

CHURCH PLANTING IN THE INNER CITY

The Urban Expression Story

Juliet Kilpin & Stuart Murray. Grove Series # 78. 2007

In 1990s was “**disreputable practice** of mavericks and malcontents” –
No impact on community. Clones of sending church. Drained sending church.
Primarily evangelicals, insensitive, imperialistic.

Divorce of urban from planting. Alpha, Cell-church, seeker services,
purpose-driven church are all aimed at de-churched not at never-churched.
Church planting got bad press and some think it's now overtaken by 'emerging
church', fresh expressions. Discover how different urban planting is! Un-
churched. In early church it enriched our theology. Growth in urban churches
increases demands.

1997: Shadwell. Linked with St Margaret's Cable Street. Cross-cultural
mission books helpful. First year teams listen and reflect. Self-financing.
Three year minimum. It is not 'emerging church' which can be trendy and
selfish – Urban Expression has missional cutting edge.

Ecclesial competition and discourtesy has no place.

Social engagement and evangelism go together – shalom of city.

Care for the stress it all causes – support!

We are minority amongst those living with crises and chaotic diaries.

Diversity!

Growth is very demanding of care and support.

Give up ideas of what church should look like if people don't want usual idea.

Mentors; accountability; prayer partners; other planters; consultants; locals;
mates; books and resources; denomination;

Prayer not easy in noise and tensions of urban space.

Now drawing on many traditions as well as evo: liberational, celtic, monastic.

Laughter, theological reflection. Shared meals. Ongoing training.

Bizarre peer pressure: don't stay with same partner. 2thirds children from
divorced families.