



## **Group Leaders Introductory Training**

**A**ll involved

**B**ecoming disciples

**C**reating community

**D**oing evangelism

**E**ncountering God



 **Growing in God**

## What is a Fresh Expression of Church?



“A fresh expression of Church is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.”



## A Fresh Expressions Community for Suffolk

The Lightwave Community has been set up as a supportive community of small missional groups

- to help bring new Christians to faith.
- to help both new and established Christians to grow in discipleship, vocation and leadership.
- to enable new culturally appropriate fresh expressions of church and other mission initiatives develop in a healthy and sustainable way.

### What do the small groups do?

The small groups pray, study the bible and seek to live life growing in god together. They have a strong focus on being on mission with Jesus. Some are the team for a fresh expression of Church. Others may themselves become the church for people new to faith. The small groups meet regularly (normally weekly) to build their group life round a simple set of values:

**All involved**

**Becoming disciples**

**Creating community**

**Doing evangelism**

**Encountering God**

# Values for Lightwave groups

**All involved** – Everyone in the group shares in all aspects of leadership and ministry.

**Becoming disciples** – The group will study the Bible to see how it applies in their lives and seek to be accountable to each other in putting it into practice. This is likely to include nurturing new Christians who come to faith through the witness of the group.

**Creating community** – They will seek to become a community where there is sacrificial love within open and honest relationships. They will have fun together, care for each other and build a wide network of relationships with local churches and the wider community or network with which the group seeks to engage.

**Doing evangelism** – This is not just about telling good news but being good news in the community.

The group will pray for blessing on people outside the current church and regularly do things together which create pathways for people who do not yet know Christ's love to learn about the Christian faith and to become fully-fledged disciples. This may include becoming the team for a fresh expression of church such as café church or running Christian basics courses or inviting people who want to explore faith to become part of the group.

**Encountering God** – The group will worship regularly together (not necessarily singing) and seek to listen for God's voice for each other and for their work together.

"Fresh Expressions of Church are one of the amazing ways God is blessing us at this time, especially in reaching parts of the population which otherwise aren't being reached. So it's wonderful that the Lightwave Community is fostering these ways of doing Church and following Jesus!"

The Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison



## Training for leaders

There is a training course for potential small group leaders in the Lightwave community. It takes place over 6 sessions. Each session consists of a missional small group meeting for 1¼ hour plus a ½ hour evaluation. Each session will focus on a different area:

1. Values of the Group
2. Vision of the Group
3. Leadership Skills
4. Healthy Small Group Meetings
5. All Involved
6. Growth.

On completion of the pilot course, participants will have:

- experienced healthy meetings of a small missional group.
- been 'infected' with the values.
- an understanding of the nature of missional small group life.
- established a relationship with the leader and other members of the Suffolk Fresh Expressions Community.
- been trained to evaluate a small missional group around given criteria.
- experienced leading different parts of the small group meeting in a learning environment.

The next course begins on **Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> 2019** and lasts for six weeks - book your place by contacting Sally or we can also offer the course over 2 Saturdays at a venue near you.

## To take part

Please contact the Archdeacon for Rural Mission: Sally Gaze, Rural Enterprise East, Otley College, Charity Lane, Otley, Suffolk IP6 9EY

Tel. 07446 933129 [archdeacon.sally@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:archdeacon.sally@cofesuffolk.org)

Or go to [www.light-wave.org/training](http://www.light-wave.org/training)

This initiative is the result of the partnership of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich with Rural Ministries. It is open to Christians of any denomination or stream.



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