

Phil Potter Biography

Canon Phil Potter has recently completed a five-year appointment as the **Archbishops' Missioner** and **national Team Leader of Fresh Expressions**. During this time, his main task was to steer this inter-denominational initiative through an extensive reorganisation to become a 'A Network of networks', focused on releasing a funded organisation to become an international movement of many parts. Phil is now a freelance consultant and speaker, working nationally and internationally across denominations and networks.

Before taking up his national role, he was **Director of Pioneer Ministry** in the **Diocese of Liverpool** where 1 in 3 parishes has now planted at least one fresh expression of church. He has also been involved for the past few years in national and international strategies for promoting new ways of doing church, and in the recent past has worked as a consultant and speaker in Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, S Africa, Finland, Denmark, Norway and Germany.

For 20 years, he was **vicar of St Marks Haydock**, leading and pastoring the church through many transitions, from being a traditional urban congregation to a large and vibrant mixed economy Cell Church, able to resource and encourage others with its story of renewal, reordering, restructuring and reinventing.

Before ordination, Phil worked in retail management and vocational guidance before becoming a professional singer songwriter. Helping to pioneer contemporary worship he worked and travelled internationally with the late David Watson, leading his team of Christian artists in mission, and recorded four solo albums with Kingsway music.

He has written two books: '**Pioneering a new future**', formerly published as '**The Challenge of Change**' (BRF 2009/15), and '**The Challenge of Cell Church**' (BRF 2001).

He is married to Joy, who works as a Deputy Headteacher in Liverpool, and has two children, both working in the music and arts industry. His main interests are music, travel, home and garden projects, and small grandchildren.

Endorsements.

'Phil is an imaginative and exceptionally skilled practitioner, and a brilliant pioneer and church builder.'

Most Rev Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

'Inspirational, warm, personable and engaging...excellent presentations motivated and inspired the entire diocese to do ministry in a creative and responsive new way.'

Rt Rev Colin R Johnson, Archbishop of Toronto, Canada

'Phil is a gracious and gifted communicator. He is an extremely good listener and quickly grasps the contexts in which he is working'

Rt Rev Stuart Robinson, Bishop of Canberra, New South Wales

'I saw Phil's work in the Diocese of Liverpool and it is deeply impressive. Phil is a godly man, an inspiring practitioner and an encouraging speaker. You will thoroughly enjoy hearing what he has to say. It could bless and even transform your church!'

Rt Rev Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore, Northern Ireland

'As we have wrestled with struggling churches, sectarian division, lack of resources and clergy who are war weary, we have found Phil's encouragement, godly wisdom, and his human and prophetic challenge to be "life-giving".'

Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor, Northern Ireland

'I was delighted with the appointment of Phil Potter as Archbishops' Missioner and Fresh Expressions Team Leader. Phil and I share a common history of working with David Watson in York. Since those days I have admired his ability to grow a church, to develop flagship fresh expressions and to help his diocese develop a mixed economy culture. He has contributed substantially to the development of fresh expressions and mission-shaped denominational structures both here and overseas.

Rt Rev Graham Cray, former Archbishops' Missioner and Team Leader of Fresh Expressions

'Phil Potter has proved in his ministry that lasting change comes through clear, compelling values. His work on change draws on wide wisdom, real life and healthy, holy dissatisfaction.'

George Lings, Church Army Research Team

'Phil has served Fresh Expressions with indefatigable passion, expertise and not least, grace. Grace through complexity and hard decisions. FX and hundreds of faith communities owe a great deal to him, as do those to whom he has been an example and a conscientious leader'.

Martyn Atkins, Former General Secretary of the Methodist Church, and Chair of Fresh Expressions.