

give me some examples

Myatts Fields focus on the area around Myatts Fields Park through the connections they have with the Park and its associated resident groups. They meet for a bi-monthly Sunday meal and support events in the area. They host a monthly 'neighbourhood prayer watch' and pray for the residents and activities, looking for 'people of peace' and building on these relationships.

Make Collective focuses on the arts as a way for people to encounter the beauty and hope of God, and on creating as a way of building meaningful relationships with others. They are committed to eating and praying together, imaginatively exploring Scripture and kingdom values, restoring people's dignity and caring for creation. *HOUSE cafe gallery* is a hub for this, as an inclusive and accessible place for locals to connect in.

Mercy has adopted the work of two Sheltered Housing projects They support in prayer the work of SH which provides a short service for a number of residents followed by afternoon tea and a time of building up relationships. They have many opportunities to pray for residents and visit them in their homes and are looking how this work can be extended to include praying for healing. Mercy are exploring how to serve the Peckham Food bank & PECAN and also possibilities of work with Asylum seekers.

North. They focus on supporting each other in their attempts to bless their immediate neighbours and wire them into the Kingdom adventure. North (the name may change) hope is that the edges will blur between church and community, as people join them on the journey. They pray for each other, for strength, patience, divine opportunities and miracles. They practically help with events, projects, DIY or whatever!

Youth The Youth are a thriving community open to all young people between the ages of 11-18. They provide friendship, fun and excellent discipleship to this group.



tell me some stories

"We had a BBQ when we first moved into our block and just a few people came. We kept having people round for meals, and when we had a flat warming party a year later many of the neighbours came and mingled with our community friends".

"The local park event organizers were so impressed when our community supplied a dozen volunteers for the fair that they invited one member to become a director of the park. We have growing relationships and are praying for many in the area to experience Gods love"

"After we had visited the local shops offering prayer, the following Sunday one shopkeeper ran after us as we were on the way to Wells Way saying 'please keep praying'".

"A neighbour saw us in the street and asked for prayer for a test they were about to take. They passed the test and they rang and asked when The Well services were and visited us the following week"

"HOUSE cafe gallery has received excellent reviews. A recent Southwark News review described our 'big sandwiches, relaxing environment' and stated that it 'oozes with cool'. New faces are visiting the Make community and we are having to work out how to plan for more people'.

"When we visited The Well we were excited to see the different communities and what they were doing. We immediately felt this is a church that we can engage with"

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what are missional communities?



a brief introduction



The **well**
Community Church

what is a community?

Christian faith has a corporate expression as well as being a personal journey. Together we are described as the body of Christ. Genuine 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 each Sunday, but rather should be about each believer living out a genuine walk of discipleship and faith amongst other people both inside and outside the church. Its about seeing everyone contribute to the life and mission of the body.

Our Communities are the backbone of all missional and discipleship activity which goes on in the church. They are mid-sized communities, made up of people who find they have a similar missional heart, focus or calling. They are not meetings to attend but communities to belong to. They are where we are 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 the practice of spiritual gifts. Through communities we express our shared life together in Jesus as part of the rhythm of our everyday lives. In this way we want those around us to see Jesus. A community is lightweight, small enough to care, but big enough to dare!

'A community is something we belong to, not a meeting we attend'



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 a geographical area of the city, it forms the basis of their life together and of their outreach. Communities can be made up of between 15 - 35 adults (plus any number of accompanying children) led by a member of the church with a small team.

Communities express our primary relationships;

- With God (**Communion**) 'up'
- With each other (**Community**) 'in'
- With the wider community (**Commission**) 'out'
- With creation (**Care**) 'over'

They are varied and diverse as people themselves, and include communities for students, for young adults, creative types, the marginalized, business communities, families, the elderly, and more! They can be based in homes, in businesses, in schools, in cafes - anywhere. Each Community is different and the way they express their life together will look different - diversity is to be celebrated!

Communities are flexible, dynamic and outward looking. Each community enjoys meals all together, while other activities may only involve part of the community. Groups can meet to worship together and pray, for accountability, to learn together from the bible, share stories and needs from the week, get involved in mission together, spend time with each others friends.. the list is endless, and usually involves a good element of fun.

'High accountability, low control'



how do they fit into church?

Through a rhythm of **gathered and dispersed** communities are designed to maximize busy peoples time so that they can be inspired in larger celebrations, and then put faith into practice in their neighborhood or network.

We meet on First Sunday mornings as a whole church for worship, teaching and fellowship. Then throughout the rest of the month we live out church through communities. These may meet 'out' on some Sundays, or gather centrally with other communities. The connection to the wider body is also important, so we recommend they develop a healthy rhythm.

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 are small groups or accountability groups and can range in size between 3 - 13.

As a community develops, 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 'gathered' church or Sunday services is to equip, resource, tell our God stories and to send out missional

'Mission Focused'

