



# MOVING MOUNTAINS

8 - 11 MARCH, 2018

**Mission Preparation Guide**  
**Part Four – Mission as a Way of Life**



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## Introduction

Dear friends,

Welcome to this fourth, and final, guide booklet for the ***Moving Mountains*** mission 2018.

All the hard work is coming together as we approach the four days of the mission. Our prayer is that you will see many people come to know more of the good news and of God's purpose for their lives, and also that there will be a new energy in your work together through Mission Communities. In this booklet we invite you to pause and think ahead as to how you will build on Moving Mountains, developing an even stronger focus on thinking deliberately about mission.

Thank you for all you are doing to spread the Gospel in the run up to, during, and after ***Moving Mountains***.

*+ James, Richard, Sarah and Drew*



## In This Booklet

Across Cumbria, churches are responding to the opportunity that Moving Mountains offers to focus resources on enabling everyone to discover Jesus. Our hope is that your church is growing in confidence, both in what the good news is, as well in the difference that Jesus can make in the lives of people around you. The four days provide a great chance to help the whole of Cumbria think intentionally about how we enable others to discover more of Jesus. But Moving Mountains is a movement, not simply an event in March, so what we do beyond those four days is probably more critical than what happens during them. This booklet aims to offer resources that will help each of us work out how we build on all that has been happening over recent months. Whether its about sharing your story, putting the church through ***Mission Shaped Introduction*** or getting coaching



from the Reach Team to critically assess where you are on the journey, keeping mission at the forefront of all we do is going to be vital over the next few years as we continue to work towards the God for All vision that:

*“By 2020 every person in Cumbria of all ages and backgrounds will have had an opportunity to discover more of God and God’s purpose for their lives, so that they will discover more of Jesus and the Good News and become followers of Jesus within a Christian community.”*

The 2018 Mission is an integral part of this ongoing **God for All** mission and so it is essential that mission happens both before and after the four days of mission, as well as during it.



## **Reflecting on Moving Mountains 2018**

Make plans now for an event to bring together all those involved in Moving Mountains in your churches and church grouping soon after 11 March.

### ***Shared Reflection and Celebration***

Make time to reflect on the mission, to tell stories, to share what you've learnt and how you've seen the Holy Spirit at work. Make this a time to say 'thank you' and to celebrate all the hard work that has been happening.

As individuals involved, many of us will have taken a new step in our journey as disciples. Perhaps we've discovered a fresh sureness in how we communicate our faith to others. Some will have become involved in outreach for the first time, whilst others will have grown in confidence in telling their faith story. As churches and church groupings,



we've hopefully learnt a lot about how we can work together.

The Moving Mountains Resources section of the God for All website has a feedback sheet to help each church grouping consider the outcomes of Moving Mountains 2018, which will hopefully enable you to think through how you build on what has happened, and also help us centrally to gain an overall view of what went on.

### **From Ideas to Action – the Mission Action Plan**

Mission Action Planning is, or at least should be, a creative process that engages people, helping to build a shared vision, providing a focus on priorities for mission and momentum for action.

Unfortunately, it can sometimes be seen as another bit of bureaucracy simply to produce a plan on paper.



Following on from Moving Mountains may offer a chance to take a creative, collaborative approach to mission action planning both for your local church and also for your Mission Community. It can be a great way to bring people together and create a shared focus on missional activity.

A key message is not to try to do everything. Focus your energies. Reflect on your approach to leadership – are you building capacity? Are you providing space for exploration and experimentation? Are there good opportunities for people to discover their gifts as they get involved and have a go? A useful introduction ***Revisiting Mission Action Planning*** can be found on the God for All website under *making it happen/ministry*.

If you want help to run either a single workshop, or a short series of them, to create a mission action plan, contact Mike Talbot.



## Mission Shaped Introduction

A key tool in helping think through how to embed Mission in the life of your churches is ***Mission Shaped Introduction***. Running for 6 weeks, it helps people to explore their understanding of, and connections with, the communities they are called to serve and to re-imagine the forms of church that are needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is a creative and participative journey which helps refresh the missional DNA of our churches. Sessions explore the foundational nature of the mission of God; how the church can respond to a world of change and uncertainty; how to develop an authentic community; how to develop expressions of worship that connect with our communities; how to encourage discipleship & equip emerging leaders; and finally how to determine your next steps. If you would like more information, contact Nicki Pennington.



## **Developing Fresh Expressions**

Fresh Expressions are growing rapidly across the county, proving an effective way to engage local people creatively and build new communities of faith. Accompanying this booklet should also be the Fresh Expressions Cumbria Guide; if you don't have access to one it can be downloaded on the God for All Website Fresh Expressions tab or contact Richard Passmore for paper copies.

Several groups may be starting to emerge as a result of Moving Mountains so it is critical to ask, and honestly answer, whether these groups are best served by the existing models of church locally, or if they might be better resourced with the space to become a Fresh Expression of church in their own right. If so, we can support and coach you through the stages of developing them intentionally. Often this is more straight forward than it sounds so do get in touch with Richard Passmore.



## **Growing Connections**

Events that take place during the March weekend will hopefully strengthen your links with the local community, and help you be more intentional in your missional emphasis. How might you continue to appropriately build on that emphasis in the coming weeks and months? What is sustainable as you look ahead? One of the most critical elements in sharing our faith is establishing good, enduring, relationships.

You might develop the links with local toddler groups and schools. Perhaps invest more in following up baptisms, weddings and funerals to build connections. Be persistent but not pushy. Multiple contacts and invitations over time are important.

Have a look at the resources on the Reach section of the God for All website (for example on welcome



and invitation). How might you strengthen what you are already doing?

For ideas and support on working with children through Messy Church, Toddler Groups and Christenings, contact Sarah Hulme.

### **Serving Our Communities**

In Moving Mountains, we have focused on the first two of the '5 Marks of Mission', emphasising outreach in support of the God for All vision.

**The 5 Marks of Mission** provide a broad perspective

1. *To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.*
2. *To teach, baptize and nurture new believers.*
3. *To respond to human need by loving service.*
4. *To seek to transform unjust structures of society.*
5. *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*



The 5 Marks of Mission include loving service for those in need and caring for creation. We know that many church members are involved already in these forms of mission, but perhaps not through the churches. We can celebrate this and, as we meet together, seek to support and equip each other. As churches and church communities we might also be active in various ways already.

Here too we explore how we might build on Moving Mountains 2018 and be more active in working for the Kingdom in our local communities. Active service and the purpose it brings plays an important role in making us an attractive community that people want to join in with.

Ways to explore the next steps in serving our communities include developing a Community Profile and running a Colourful Conversations workshop. For more information on either of these contact Richard Passmore.



## Whole-Life Perspective

Central to our ability to fulfil the vision that God has set before us is the readiness of each person to live out their faith on a daily basis. Before we started on Moving Mountains we were working with LICC to run a series of *Imagine* workshops. The theme was that through each week we are *all* on the *frontline* for mission and the Kingdom at home, at school and in the workplace. Remember to build on this vital, whole of life perspective and equip our church communities for this work. This is where we spend most of our time. As we reflect on Moving Mountains and look to the future, how can you make mission in your church for everyone and for the whole of life as well as special events such as Moving Mountains 2018.



## **God for All: Moving Forward**

“Everybody needs to be invited to dream Godly dreams, embrace new vision and use their passions and skills like never before. Everybody is invited to take a lead.... A leader is someone who has a vision, says ‘yes’ to God and then does something about that by drawing in others, encouraging people and getting things done. Leaders are not just ministers, lay workers and those with job titles or specific roles, but people of all ages and background who are prepared to leave the comfort of their sofas and pews and get something done for the kingdom.”

We are keen to build on Moving Mountains to ensure we help you use it as a springboard for new mission by offering each Mission Community the chance to engage in a tailored workshop.



***Moving Forward*** will challenge you to shape the story of your Mission Community. It includes two components:

**Firstly:** The ***Moving Forward*** one-day workshop. This is designed to energize and equip a broad leadership group from across a Mission Community to build a shared vision and accelerate the development of the Mission Community.

In the workshop we explore the *Missional Shift* you are making as Mission Community and (amongst other things) how resources from Reach and CCL might help you along your journey:

**Forming:** the first stages. Sorting out the boundaries; starting to build a leadership team; working out current capabilities.

**Exploring:** getting going. Letting some groups press ahead, perhaps starting a Messy Church. Starting to focus more broadly on FX and mission.



**Evolving:** major changes in focus and mindset occur. The leadership group broadens out, roles and structures evolve. Confidence grows as missional leaders make things happen.

**Flourishing:** we're really excited to see the ideas and innovation that will emerge as communities reach this stage.

**Secondly: *Missional Leadership.*** Across two, one-day sessions your Mission Community will have the opportunity to gain expertise in using a leadership toolkit which will help you develop as enterprising, missional disciples who make things happen.

If you are keen to keep finding new ways to ensure your Mission Community can play its part in God for All, talk to Jane or Emma about running a workshop in your Mission Community.

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## **Telling Your story**

We hope that, as a result of Moving Mountains 2018, at least one person in each church who has not previously publicly shared a faith story will do so either before, during or after the mission.

Why not be far more ambitious than that? Let's provide opportunities to tell our own faith stories much more often.

One way to do this is to use 'This Time Tomorrow' a very short interview during the Sunday service which allows someone to talk about their frontline for mission during the week. It asks three questions:

1. Where will you be this time tomorrow?
2. What are your challenges and joys?
3. How can we pray for you?



Another option is to use the 5 questions Radio Cumbria have been using on Sunday Breakfast:

1. What do you believe?
2. Where does your faith come from?
3. Who or what is central to your faith?
4. How does your faith impact on your life?
5. And, without your faith...?

The 6-week ***Faith Pictures*** course from Church Army is also a great way to get a small group together to learn new ways of telling their faith story.

### **Future Mission Events**

Within the ongoing missional engagement that hopefully gives a shape to all that we are doing in Mission Communities and local churches, it can be helpful to have particular times when we focus especially on evangelism, such as this weekend in March. Many churches come away from such a



weekend with renewed confidence, having found that it was enjoyable – and open to doing something similar at some point in the future. To help that, all our Senior Leaders, along with the Archdeacons, are keeping free up to 3 weekends a year from 2019-2021 to be involved in outreach in a Mission Community, along with a team from another Community. The aim is that, over the three-year period, every Mission Community will have the opportunity of both hosting a weekend and sending a team to work in another Community. For more details, contact Mike Talbot.

### **How Might We Learn Together?**

An important outcome from Moving Mountains is a greater sense of learning and working together in churches and church groupings as well as across the county. Imagination doesn't happen in a vacuum and there are so many good ideas we can 'borrow'



and adapt locally. Are there ideas that have worked well for you which are worth sharing? If so, let Mike Talbot know!

### **Looking for Help?**

You are not on your own. Throughout this booklet we have identified many sources of advice. A useful one-stop-shop (which will constantly be added to) is the Resources for Mission page on the CCL website <https://www.cumbriachristianlearning.org.uk/resources-for-mission>. If you come across other helpful ideas or resources, please pass them on, and we'll add them to the list.

### **Contact Information**

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More information about opportunities for engaging in outreach will be available on the God for All website [www.godforall.org.uk](http://www.godforall.org.uk) under the **Reach** tab.



## And Finally

### Thank you!

In years to come, it will be wonderful to think of people who have come to faith through our Moving Mountains mission and who are thankful to God that we cared enough about them to share the Good News of Jesus with them.

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation.*  
*(Isaiah 52:7)*

# The God for All Prayer

God for all, you reached out to the world  
in your Son Jesus Christ.

Help us to reach out in faith and love and witness to  
all.

God for all, you send your Holy Spirit  
to empower and gift your Church.

By your Spirit help us grow in unity,  
grow as followers of Jesus Christ,  
and grow your kingdom in Cumbria and in this  
world.

Amen.

