
NEW MONASTICISM CONFERENCE 2016

Summing Up - where do we go from here?

VOCATION

Difficult to talk about.

Hard to define it.

What is the distinctiveness between historic and new monasticism.

Why do we, or even do we name ourselves as new monastic?

Stream 2

What is the point of New Monasticism - is it distinct?

What is the need today that requires New Monasticism?

VOCATION

Relationship between Church and New Monasticism

- A gift within the church or over and against the church.
- Movement for the renewal and healing of the whole church
- A Prophetic sign to the church calling her to account
- Renewal within the life of the church at a time of crisis
- Blending together that which the church tends to see apart, (a refusal of binaries) - contemplative and action, sodal and modal, established and fresh
- Historic vocation of religious life within the Church of England - has never received it, always been difficult and stretched.

Stream 2

- What is the radical challenge the New Monasticism offers the world and the church
 - Sacrificial and sacramental?
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VOCATION

Rule or Way of Life

- Rediscovery of Way of Life, rather than attendance at an event.
 - Vows and way of life, echoing some of the weight of monastic life, temporary yet related to life-long vows
 - temporary so leaving rituals important and necessary
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STRUCTURE

Leadership

- Structure enables a shared story to be told. Leaders accountable to the story
- Guardians of the story.
- Benedictine rule important & emphasis on humility
- Enables trust to grow which comes out of having structures. Leadership as trusted servant.
- recognising that leadership has power, and need to acknowledge that power openly in order for it not to be hidden

Stream 2

- Who appoints? From below or above?
 - Different models of leadership
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STRUCTURE

Living Water

- Dig wells don't build fences
- Structure must enable life not constrict



STRUCTURE

Rule of Life

- always in process and provisional
 - Inclusion and exclusion - how do you join? Vows/promises? Does this necessarily exclude some?
 - Need Rule of Life and structure so when things break down or end, someone needs to leave, or decides to leave.
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STRUCTURE

Hierarchy

- Hierarchy = oppressive for many people.
- Tension that you need it.
- Or Hierarchy is vocation based, not oppressive
- Necessary to order life, for both protection and growth.
- Lots of people who are seeking New Monasticism are coming from places where structure has been hurtful

Stream 2

- How is the structure enabling challenge to come both ways, not just top down.
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STRUCTURE

Obedience

- Obedience and authority associated with abuse
 - How do we redeem authority and model good authority
 - Obedience creates freedom.
 - models of obedience - anabaptist perhaps in addition to Benedict
 - Obedience and authority still need to enable the prophetic voice to be heard in community life
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STRUCTURE

Ecumenism

- Ecumenism? How do we belong to? How can we worship together?

Stream 2

- How can we be ecumenical and accountable? What structures enable this.
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MISSION

Basis for Mission

- Must be rooted in our first love (contemplation, prayer, action - goes back to community charism and emerges from it)
 - Rule of Life emerges out of charism which gives shape to mission
 - Mission emerges out of the grit of community life under a Rule of Life.
 - Rule of Life calls you back to fidelity.
 - Mission rooted in sharing the love we have received
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MISSION

Misuse of New Monasticism

- New Monasticism as results driven solution for diocese.
- New Monasticism as getting people into church - agenda in mission, to get people into church
- New Monasticism hijacking monasticism in a consumptive way (surface not depth of monastic vocation)
- What is the relationship between mission and evangelism?

Stream 2

- Community as an act of mission
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MISSION

Who is New Monasticism serving?

- Is New Monasticism a middle class movement? How does this work on a council estate. Mixed feedback.
- How is New Monasticism genuinely diverse and welcoming?
- Not provider/recipient more partnership and being a gift to one another in different ways
- Tensions in diverse contexts around this issue

Stream 2

- Not being host but guest in a community
 - Can we be radical and include those of no faith? Different circles of belonging to overcome this? Postulants, novices and professed?
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MISSION

Monastic wisdom on mission

- Mission not just as an activity or active life
 - seeing prayer as mission, hermits, cloistered monks/nuns mission focused, for the world, not withdrawn or separate from.
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MISSION

Stream 2

- Ability of New Monasticism to go to different places
 - Potential models of mission in New Monasticism Can a parish convert to one Can a vicarage host a New Monastic community? Deaneries and New Monastic communities?
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