

## Fresh Expressions Vision Events

### Background

The world of fresh expressions of church is now more complex than twelve years ago when Mission Shaped Church report was published. From the first timers, of whom there are still many, to the well versed, to the practitioners and permission givers. All of them have a slightly different 'need' or expectations in terms of a vision event. A standard vision day has not met all of those needs and expectations for some time and so a change is needed.

### What are we trying to do through Vision Events?

Our aims are quite simple;

- To communicate the vision and values of Fresh Expressions Ltd and what fresh expressions of church are about.
- To move from audience to participation - we want to inform and for participants to experience and engage with others and join in with what God is doing.
- To inspire all to start and multiply fresh expression of church.

Each vision event needs to be contextualised and should not be a standard event. It might be to an individual in a coffee shop, it might be to a group of permission givers, it might be to someone you meet on a train, or to a church group who keen to learn more, ...the possibilities are endless. Listening to the participants and what they need is vital. In terms of delivery of vision events we think the experience or process is as important as the passing on of information and stories. We want to connect head, hearts and hands.

All we ask for you to do as a minimum is deliver a process of engaging the participants, showing the core powerpoint slides and asking them, "What will you do next?"

We know many of you will do this as a matter of course however, however here are some things you might want to consider to help you through the process of a vision event.

	Vision Event	
Pre Vision Event		
	3 way conversation between those delivering the event, organisers and participants.	An exploration around some of the following questions is ideal; What are the desired outcomes for the event? Who are the participants? What content/material will be needed? What is the one question they would like answered? What is the best way to deliver the outcomes? Didactic teaching, discussion, etc
	Contracting with those	Planning, team meetings, deadlines dates. Who does

	who are organising the event	what? Costs? dates/times etc. How long is the event? Publicity? etc. How many are likely to be present?
	Connecting - building good relationships and passing on values	How will you communicate with the participants? What method or mode of communication can you make use of? What networks might you need to interact with? How do you work with National Church partners in your context? Can you make use of the document M02 - Communication advice for Fresh Expressions?
	Hearing God	Fresh expressions as a movement rides a wave of what the Holy Spirit is doing. How will you enable people to encounter/experience God? Will you provide space for reflection at the event/afterwards? What one thing will people do or be after having been to an event? What about a time of prayer and/or worship?
Vision Event	Process and Information	
	Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The information you need to communicate to those attending should come from knowing who will be present - the 'participants' - and what they want to know. You can supplement this with information they might need to know.</li> <li>1. Information or presentation will consist of the CORE slides and story/testimony plus whatever else the participants would like to know. Fresh Expressions will provide you with other modules you can use in addition such as; more stories, cartoons, prayers, statistics, theology etc. You can add in your own material too based around vision.</li> <li>2. There will be a point at which you will deliver the vision to the participants, one to one or to the gathered 500.</li> </ol> <p>Information is part of this process, however, it is not the be all and end all.</p>
	Process	<p>This process is about one of change for the participants and that can happen in a variety of ways;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Through information clearly communicated explaining about Fresh Expressions and fresh expressions of church. For instance a good slide with some pertinent statistics will speak very loudly to some.</li> <li>2. Engaging with the Holy Spirit at work and joining in their own life and context.</li> <li>3. Relationship building and becoming part of a</li> </ol>

		wider/larger network 4. The really big context of being involved with God's mission.
	So what?	What will you do as result of today? What has been the highlight?
Post Vision event		
	Hearing God – An act of commitment	What has God been saying? 1. For you 2. For the community of which you are a part, the role you have or your workplace
	Connecting - building good relationships and passing on values	In what ways can people be connected? What are the pathways people might need to follow? Locally and/or in the National context. Can you signpost participants to go deeper and/or further?
	Contracting and conversations	Finalise the event, follow up with e-mails, further conversations, outcomes, action points, etc. Please send any feedback forms to Fresh Expressions.

We would love to hear how things go.

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