



New Places for New People



Within the Northampton Methodist District



Thank you for your interest in our New Places for New People project taking place within the Northampton District.

Inspired by our Methodist heritage FEAST reimagines the small group meeting (once known as bands) and is all about **F**riends **E**xploring **A**nd **S**haring **T**ogether and invites people to engage with conversations, life, and faith using a common issue or interest as a catalyst for proclaiming and affirming our conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world.

During the 2022/23 discernment period three groups met in the Nene Valley, FEAST films, FEAST books and FEAST crafts and each meeting had 6-8 people attending. These spaces provided not only a New Place for New People (who mostly described themselves as being 'spiritual but not religious' or 'on the fringes of a faith community') but also became a valued space of learning and growth amongst the group facilitators.

As we begin to take this initiative out into the Northampton District, we are looking to engage in conversations with the various groups (formal and informal) that already exist within our churches and circuits - eg arts and crafts, bible doodling, walking, wellbeing, gardening, etc to see if and where the District's FEAST enabler can come alongside possible future facilitators to offer 'taste and see' sessions and to further discern how intentional faith sharing might be explored within these, or in a new small group setting.

Our prayer is that as people embed and grow in the values of **F**riends **E**xploring **A**nd **S**haring **T**ogether we will begin to see a network emerge across our District, where FEAST'ers can tell their stories, share learning and support each other in prayer, whilst offering testimonies of being formed by, shaped from, and in response to the needs of their local contexts.

We believe wherever intentional relationships are being built, faith is being developed. Might the future see FEAST groups exploring resources such as Holy Habits, Bible Month, Sunshine and Showers? When people express the desire to make a faith commitment then their FEAST group could share together the MWOL commitments as a way of exploring membership.

**Your help
is needed**

Maybe you have a clear vision for a new Christian community in your context, or perhaps it's just the seed of an idea, either way the District FEAST Enabler is here to help as you engage with your local context, listen to God, and discern how to make it a reality within the Kingdom of God.

We believe our New Places for New People project has the potential to become a flourishing and creative network of inclusive, justice-seeking, and evangelistic Christian communities across our district, and we are very excited to see where God is leading us, and the people called 'Methodist' in the years ahead.

So, if you're the kind of person who loves to spend time doing their 'thing' and can listen, engage, and talk about faith in a conversational way then please do get in touch with Rev'd Kim Shorley

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