

**Beyond Church  
Doing Life  
Being Christ**

**EBF Mission Conference**

EBF Mission  
Conference  
Webinars

1900 – 2030

CEST

19<sup>th</sup> May

2<sup>nd</sup> June

16<sup>th</sup> June

**A Call to BE  
the Church  
BEYOND the  
CHURCH**

To be the Body  
of Christ in the  
neighbourhood  
with those who  
wouldn't go to  
a church

**A Call to DO  
LIFE alongside  
people  
beyond the  
church**

To live life in the local neighbourhood, to be friends with those beyond the church and to join in with what God is already doing through his Holy Spirit

**A Call to BE  
CHRIST  
alongside  
people beyond  
the church**

To live life  
openly with  
those beyond  
the church as  
authentic  
disciples having  
the 'same  
attitude as  
Christ Jesus' (Phil  
2:5)

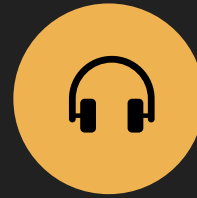
# 7 Underlying Principles



BLESS  
UNCONDITIONALLY



LIVE  
INCARNATIONALLY



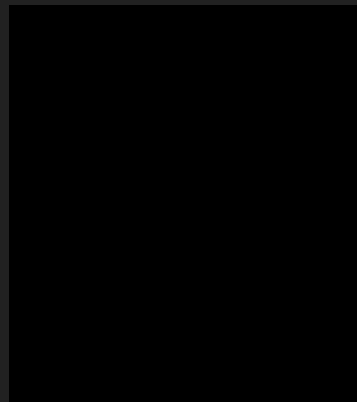
LISTEN



MAKE  
FRIENDS



LAY DOWN  
OUR LIVES



LAY DOWN OUR LIVES




Follow God's call – however inadequately  
– to lay down our lives for a community..



Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.

Mark 8:34-35

A photograph of a wooden cross standing against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The cross is made of two thick wooden beams, one vertical and one horizontal, intersecting at the top. The sky is a vibrant blue, and the clouds are soft and white, adding a sense of depth and light to the scene.

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13





# Some Personal Challenges...

- Open House
- People falling out with each other
- The Parable of the Sower
- Raising Indigenous leaders
- Over promising
- Vicarious trauma
- Taking the blame
- 'God in the light, God in the dark'
- Church & community blurred lines
- Council & political affiliations
- Tiredness

# Who we ARE not What we DO

..there are no missional *structures*, only missional *people*.

Stefan Paas

# LAY DOWN OUR LIVES



Break Out Groups

Read together Philippians 2:5-8, Mark 8:34-35, John 15:13

Let us pray with and for one another that we may have the mindset of Jesus; that we will **Be Christ** in our neighbourhoods.

Share struggles and words of encouragement.

Are there things that God is drawing to your attention that you need to share with the EBF family? Please write in the chat box.

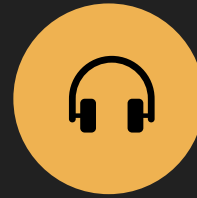
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LAY DOWN  
AGENDA



# LAY DOWN AGENDA



...in terms of what Church might look like..



# LAY DOWN AGENDA



What is Church?

We are still exploring that question.

# We were Church from Day One



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# Church is...



**(See Frost and Hirsch)**

# Church is...



**Only if all at  
the same  
time?**

# LAY DOWN AGENDA



What is Church?

Is all of this/some of this/none of this church?



Baptism in  
the garden  
padding  
pool  
(followed  
by a pool  
party)

'Baby'  
Blessing in a  
tent in the  
community

# Pamper Night

A word from God

Grew into a Regular  
Event

A symbol of Loving and  
Serving the Community

A picture of God's  
Kingdom

# Stay and Plays

# Children's Activities

Film Night



# Playground Launch

# Community Days



# Community trips

# Weekends Away & Wild Wichelstowe



# Community Dinner feeding families in half term



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# Listening to God and Community

- Activities emerged contextually from local community
- Underlying theology rooted in God's word, scripture, doctrine (and denominational tradition)

Deconstructing Church & Reconstructing  
Church for Mission



# The Church Gathered

- Monkey Time

What made you smile?

Where have you seen God?

- Sing

- Eat and Drink

- Scratch Drama

- Discuss

- Shared Prayer (4 Headings)



The Stowe  
Sharing  
lunch & life -  
becoming a  
family



Celebrating becoming a BUGB  
Church – part of the Baptist Family  
January 6<sup>th</sup> 2013

Listening to  
each other's  
experience of  
God, discussing  
the bible and  
drinking coffee  
at the  
community  
centre

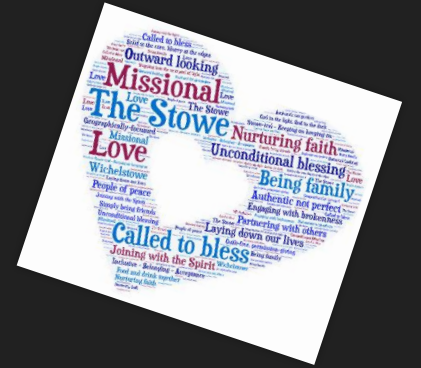
2017

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# The Church Scattered

Being Christ – living out  
our DNA as the body of  
Christ in the  
neighbourhood

Missional  
Unconditional blessing  
Nurturing faith  
Joining with the Spirit  
Being family  
Outward looking  
Laying down our lives  
Authentic, not perfect  
Partnering with others  
Engaging with brokenness  
Inclusive – belonging – acceptance  
Stowe-ical – keeping on, keeping on  
Solid at the core, blurry at the edges  
Geographically-focussed  
Love  
Food and drink together  
Guilt-free, permission-giving  
Being friends  
People of Peace



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Community

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KEEP ON  
GOING

# Keep on Going

In for the long term – as a team

Continue to serve, bless and share faith – some join in, some leave, some move out, some make friends, some break friends..

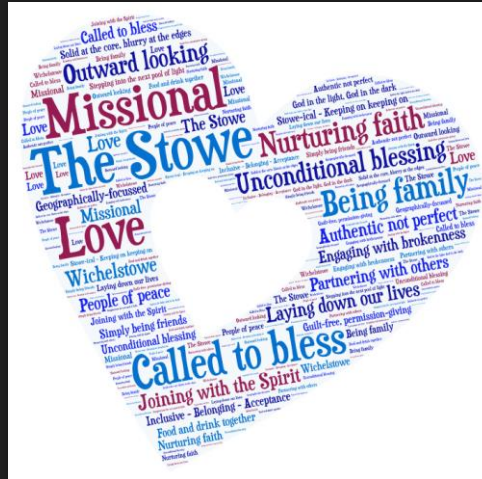
The Parable of The Sower

Disciple those who journey



# Keep on Going Share the DNA

- Missional
- Unconditional blessing
- Nurturing faith
- Joining with the Spirit
- Being family
- Outward looking
- Laying down our lives
- Authentic, not perfect
- Partnering with others
- Engaging with brokenness



- Inclusive – belonging – acceptance
- Stowe-ical – keeping on, keeping on
- Solid at the core, blurry at the edges
- Geographically-focussed
- Love
- Food and drink together
- Guilt-free, permission-giving Community
- Being friends
- People of Peace

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KEEP ON GOING - BE SNAKEY!

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