



Leadership Link

Equipping leaders to Lead



Dear Friend

A while ago, sitting in a café, fuelled by far too much caffeine, I scribbled down what I long for within [Dream](#), the network which I “pastor”

I want to be part of a community that I love and that loves me. A place where we get past the polite niceness, beyond the pretence and the masks, and get really irritated with each other. And then stick at it and stick together.

I want to be part of something that is marked by its welcome, its hospitality and its inclusiveness. A place with fuzzy edges, where no one decides who belongs and is ‘in’ or ‘out’. I want to be part of a group of people who are obsessed with Jesus, rather than Christianity. A place that is passionately focussed on Jesus and learning to live as followers of his way in real life today. A place where we’re becoming more like Jesus as we learn the ancient spiritual disciplines and work together to make them part of our lives.

I want to belong to a community where I can be myself, warts and all. A place that, on the one hand will accept me as I am right now, but on the other hand will provoke and inspire me to become more of what I could be. A place where my brokenness, fears and habits are part of the process. A place where we hold on to the ‘ideal’ but also celebrate the ‘real’.

I want to be part of something that treats people like adults. A place that values everyone’s experience and perspective. A place where people are motivated by love rather than guilt. I want to be part of a community that is both of our culture, so that it connects with the language, images, music and experiences of everyday life; but one that also goes against the grain of our culture because we serve one another, live sacrificially and cross boundaries of class, age and colour.

A place that makes the difference in the things that feel too big for us as individuals. Whether that’s the hassle my kids will get when they can’t wear designer trainers or the impotence I feel in the face of ethical and environmental issues.

A place that makes us yearn for justice and beauty. A place that equips us for life in the worlds we live in, and gives us the fire we need to change them.

Of course my dream is impossibly idealistic, but I’ve decided that even if we never get there, I want to give everything to trying. Dream has always sought to be “an oasis in the desert”, and that’s precious. But at the same time, it needs to be a desert in the oasis. A place that makes us more thirsty for Jesus and his kingdom.

Over the past eleven years of connecting with the cell movement in the UK, it has been wonderful to meet people who share similar longings. Many of us have found that the taste of organic, missional community that takes discipleship seriously has spoiled us for anything else. At the same time though, we discovered that the old box of Christendom keeps trying to pull us back in. We need to hear one another’s stories, support one another and learn together what this thing might look like as it takes root deeply in our post-Christendom culture.

As part of that, Phil Potter and I have re-launched the Anglican cell network. Resourced by CMS and renamed ‘Anglican Cell UK’, to reflect our partnership with Cell UK, the website includes two dozen “consultants” who are available for those on the journey to cell. Our desire is also to stimulate and be part of the conversation that will help us all move towards the sorts of small communities that we long for, and God longs for.

Please do add your voice at www.anglicancelluk.org

Yours *Richard White*

Have you planted cells?

Are you thinking of planting cells?

Join us for our cell planting consultation day Thurs 15th Nov 2007

At Highfield Oval
Harpenden
AL5 4BX

Email Gill for more information or to reserve your place

Dates for 2008

Sat 2nd February
Spiritual Maturity Conference
Harpenden

Sat 1st March
Cell Leaders & Supervisors
Training
Southampton

Sat 19th April
Cell Leaders & Supervisors
Training
York

6-8th May
Making Cell Groups Work
Church Leaders
Residential Training
Hoddesdon

18th-19th June
Church Leaders Symposium
Harpenden

Sat 4th October
Cell Leaders & Supervisors
Training
Harpenden

14th-16th October
Making Cell Church
Leadership Work
Residential Training
Hoddesdon

www.celluk.org.uk