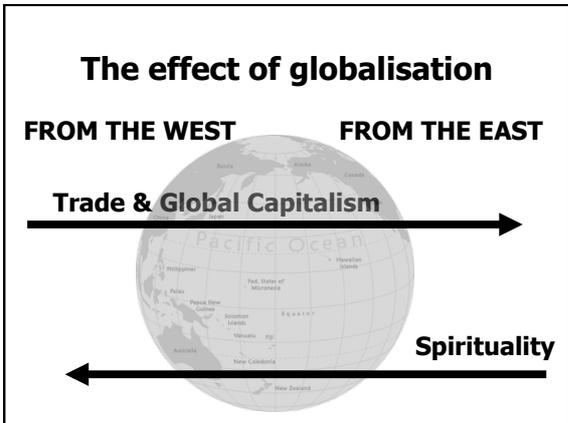
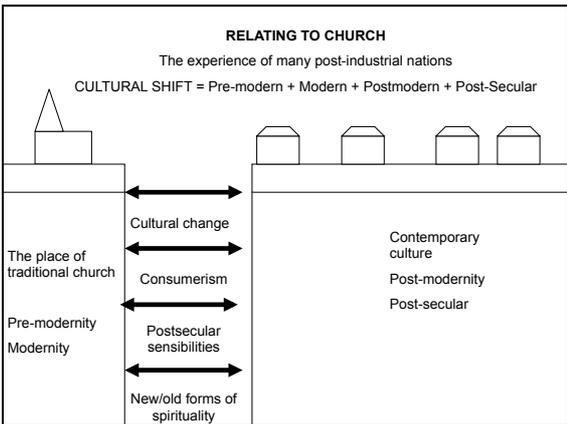
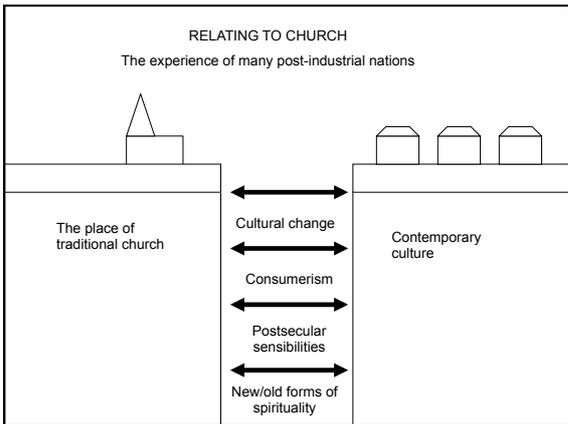
**Rational - deductive, scientific, objective (in the head)**

**Trans-rational - intuitive, artistic, subjective (in the guts)**

Trans-rationality then, is an act of intellectual modesty that states that rational knowing can only take you so far. To go beyond the limit of rationalism we need other means of knowing, through art, wisdom, experience, intuition and spiritual encounter. Yes there is still an important place for rationalism in religion and spirituality – knowing facts about God, but the foundation of faith – knowing God through the experience of God – trans-rationalism, needs to be at the heart of faith or the spiritual path. Knowing through personal experience is a vital form of trans-rationalism that we are now rediscovering.

**POST SECULARISATION**  
**Age of holistic spirituality**  
 A complex ideological system that is a mixture of a number of factors

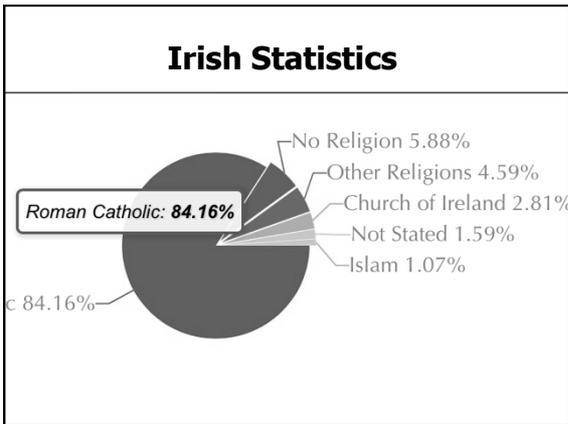
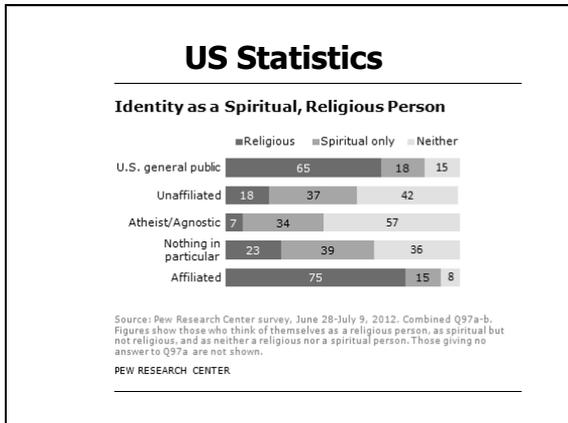
1. The return to the importance of the subjective & experiential over the rational
2. A return to the appreciation of the sacred & enchantment of life
3. A world view informed by postmodern sensibilities



**The Church in every age needs to rediscover Christ for the culture it finds itself in... things that are not being renewed/re-freshed will die, to change is to live, so not change is to die. So fresh expressions are not 'an option' just as eating fresh food is not an option to stay healthy and active for the purpose of God's mission ... The church has an 'ancient message' that needs to be fresh in how it is communicated and lived in any given host culture.**

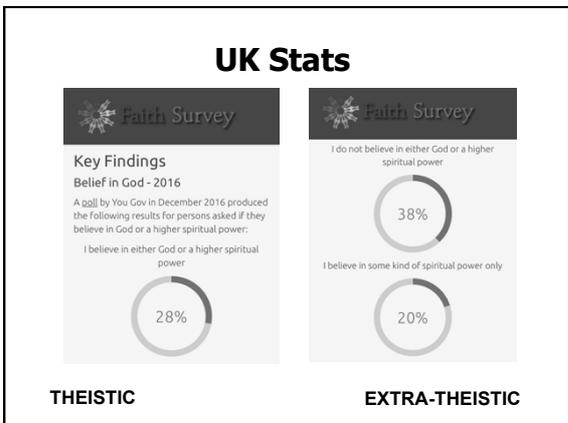
# Cultural Change

## The Statistics



### Welsh Statistics

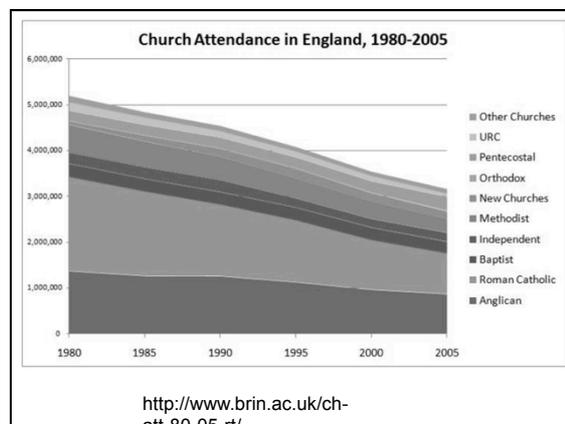
"Statistics. In terms of identity, **Church in Wales** (Eglwys yng Nghymru) is the largest denomination in **Wales** with 30% of the population identifying themselves as adherents. The Roman Catholic **Church** (Eglwys Gatholig Rufeinig) is the next largest denomination with 17.6% of the population as members."



### English Recent Research 2017

- 51% Considered themselves Christian
- 32% of Christians over 65 years
- 6% of Christians under 24 years
- 14% of Christians didn't see themselves as active Christians
- 28% of Christians saw themselves as followers of the way of Jesus
- 55% of Christians never read the Bible
- 29% of Christians never pray

CamRes Research for CofE Evangelism Task Force 2017



### The Decade of Evangelism

Finding Faith today study by John Finney 1992,

Finding Faith is:

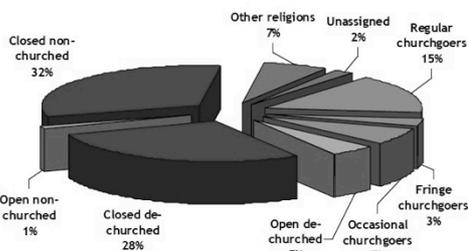
- 
- 
- importance
- new Christians typically had about 50 contacts with the Christian Church before they made a commitment

### UK & Evangelism

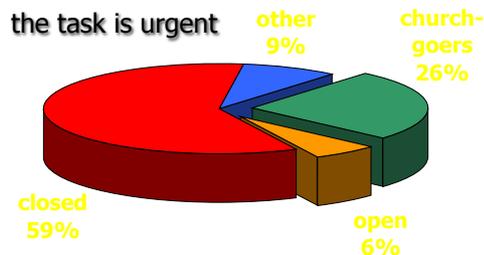
When Christians talk about their faith in Jesus 1 in 5 of UK non-Christians they talk to are open to an experience or encounter with Jesus. But 60% don't want to know more.

Positive Experiences	Negative Experiences
Wanted to know more about Jesus Christ, 18%	60%, Did not want to know more about Jesus Christ
Open to an experience or encounter with Jesus, 20%	49%, Not open to an experience or encounter with Jesus
Felt sad that I did not share their faith, 16%	43%, Felt glad that I did not share their faith
Felt more positive towards Jesus Christ, 22%	30%, Felt more negative towards Jesus Christ
Felt closer to the person in question, 27%	29%, Felt less close to the person in question
Felt comfortable, 51%	33%, Felt uncomfortable

### UK Church attendance and experience segmentation (2006)



### Mission in our own post-Christendom post-Secular Culture

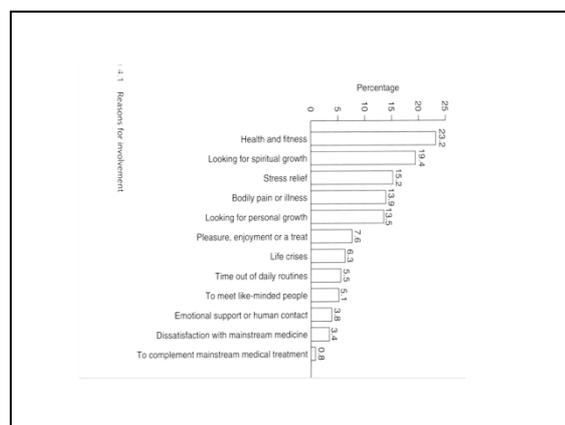
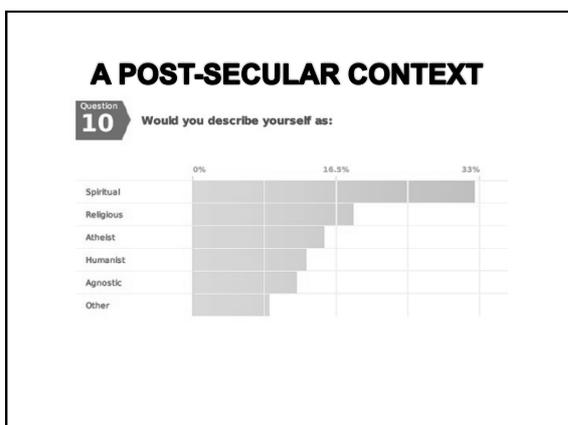


Mission in our own post-Christendom  
post-Secular Culture  
**over 60% of the population  
has no real contact with the  
Church**

they are from diverse cultures

*the Study of Kendal*  
*Those who are holistically spiritual*

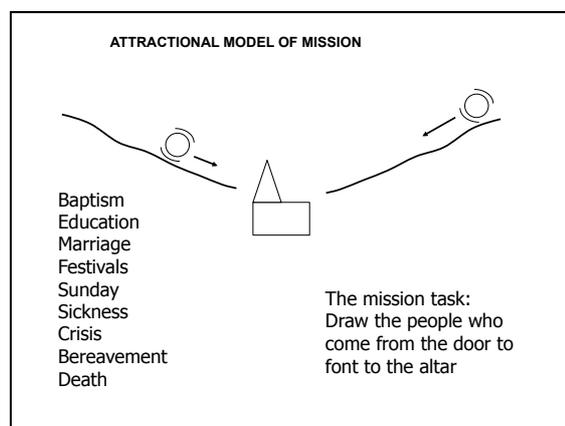
*For all intents and purposes the holistic milieu has grown from scratch, and it grew by around 300% during the 1990s, when population growth was just 11.4%.*



**Hay & Hunt 2002**

Frequency of report of religious or spiritual experience in Britain for years 1987 and 2000

	1987	2000	% increase
A patterning of events/transcendent providence	29%	55%	90%
Awareness of the presence of God	27%	38%	41%
Awareness of prayer being answered	25%	37%	48%
Awareness of a sacred presence in nature	16%	29%	81%
Awareness of the presence of the dead	18%	25%	39%
Awareness of an evil presence	12%	25%	108%
CULUMATIVE TOTAL	48%	76%	



**APOSTOLIC MODEL OF MISSION**

The mission task becomes:

- Go to where people are
- Form communities
- Make disciples there

**Lived Religion Groupings**  
(Sacred Stories Spiritual Tribes – Nancy Ammerman 2015)

- 1. Theistic** - churchd, dechurchd
- 2. Exta-theistic** – dechurchd, unchurchd, SNR
- 3. Moral** – churchd, dechurchd, unchurchd, SNR
- 4. NONS (Non affiliates)** dechurchd, unchurchd, never churchd + cynical

**Emerging groupings of The Extra-theistic?**

- 1.
2. *Restorative questers*
3. *Displacement deniers*
4. *Post-religious reconstructors*

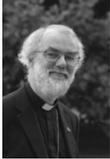
**Traditional religious outlooks, with their fixed points, transcendent anchors, and universal scope, seem out of kilter with the emerging spirit of the age. (David Lyon, 2002)**

“ finding out what God is doing and joining in”

**Apostolic Mission**

**Building ecclesial communities out of contextual mission**

***Adeiladu cymunedau eglwysig allan o genhadaeth gyd-destunol***

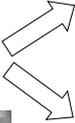


**fresh expressions:  
a mixed economy**

**rowan williams | archbishop**

*If 'church' is what happens when people encounter the Risen Jesus and commit themselves to sustaining and deepening that encounter in their encounter with each other, there is plenty of theological room for diversity of rhythm and style, so long as we have ways of identifying the same living Christ at the heart of every expression of Christian life in common.*

**Both-And**



Continue to renew and grow and develop the Church as it is

Establish fresh expressions of church



**a definition**

- our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.
- listening, service, incarnational mission and making disciples.
- it will have the potential to become a mature expression of church shaped by the gospel and the enduring marks of the church and for its cultural context

**a different sequence**

**traditional church plants**

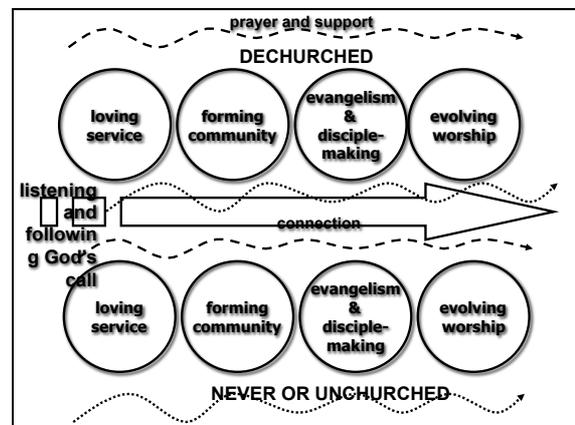
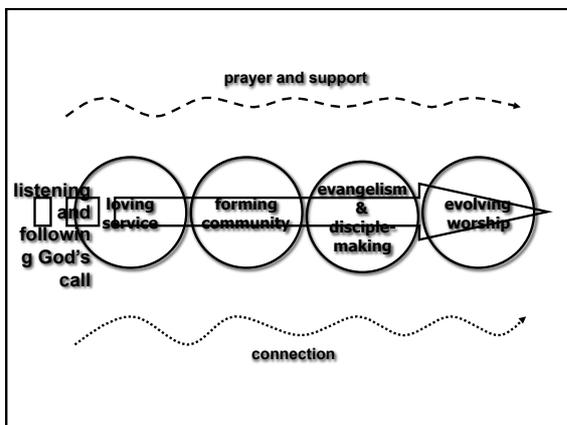
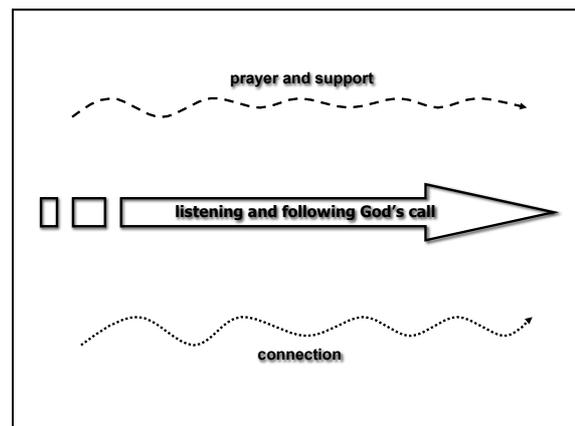
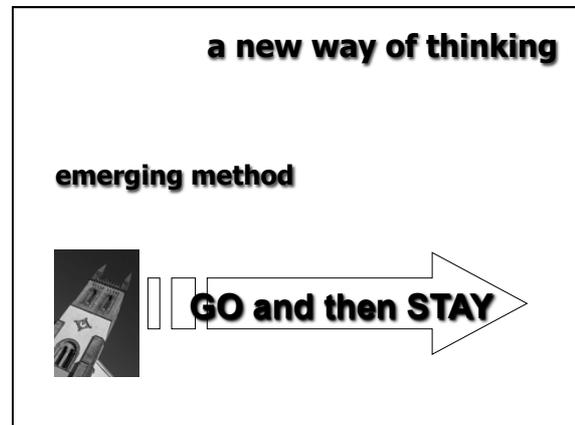
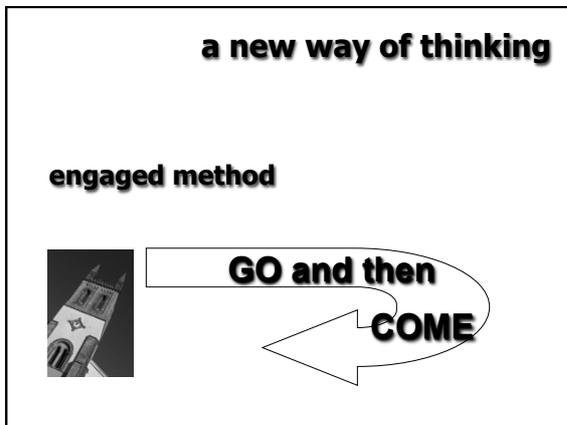


<p><b>PASTORAL MODE</b></p> <p>ATTRACTIVE CHURCH</p> 	<p><b>APOSTOLIC MODE</b></p> <p>MISSIONAL CHURCH</p> 
<p>ACCESS IN WIDER COMMUNITY LIFE</p>	

**a new way of thinking**

**attractional method**





**The role of Christian leaders in  
Missional New Forms of Church**



- Wanted: a gardener with**
- Restlessness for transformation
  - Vision
  - Knowledge
  - Authority
  - Communication skills
  - Courage to prune
  - Energy to take the first steps
  - Ability to motivate /enable others
  - Wisdom to keep it on track...
  - Readiness to get muddy!



- Conceptual Age People ...**
- Distrust Institutions
  - Celebrate Diversity
  - Trust our own judgments
  - Accept fragmentation
  - Process information holistically
  - Are most interested in what works
  - Follow relational leaders

## Mission Shaped Church Report

*mission-shaped church*

- Alternative worship communities
- Base Ecclesial Communities
- Café church
- Cell church
- Churches arising out of community initiatives (both out of community projects, and the restructuring or refounding of an existing church to serve a community)
- Multiple and midweek congregations
- Network-focused churches (churches connecting with specific networks)
- School-based and school-linked congregations and churches
- Seeker church
- Traditional church plants
- Traditional forms of church inspiring new interest (including new monastic communities)
- Youth congregations.

**EACH WILL HAVE A CONNECTION WITH:**  
 Dechurch = De    Unchurched=Un    Spiritual not religious=SNR

Alternative worship communities	De
Base Ecclesial communities	De/Un
Café church	De/Un/SNR
Cell church	De
New Monasticism	SNR/De/Un
Churches arising from community initiatives	De/Un
Mid week congregations	De
Network churches	All
Seeker church	De/Un
Church plant	De
Traditional forms of church inspiring new interest	De

Archbishops' Council, *Mission shaped Church*, 2004, p. 44

## MISSION GOING FORWARD

TWO FOCII GOING FORWARD

- Church Planting    replication/business approach
- Fresh Expressions    contextual mission approach

- Church Planters for Church Planting
- Pioneers for Contextual Mission

## A Church Committed to FXs

DEPLOYMENT

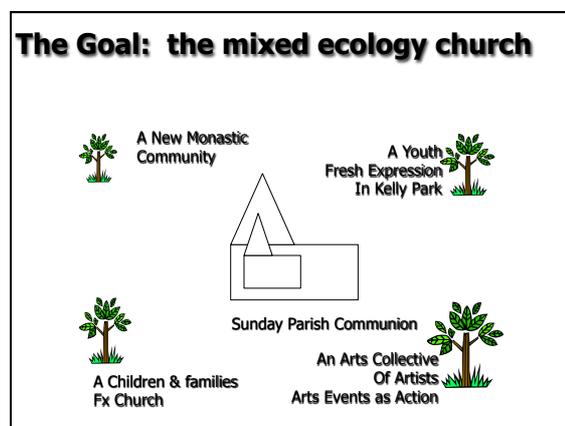
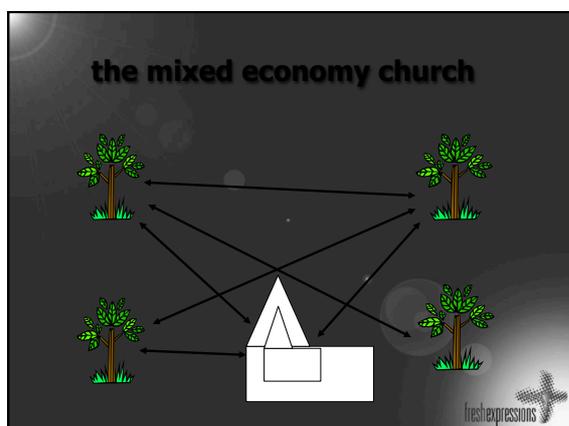
- All Clergy & Church Workers focused on mission and evangelism
- Specialist Ordained Pioneer Ministers
- Specialist Lay Pioneer Minister
- 'Lay Lay' Pioneers

## The Spectrum

<b>Church focused Lay led Shift to "church"</b>	<b>New Communities Wider than come to church</b>	<b>New Incarnational Projects</b>
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## the mixed economy church

freshexpressions



*Postmodern people are more likely to come to faith through experience which leads to understanding of doctrine than through prior intellectual assent. But one of the tragedies of today is that some elements of the Church are now so firmly secularised in their disbelief in the supernatural that they have nothing to say to a culture which increasingly takes spirituality and the supernatural for granted.*

(+Graham Cray)

**KNOWING IN CHRISTIANITY**

**Epinoia – knowing through intuition & spiritual experience**

**Dianoia – logic, doctrine, dogma, facts**

**KNOWING IN CHRISTIANITY**

**SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS**

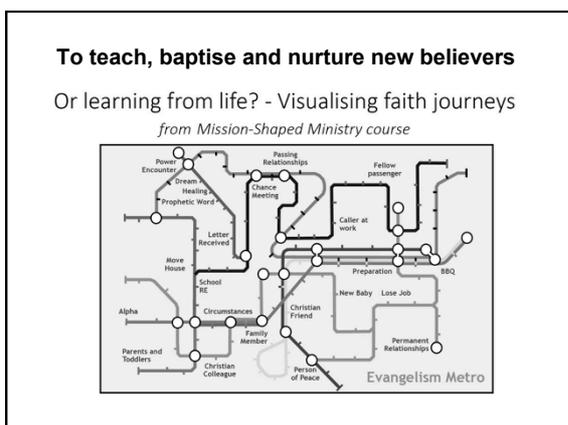
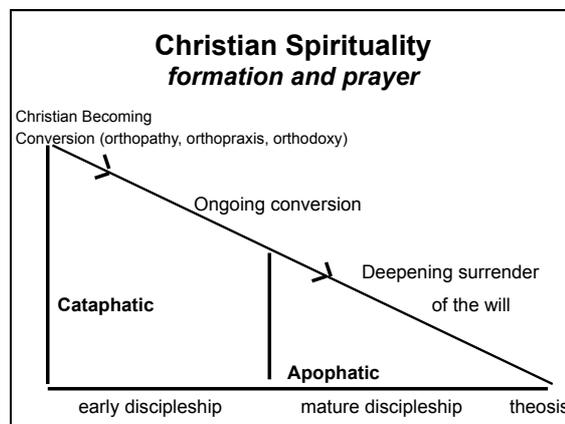
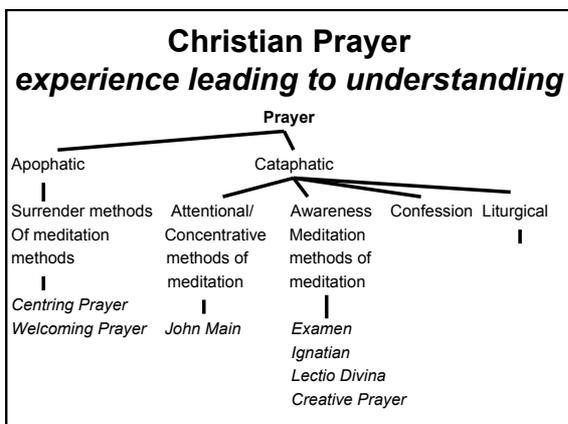
**Soteriology – God as Saviour**

**Sophiology – God as life giver**

**MISSION TO SPIRITUAL SEEKERS**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIAN PRAYER**

*Prayer as mission tool*



### To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

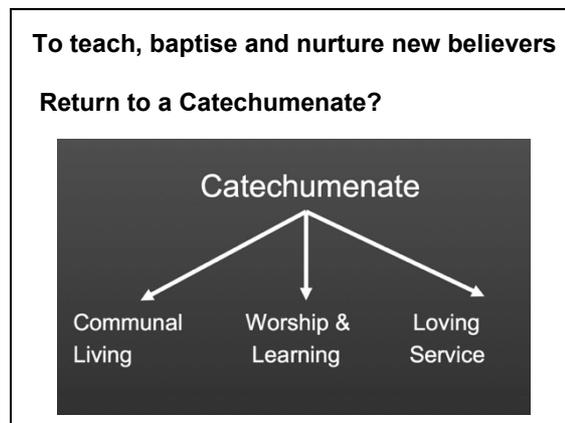
#### Stages on the discipleship journey?

- Believing, belonging, behaving
- Belonging, believing, behaving
- Behaving, belonging, believing?

### To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

#### Return to a Catechumenate?

When it comes to discipleship and catechesis with many unchurched people today in our overly individualistic and consumerist culture, we have to admit that none of us really knows what we are doing or have the answers. The truth is for all our traditions, that we meet in our weakness. We are starting to explore hints coming out of practice, and one of these is the use of a rhythm or ways of life as experience leading to understanding.  
(Graham Cray)



## Church in Apostolic mode

**TAKES CALCULATED  
RISKS FOR THE GOSPEL**



## Radical Hospitality







Word based	→	Image based
Learning through thinking	→	Learning through experience
exploration for wider truth	→	exploration for my truth
Thinking as worship Head & Individualistic	→	Heart as worship Feeling & Shared
Is it right	→	Does it work

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