

Stories from Sheffield

Hillsborough Rock focus on their local area through the connections they have through schools, work, neighbours and friendships. They meet twice a month in the local community hall and draw in many kids hear a bible story.

As You Are is for people with disabilities and their families, looking at Jesus' offer of "life in all it's fullness".

Activate is a community of interest groups seeking to take church out to the world. They run a walking group, a book group, a café group & an extreme sports group - all with the intention of inviting their friends who don't yet know God to join them to enjoy life together, seeking to share the Gospel as they go.



Streetwise meets every Sunday morning as a gathering for the vulnerable & marginalised. They have a very informal worship service with plenty of space for testimonies and are seeing lots of healing and salvation. This has led to mid-week daytime discipleship groups.

Edge is a community of mostly young adults seeking to sharpen each other for mission in the workplace. They meet once a month on a Sunday and in smaller groups of 6-7 in the weeks in between.

The Shire is a community which started when a few people decided to move to a poor housing estate to incarnate the Gospel. They regularly see people freed from drug and alcohol addictions and are discipling many adults and kids in faith in Jesus.

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"We had a bonfire party with out 4 families including someone who was on the fringe of the community , & one pre-Christian family. The evening went really well, was natural and fun & our friends are keen to participate in future social events where we pray and will have opportunities to share God's love with them. We are also hoping to invite them to Alpha."

"We have a strong small group of people, some of whom are on the edges & struggle to commit to church/groups. All are committed & meeting regularly & exploring how they worship and engage with God."

"Our group is great & really on board & able to encourage & lead each other on in Jesus."

"Recently in our new community someone's metatarsal & someone's ankle got healed, & there's been growth in group relationships & lots of fun & laughter."

"Over the past year we've seen two people in our community come off heroin, one lady break a 15 year addiction to marijuana, two people break free from alcoholism, two people set free from self-harm and people saved as well!"

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Missional Communities



What is a Missional Community?

Christian faith has a corporate expression as well as being a personal journey—together we are described as the body of Christ. Real community is an essential building block of the church. It is a vehicle for mission and a place for discipleship.

Church should not have to be about 'consuming' a service every Sunday, but rather should be about each believer living out a genuine walk of discipleship and faith amongst other ordinary people, both inside and outside the church. It's about seeing everyone contribute to the life and mission of the body.

Missional Communities can be the backbone of all missional and discipleship activity which goes on in a church.

They are mid-sized communities, made up of people who have a similar missional heart, focus or calling in life. They are places to be known, supported and challenged to go deeper in relationship with each other and to grow as disciples of Jesus. They are a great opportunity for leadership and skills development as well as for practising spiritual gifts, which is often limited in a Sunday service setting.



Crucially, they also provide real opportunity to live out or discover together our God-given calling as a people sent to make disciples.

What do they look like?

The shared missional focus or vision of the community members is what connects them. Whether this focus is on a particular people group or geographical area, it forms the basis of their life together and of their outreach.

Missional Communities can be made up of between 10-35 adults (plus any number of accompanying children), led by lay members of the church. They are as varied and diverse as people themselves, and include communities for students, young adults, creative types, the marginalised, business communities, families, the elderly and more! These can be based on urban estates, in suburbs, in city centres, in towns, and in villages.

Each group is different, and the way they express their community life together will look different – diversity is to be celebrated!

Groups can meet to worship and pray, for accountability, to learn together from the Bible, share stories and needs from the week, have fun together, eat, get involved in mission together, spend time with each other's friends....the list goes on and usually involves a good element of fun!



The aim is to live out the message of the 'fulness of life' Jesus won for us—being good news to each other and to the people we come into contact with.

John 10:10
"...I have come that they may
**have life, & have it
to the full.**"

How do they fit into church?

Missional Communities usually have a pattern of meeting twice a month but they can be free to meet whenever they wish. This could mean meeting during the day, in the evenings, or at weekends.

Communities may also meet 'out' in the community on a Sunday, rather than gathering at the central church. However, connection to the wider body is also important, so we recommend that communities gather at the church at least once a month.

As communities are usually larger than 15, they will also have smaller groups within them which are like immediate family - people they see week-in, week-out and share their lives with at a deeper level. These would best be likened to cell or accountability groups, and could range in size from 4-12.

As a community grows, the leaders are encouraged to release new leaders and new vision to start new communities. These always stay accountable to the church leadership, so that communities remain as lightweight to lead as possible.

The role of central church or Sunday services becomes to equip, resource and send out members of Missional Communities, rather than being a place of belonging in itself.

