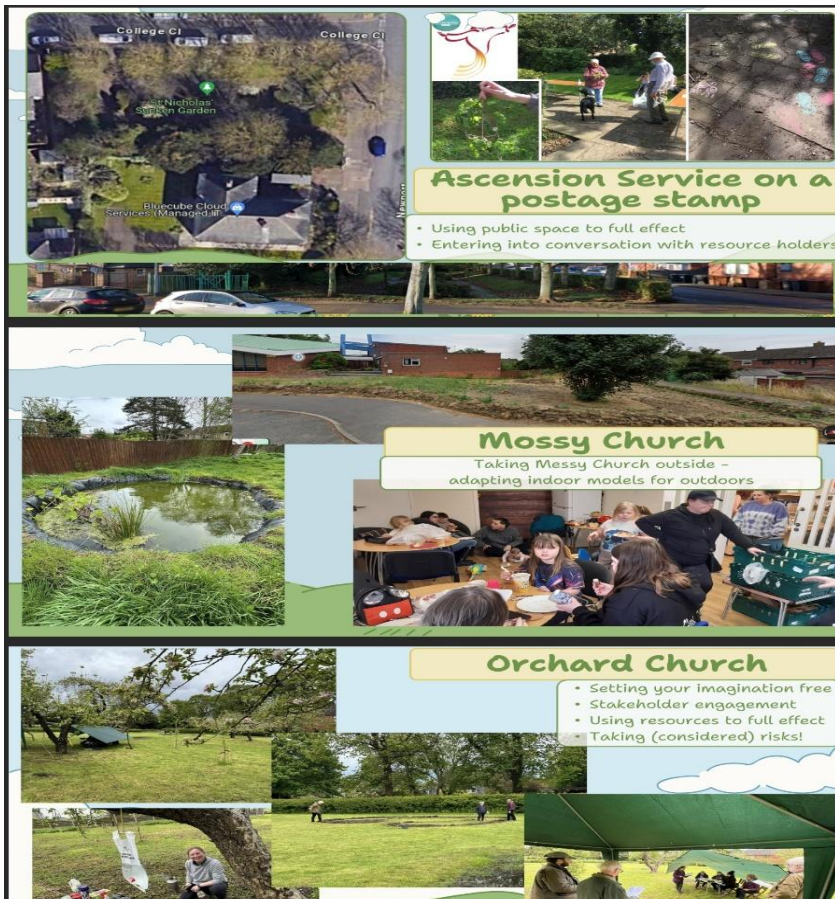


Landmarks of Hope -
Listening to our contexts and using the resources we have - not the one's we wished we had.

Forest Church and Outdoor Worship can help to fulfil the 5th Mark of Mission: To strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Handout on Exploring Forest Church and Outdoor Worship - Some ideas to help you start.

Facilitators: Melanie Carroll and Rachel Summers. CTE Forum 2025



Begin by considering an occasion when you have encountered God's presence, and you were outside...

So with that in mind... Forest Church or Outdoor Worship – is a spectrum that in some ways all churches can get involved in and benefit from...

Some experiences on the spectrum are shown in the the pictures and below... which one would work for you now?

Ascension Day service – outdoors, public land

Mossy/Wild Church – like messy church outside linked to church calendar or themes, by church building

Orchard/Forest Church – often linked to celtic seasons & year, open land, no building

And there are others with so many styles depending on area, context and desire... church, Forest, rural, coastal, urban...

Again think about what experiences of outdoor worship have you had – how does it relate to the Outdoor Worship spectrum? Or was it something else? Would that work in your context?

Thinking through the process of setting up a new outdoor worship opportunity

- Use your asset – what you have not what you wished you have.
- Choose a theme – liturgical, biblical, agricultural, seasonal, cultural.
- Offer space – to wonder and wander, to listen and meet
- Plan the practicalities – risks & benefits, resources, communications, working with the weather, keep it achievable & affordable, engaging people.
- Take the long view

Forest/Wild/Outdoor Church is designed to connect people and families with God and the planet. It is designed to be accessible for those who struggle with more formal types of church, as well as encouraging existing believers to engage more with their environment. it's a way of doing church differently, to attract all ages of churched and unchurched people, connecting them with God in an outdoor setting. It can work for families, individuals and couples, most everyone really so long as they like spending time outside.

Why worship outside? Well the Bible itself starts outside and ends outside and many of the best known Bible stories take place outside, Jesus did most of his teaching outside, and spent lots of time outside listening to God and using the nature as metaphors for the Kingdom and everyday lessons of faith! So if outside and nature is so key to the bible and the message within it then it's got to be a great place for us to hang out in, care about and find God in.

Wild church is a good way of doing church for people seeking God, and for people who just want to spend a little time outside in nature with others with spiritual prompts and fun activities. It is a welcoming space for people who are disillusioned with mainstream church or just want not to be stuck inside, but want space to ponder and reflect and use their senses as well as their minds, but its also a space that's open and welcoming for people who love traditional models of church too. In fact so long as you like nature, like spending time outside, and are open to listening, seeking and even questioning and sharing then wild church really is great for everyone of any age at all. (This is how we introduced the idea at Waddington.church)