



LEAVING THE FAMILIAR

A resource for local church, Circuit and/or District groups to plan and host a 'creativity day' in their local area and context.

The aim of the event:

For participants to experience something different by leaving the comfortable confines of their familiar church setting and stepping out—into an unfamiliar location, into different church architecture, into new or different ways of 'being church', into the very real stories of people past and present.

This resource is a guide only, based on the event held in Liverpool in May 2017. Add your own ideas and activities as appropriate to your own situation.

Suggested programme:

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| 10.00 | Gathering |
| 10.30 | Introduction |
| 11.00 | Going out |
| 1.00 | Lunch |
| 1.45 | Workshops |
| 3.10 | Re-gathering |
| 3.30 | Departures |

Gathering:

- ✘ Booking may not be required for your event, but registration on arrival is essential—you can't assume that everyone who attends has booked, or that everyone who has booked has turned up.
- ✘ You need to know who is attending the event, not least for health and safety reasons and fire regulations, but also to ensure that everyone has returned after the morning's activities!
- ✘ And of course, refreshments on arrival are always appreciated.

Introduction:

This should be kept fairly short, to allow plenty of time for the day's activities, and could include:

- ✘ a welcome to everyone
- ✘ the usual 'housekeeping' (toilets, emergency procedures, etc)
- ✘ a quick run-through of the programme for the day
- ✘ any practicalities of getting to or from the various 'outside' venues
- ✘ an opportunity for questions—ensure that everyone is clear about what will happen
- ✘ a prayer together for the day's activities

Going Out:

This section will perhaps need the most planning and preparation.

Think about what has particular significance in your own area, history, and context. For example:

- ✘ What historical people or events are linked to the place? [e.g. Elizabeth Fry in Norwich, Eliza Wigham (Edinburgh), Emmeline Pankhurst (Manchester), the miners' strike, the Welsh revival...]
- ✘ What is or was the local industry? [e.g. steel in Sheffield, mining in County Durham, farming in Cumbria, the slave trade in Liverpool, hosiery in the Midlands...]
- ✘ What draws people to the place nowadays? [e.g. employment, tourism, seaside, shopping (e.g. Meadowhall in Sheffield), a National Park (walking, climbing, water sports), a historic church or cathedral (e.g. Coventry, Lincoln, St Michael le Belfry in York), the local nightlife/clubs...]
- ✘ What are local churches and/or organisations doing 'differently' (perhaps in terms of local 'social justice' issues)? [e.g. the 'Bread Church' in Liverpool, Street Pastors, worship for people with Alzheimer's or learning difficulties, providing food and facilities for homeless people...]

With these ideas in mind, think how and where participants might engage with and learn more about the history and/or current context of your local area, for example:

- ✘ museums or galleries
- ✘ a cathedral or other significant church
- ✘ local church or charity-run projects
- ✘ photography or drawing
- ✘ an illustrated talk (at the host venue—ideal for anyone not physically able to go 'out')
- ✘ Town Hall or other local government building
- ✘ a 'walking tour' of buildings and monuments
- ✘ a prayer walk
- ✘ a 'mindfulness' walk

You will also need to:

- ❑ remember to check accessibility of outside venues, and to check available transport if needed
- ❑ tap into local expertise as needed, for both morning and afternoon activities—for example a local historian (for the walking tour or illustrated talk), a photographer, your local councillor or MP...
- ❑ designate a named person to oversee each group on the day, to lead the group to the outside venue, and ensure that all return to the host venue (so a list of names will be needed)

Lunch:

You decide what works best for your event. It could be catered by a church group or a local catering company, a bring-and-share meal, a picnic outdoors, fish and chips—the possibilities are endless!

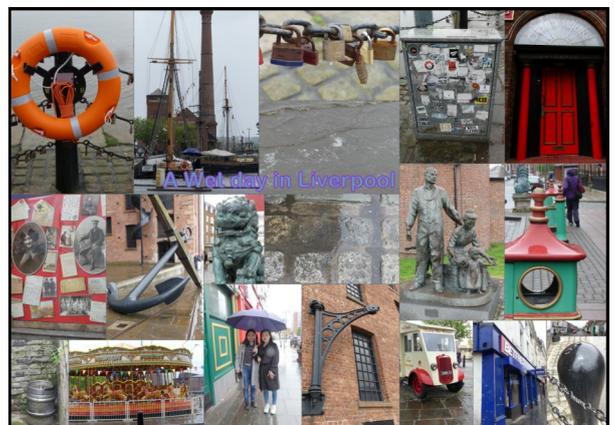
Workshops:

Afternoon workshops will enable participants to consolidate and share together their experiences of the morning. Again, you might need to use local expertise in leading some of the sessions. For example:

- ❑ a session on a big 'local' theme [e.g. migrant workers, rural poverty, inner city regeneration...]
- ❑ a creative writing workshop
- ❑ using the morning's photographs creatively
- ❑ specific art and craft activities, or
- ❑ simply provide art and craft materials
- ❑ a repeat of the morning's illustrated talk
- ❑ some might like to just sit and talk

Re-gathering:

- ❑ An opportunity for participants to share any insights on their experiences and to show the fruits of their workshop sessions. This should be kept fairly brief; not everyone needs to (or will want to) respond—perhaps just one response from each outside visit and afternoon workshop will be enough.
- ❑ The day can then be drawn to a close in prayer.



Digital collage produced by the photography group, at the Liverpool event, May 2017

You should also consider:

Children and young people

If you want them to come and be involved, you will need to organise suitable activities for them:

- ❑ a crèche for the little ones
- ❑ activity sheets for older ones (museums, churches, etc, often have these available)
- ❑ are there any pertinent apps or other online activities for children and young people?

Accessibility

- ❑ Include on your booking form space to include dietary and/or mobility requirements.
- ❑ Does the host venue have disabled facilities, loop system, lifts, Blue-Badge parking?
- ❑ Ensure participants with disabilities know what difficulties they may encounter at outside venues

Travel

- ❑ Provide directions to the host venue, information about local public transport, car parking, etc.
- ❑ You could produce a map showing each of the outside venues in relation to the host venue, plus information about any transport needed (e.g. local buses, taxis, etc).

Cost

- ❑ You will need to check whether any of the outside venues have entrance fees, and decide whether these should be paid by the individual, or from the overall proceeds of the day.
- ❑ It is entirely up to you whether you charge a set fee or ask for 'realistic donations to defray costs'; this may depend on venue, lunch arrangements, etc.

Further resources:

www.mwib.org.uk
www.shorelineconversations.com
www.streetwisdom.org

Bread made at 'Somewhere Else' and eaten for lunch in Liverpool, May 2017

