

Reimagining Church

Session 1: Brave New World

“Culture is the way we do things round here.” (Archbishop Derek Warlock)

1. What are some of the ways Canadian culture has changed in the past 25 years?
2. Which of these have affected the church, and how?
3. Why would it matter if the church disappeared in Canada?
4. Are there any ways in which the present decline of the church is a good thing?

The Church of England story

1. The *Mission Shaped Church* report 2004
2. The Fresh Expressions initiative 2004
3. A definition: “A fresh expression is a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.”
4. A “mixed economy church”

The Canadian story

- Appointment of Nick Brotherwood 2008
- Training programs—*Vision Days*, *Mission-Shaped Intro*, *Mission Shaped Ministry*
- Annual *Vital Church Planting* conference—spreading vision
- Pioneering stream in Wycliffe M.Div
- Growing ecumenical partnerships

Homework for next week

- Keep your eyes and ears open: how do ordinary Canadians relate to church?
- What are some cultural changes you didn't notice or think about before?
- What might they mean for the church, either good or bad?

