



new  
ground

# LATEST



Make A Difference

---

Following Jesus into the Market Place

---

Impacting Communities

Issue 05 January 2018

# CONTENTS

03–05	Make A Difference
06–07	Following Jesus into the Market Place
08–09	Impacting Communities
10	Maastricht
11	Berlin
12–13	Reaching Nations
14	Academy
15	Impact



© Copyright 2018 New Ground.  
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission from New Ground. New Ground is a registered charity, no. 1121110. Our registered office is: New Ground, King's Centre, 33 Amy Road, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0PW  
E: [admin@newgroundchurches.org](mailto:admin@newgroundchurches.org)  
T: 01883 734 805  
🐦 [@newgroundtoday](https://twitter.com/newgroundtoday)  
f [/newgroundchurches](https://www.facebook.com/newgroundchurches)  
@ [@newgroundchurches](https://www.instagram.com/newgroundchurches)  
💻 [newgroundchurches.org](http://newgroundchurches.org)



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*Dave Holden*

It seems a long time now since we gathered at Ashburnham for our bi-annual weekend with the New Ground family of churches. Not only was it a great occasion at the time, but the real impact has been all that has happened since. The theme of 'make a difference' seemed to resonate with so many and we've received so many stories of individuals who met with God and have gone on to see new things unfold where they live and work.



We've heard accounts of churches who have kicked started new projects that are impacting their localities, and of churches that have been seeing a breakthrough in salvation. Several have been baptised in water after Ashburnham, realising that making a difference really means following Jesus more wholeheartedly. One 80-year-old man was recently baptised following an Ashburnham preach even though he was not able to be there.

The goal of 'make a difference' was always meant to go way beyond Ashburnham and that's exactly what has happened. We are called to plant many churches across the UK and Europe and this year we believe we will see many of those officially launched.

“

'Make A Difference' was always meant to go way beyond Ashburnham and that's exactly what's happened.

The offering, as you know, was totally beyond anything that we could have hoped for, so much so that I was speechless on the last morning at Ashburnham and forgot to say a proper thank you for this amazing act of generosity. Let me put that right now – Thank you!

As we prayed for one another to receive more of the Holy Spirit at the end of the conference, it reminded us that we can only make a difference if we know his power in our lives. It was therefore significant to hear testimonies of so many who encountered the Holy Spirit afresh and some for the first time.

One final ongoing result of Ashburnham was the Equipping Tracks. So many of you came, that we



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*Dave Holden*



had to turn scores away as the room filled up. In response to this, we are planning to release a website project to connect people in the workplace to continue the conversation and I'd love to encourage you to get involved and be equipped to make a difference in whatever walk of life you find yourself in. Keep an eye on the New Ground website for more information.

In 2017, the nations of Europe faced many challenges. It's easy to think that we, the church, are becoming side-lined, seen as irrelevant with archaic values rejected by the majority. Yet the truth is that the local church that you belong to is the vehicle by which the Kingdom of God comes and where the gospel is not only proclaimed but is also demonstrated by the way we live and share our lives.

Five hundred years ago, a reformation that brought revival changed Europe. God can and will do this again. As we pray for a new wave of revival in our day, let us in the meantime continue to be faithful with the things He has called us to do. My prayer is that New Ground will, with many others, play our part to see transformation.

There were several prophecies given at Ashburnham which encouraged us to believe that God has more to do through us. Some were specific to the UK and Europe; promises of an ever-growing canopy over many nations and of sparks from a huge bonfire (who can forget the Ashburnham bonfire?) that began new fires in significant European cities. I look forward with eager anticipation to seeing these words fulfilled.

As you read through this Latest magazine I hope you will be inspired by many of the ongoing stories that are told. Each of them are about people just like you and me, ordinary believers who are endeavouring to make a difference where they live. Be encouraged.

**Dave Holden**







# FOLLOWING JESUS INTO THE MARKET PLACE

*Jon Le Tocq*

The Equipping Tracks at Ashburnham 2017 were a first for New Ground. From the feedback we've had, it was also the first time many people felt that their vocation, job, skills, work-place etc. had been identified as having a key specific role in the mission into which Jesus is calling us. There was a real emphasis on getting encouraged, equipped and trained to be more apostolic and prophetic where we spend the bulk of our waking hours.

Under the six domains identified - Business & Economy, Government, Health & Social Care, Education, Creative, Religions - we gathered over 300 people in six separate sessions. Some were oversubscribed and we sadly had to turn a few latecomers away; not to be put off, some enterprising folk turning up to the already packed out Business track decided to form a "company" outside the

open window of the seminar room. This shows true entrepreneurial spirit!

Believing that God equips each one of us through the Holy Spirit (Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 14:26) and that corporately we have the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16), we used testimonies from those among us and World Café techniques to facilitate the meeting of as many people as possible. Small groups had a short time to share and discuss experiences and ideas around specific themes such as "Where are the greatest opportunities to share Jesus using my skills?" and "Identify the key obstacles to presenting the Kingdom of God in your work environment". We finished with feedback from each table and an opportunity for prayer and ministry; now we're working on the feedback and material gathered in order to build on this initiative.







“

Despite us having the values of Kingdom and community, it is still possible for many to see the church focused primarily on Sunday and small group gatherings.

A few areas are already apparent and the New Ground Core Team are seeking to progress these:

A number of people “found one another” at the Equipping Tracks; by this I mean some who feel isolated and discouraged in their work or vocational environment discovered they were not alone, others shared their concerns and challenges. A few walked into the room and found someone else from their own church who worked in the same arena! It is certainly the case that those in smaller churches or plants, and those with very specialized skills can often feel lonely and ill equipped to serve as a missionary in their normal working hours.

Many shared that they were beginning to appreciate the value and ability to contribute through their work and calling, which they were in danger of seeing as only a “means to an end”. This shows that despite us having the values of Kingdom and community, it is still possible for many to see the church focused primarily on Sunday and small group gatherings.

There is a clear hunger for more engagement and interaction starting perhaps with the microcosm of issues only touched on at Ashburnham. As in all skills environments, missionaries learn best from other missionaries who are a few steps ahead in particular areas. Face to face learning is always best, and we are looking at how to facilitate other gatherings, but we can also supplement this in today's world by digital means. We hope to launch an online forum for each track domain with opportunity for cross-working where appropriate, which will enable all of us to keep in touch in real time across all our churches.



# IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

---

*Jim Partridge*

It was so encouraging at Ashburnham 2017 to hear some of the amazing and innovative ways that churches are seeking to serve and impact their local communities.

Of course, we were unable to tell all the amazing things that are happening across the churches and so have decided to keep sharing these inspiring stories to provoke us to consider how we can serve and reach the communities that God has called us to.

Jubilee Community Church in East Grinstead have a vision to make their church as inclusive as possible for as many people as possible in their community. With that in mind, they have employed Sarah Wallis, a specific Additional Needs Coordinator, whose role is to break down the barriers that stop people from attending church.

I spoke with Sarah about their vision to be a truly welcoming and inclusive church for everyone, regardless of any issues people may have relating to language, learning, age, disability or mental health.

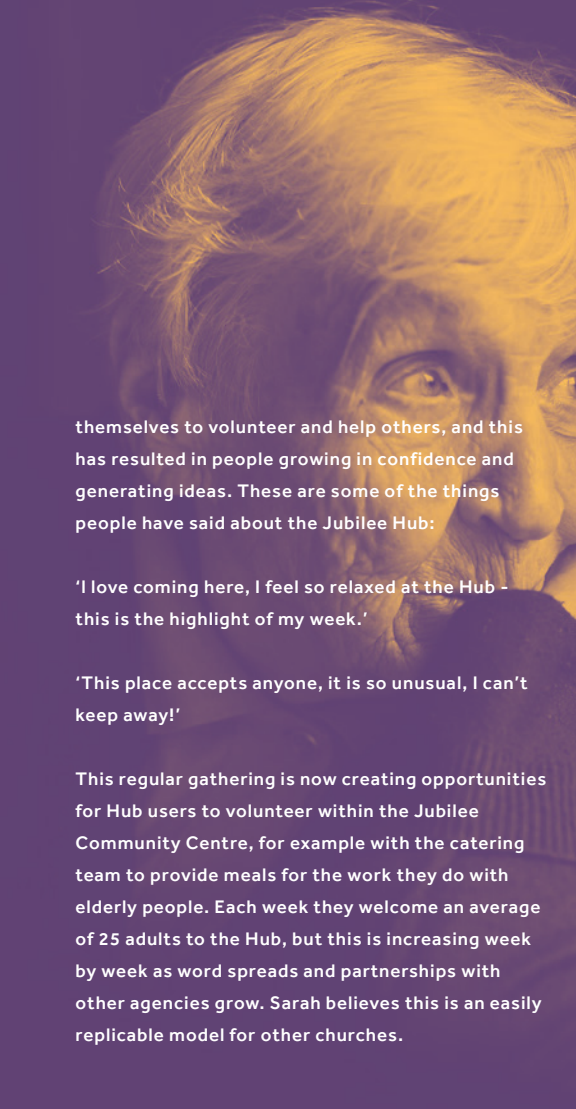
Sarah was inspired to begin 'Jubilee Hub' – a weekly drop-in lunch – because she observed people on the fringes of church life, seeking somewhere to belong but finding church inaccessible. She recognised certain groups in her community underrepresented in their congregation. As someone who is a passionate believer that the gospel is inclusive to all, she decided to do something about it.

“

I established the Hub as a  
simple way for people to belong  
and to be a witness of God's  
love modeled through practical  
friendship and support.

One of the unique features of the Hub is that it enables people who have experienced isolation





themselves to volunteer and help others, and this has resulted in people growing in confidence and generating ideas. These are some of the things people have said about the Jubilee Hub:

'I love coming here, I feel so relaxed at the Hub - this is the highlight of my week.'

'This place accepts anyone, it is so unusual, I can't keep away!'

This regular gathering is now creating opportunities for Hub users to volunteer within the Jubilee Community Centre, for example with the catering team to provide meals for the work they do with elderly people. Each week they welcome an average of 25 adults to the Hub, but this is increasing week by week as word spreads and partnerships with other agencies grow. Sarah believes this is an easily replicable model for other churches.

## SUSTAIN CAFÉ

Another initiative developed by Sarah at Jubilee is the Sustain Café; a drop-in café that runs twice a month for parents with children who have additional needs. The Sustain Café aims to be a little oasis in the parent's week where they can recharge their batteries and feel supported. Many of the families that attend are not from church, but the team pray for them and practically demonstrate Jesus' love.



Sustain Café has been running since March 2017, and went from meeting monthly to twice monthly in June. A core of parents (mums and dads) come each week and friendships are growing. They recently received a grant which meant they were able to provide Christmas presents for all the families that access Sustain Cafe.

This is another great example of a local church seeking to reach out, serve and impact its local community. For more information visit:



[JCEG.CO.UK](http://JCEG.CO.UK)





# PLANTING CHURCHES MAASTRICHT

*Lise de Lange*

We are so grateful for the current season for the church plant in Maastricht. You come to see the simplicity of church; coming together, gathering people in a home to worship, opening the Word of God, sharing life and seeing that He adds people from different nations and backgrounds. Yet we all have one thing in common - our faith in Him!

Previously, we met every other Sunday and on Tuesday evenings. As of this month, we have stated meeting every Sunday. We love having fun together and have recently enjoyed celebrating Christmas and New Year together.

In November 2017, we celebrated Thanksgiving, a festivity that is normally not celebrated in The Netherlands, yet we thought it would be a great opportunity to share what we are thankful for in the midst of friends and family. It felt a bit like Levi who,



after deciding to follow Jesus, opened up his house and held a banquet for his co-workers and friends to meet with Jesus.

We had people from 'outside' joining us too. With two big Turkey's (prepared on the BBQ) and a table full of delicious food from different countries, we completed "I am thankful for ...." on a card and shared it with each other.

Besides being thankful for friends, family, provision and even certain children's TV programs, we were able to share about our thankfulness to God, that Jesus died for our sins, that we have a hope and that He is our joy and life.

The simplicity of opening up our homes, eating together and sharing our faith, makes us thankful for the freedom we have, and gives us hope for more opportunities to do so as we see His Kingdom advance in the great city of Maastricht.





# PLANTING CHURCHES BERLIN

*Peter Benton*



Having the right perspective affects how we see things. Europe is spiritually dead, but friends, it is also ripe for revival! If we look at things from an earthly perspective and don't consider a heavenly one, we can easily lose heart.

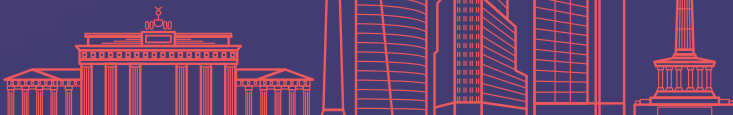
It is said that Europe is the least evangelised continent in the world, where less than 4% of Europeans attend church regularly. Cities like Berlin and Brussels have less than 1% of the population attending church. It's important that we learn from statistics and consider the challenges that others have faced when sharing and contextualising the good news of Jesus.

After our last visit to Berlin, we felt a little overwhelmed by the spiritual climate and the weight of 'counting the cost'. We felt drawn to spend time in prayer and particularly praying Isaiah 40 over the church plant, the city of Berlin and ourselves. The next day we received a prophetic encouragement from Liz Rose who attended the prayer day in Berlin about 'eagles who fly on thermal wind, and seeing things from God's perspective' out of Isaiah 40 - we instantly received fresh faith.

God has called us to play our part in seeing Him glorified in Berlin, by starting a Bible-based, grace-filled, Spirit-empowered new testament church right in the heart of Germany's capital city. God continues to speak to us about doing something different, being radical, using creativity and technology, being a people of worship and of the nations.

As we prepare for our move to Berlin in April this year, we're reminded of Hudson Taylor, who first prayed from Brighton for 24 missionaries to join him in sailing to China for the 'China Inland Mission'. It's said that by 1939 CIM had over 1,300 missionaries, impacting thousands of Chinese people. It's estimated today that there are 85 million Christians in China. Hudson Taylor struggled to get the first 24 and could have given up, but chose to see things from God's perspective trusting and seeking Him faithfully to provide for what He had ordered. God has called us to Berlin and we are praying for 20 adults to join us this year on our adventure.

[berlinadventure.tv](http://berlinadventure.tv)





# REACHING NATIONS

*Jon Le Tocq*

There are 84 countries in the world for whom either French is an official language, or where French culture has a strong influence. Some estimate that as the African population grows, this will represent around one billion people within the next couple of decades. French is certainly likely to overtake German as the most widely spoken mother tongue in Europe by 2025.

We were privileged to be involved with establishing the first Newfrontiers church in France back in the mid 1990s. It still exists today as Église Espérance des Nations, in Rennes, the capital of Brittany. Since then, it has planted out into St Hilaire, a market town in Normandy, and is a great example of a healthy pioneering church in the French cultural context. As it stands today, New Ground represents around a dozen churches and plants in the Francophone world, which currently includes one in Geneva,

Switzerland. These are scattered mainly across the north and south of France, with nothing much to show in the middle/Massif Central area — but we're working on it. Churches in Paris, Lyon, Montpellier, Le Havre, Nimes represent the big cities, and we have churches in towns like Quimper and Valence too with populations of around 70,000.

“

One cannot impose unity out  
of the blue on a country that has  
265 kinds of cheese.



The population in France is very different to the UK and thus requires a different approach to church planting and apostolic ministry. France has a higher population growth than most European nations yet a much higher proportion do not live in big cities like in the UK but in small communes of just a few thousand people. This means that our church planting strategy has to be more flexible and innovative, and we rely on the Holy Spirit to continually shape our ideas and plans.





## NEW GROUND ACADEMY

Recently, New Ground Academy has been established in French with over 70 students currently enrolled in two hubs based in Paris for northern churches and Lyon for those in the south and east, including Geneva. This is an exciting strategic development as we need to raise more new leaders to continue advancing in mission by planting into cities like Nantes, which is next on the agenda.

## LAÏCITÉ

The church in France has known much persecution over the centuries, especially of Protestants, to the degree that the state has adopted the concept of laïcité since the revolution and declared itself totally secular over 100 years ago with the complete separation of church and state. Whilst many people remain nominally attached to the Roman Catholic Church, attendance is lower than that of the Church of England and declining fast.

# ACADEMY

*Phil Moore*

Raising, equipping and releasing leaders is one of the many exciting things happening within New Ground. From the moment we launched the New Ground Academy in September 2014, God has continually surprised us with how big his plans are to use the Academy to train up leaders.



The first surprise was to see the number of people who signed up to our first intake in London, second was the multiplication into new bases in Edinburgh, The Hague, Paris, Lyon, Guernsey and launching in Romania early this year. In yet another surprising turn, we have seen a new base launch in Harare, Zimbabwe, hosting over 150 students in a nation on the brink of a new dawn?

But the biggest surprises have come in the shape of people. We've seen experienced leaders who didn't expect to grow as much as they have, and newcomers to leadership who weren't sure that they were qualified to come on the Academy, but who have grown beyond their wildest dreams. It's been such a privilege to be involved - maybe you would like to join us on the Academy too.



---

[newgroundacademy.org](http://newgroundacademy.org)

---

 [newgroundchurches](#)  [newgroundtoday](#)  [newgroundchurches](#)

The New Ground Academy is a training community for church leaders and church shapers - mainly, but by no means exclusively, from the New Ground family of churches.



# IMPACT

*Jez Field*

Impact is a Christian discipleship gap year, based in local churches across the UK, with the aim of helping individuals grow in understanding, gifting and character. This year we have 18 students from six different nations serving 11 different churches this year.

Here's what a couple of them have to say:

Impact gives you the opportunity to be involved in many areas of church life and mission; I have already been serving youth work, foodbank, pregnancy crisis training, worship, dance and a church plant. It is a great way to discover where your heart lies and what you are passionate about, while having fun at the same time. So go on, check out Impact - you won't be bored and it might just change your life!

*Katie Landles*

The two best parts of Impact for me has been the teaching and the community on the Impact training blocks. Each of these blocks consist of three to five days at a residential centre with other Impacters from around the south east. We worship, eat, enjoy time together and listen to great biblical teaching on leadership, church history, and gifts of the spirit - to name but a few.

*Toby Elliott*

“

If you're looking  
for an adventure and are  
hungry to grow in God,  
Impact is for you.



---

[newgroundchurches.org/impact](https://newgroundchurches.org/impact)

---

 [newgroundchurches](https://www.facebook.com/newgroundchurches)  [newgroundtoday](https://twitter.com/newgroundtoday)  [newgroundchurches](https://www.instagram.com/newgroundchurches)

Impact is for anyone aged 18 or over, keen to grow as a follower of Jesus.

Each year runs from September through to August.



# LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

21–23 June 2018



Raising Leaders. Impacting Communities. Planting Churches. Reaching Nations

---

[newgroundchurches.org](http://newgroundchurches.org)

---

 [newgroundchurches](https://www.facebook.com/newgroundchurches)  [newgroundtoday](https://twitter.com/newgroundtoday)  [newgroundchurches](https://www.instagram.com/newgroundchurches)

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH NEW GROUND ONLINE