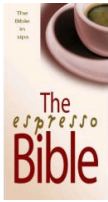


Some Notes on the Xplore Meeting on 15-10-07

Present were Barry Gibson, Annie Hutton, Shirleyanne Seel, Val Fryer, Nigel Evans & Richard Seel.

We started by discussing the question of the newspapers. We spent a lot of time on this and some interesting perspectives were shared. This issue was not resolved but a number of ideas were discussed:

- It would be good to have some magazines of interest. Yachting, fishing and shooting were suggested as likely to be of general interest to those who might come to Xpressions Café.
- We could put a gospel on each table for people to read if they want.
- Last night I heard of the "Espresso Bible". The blurb on Amazon says, *This little book provides a condensed and accessible version of the "Bible" for those who want it quick, simple and concentrated. Experienced author, broadcaster and "Bible" commentator David Winter presents readers with the 'essential' passages of the "Bible", linking them with bits of introductory and explanatory text. This is an excellent book for anyone wanting to read the "Bible" without wading through every word. Unlike the recent "100 Minute Bible", it uses actual "Bible" text (from the CEV translation) rather than summaries of passages. There are 128 pages, it's published by Lion, and the Amazon price is £3.99 per copy.*
- My brother suggested that we could leave provocative cards on the tables as conversation starters. The Alpha slogan, "Is there more to life than this?" is an example, perhaps.



We then moved on to consider Xplore in more detail. The suggestion of 'slots' which I floated in my e-mail was well received. After some discussion the following was proposed:

10:10 - 10:30	Session One
10:40 - 11:00	Session Two
11:10 - 11:30	Session Three
11:40 - 12:00	Session Four

This seemed to offer enough variety with a good gap between sessions.

We then talked about the scheme I suggested with each slot taking one aspect of worship: Preparation, Proclamation, Prayer, Praise. We agreed that all these elements needed to be present during the morning but felt that it was too prescriptive to do it in this way.

Another suggestion was that each slot should try to include two of the elements but this also might prove to be awkward. Instead it was agreed that we would seek to ensure that all the elements were included at least once during the morning.

We noted that, including the clergy, there are 12 people on the Xplore team at present. This would mean that two people could take responsibility for a slot and we would still have resources to spare.

We didn't want to be rigid about this, though, so one person or a group of people could also offer to take responsibility for a slot. And taking responsibility does not mean that you have to do it all yourself so there is a lot of flexibility.

We also agreed that it would be useful to have a common theme for each café, which both Xplore and Xpressions could work with. Advent is the obvious theme for the launch, just as Epiphany is for the 6th January. Advent offers a wide range of possibilities:

- Waiting.
- Penitence and reflection.
- Preparing for Christmas.
- Anticipating Christ's return.
- The start of the Church's year.

So now the ball is in your court. Who will volunteer to lead which slot?

Richard.
