

What is Cell all about?

Cell is about small groups being the vital building block of the church.

Cell is church.

The cells then come together for celebration.

The emphasis is not a church or congregation *with* small groups, but a church *of* small groups!

Cell UK define it as:

Church as Cell and Celebration, with the cell being the building block

Every member ministry; enabling and empowering every single member of the Body of Christ

Each cell member taking a responsibility to have a network of unchurched friends they are reaching out to and seeking to evangelise and win

A sense of mutual accountability to obey the commands of Christ – to love God, love one another and love the lost

Empowering people and encouraging them into a sense of destiny and purpose in what they do on a Monday to Friday basis

CELL MODEL	TRADITIONAL MODEL (church plus small groups & youth ministry)
Cell group focused	Buildings focused
Cells drive church	Programme driven
Cell as central	Small groups as add – ons – focus on Sunday
Outward looking	Inward looking
Decentred for ministry & outreach	Centralised activities
Many leaders	Few leaders
Peer leaders	Adult leaders
Everyone in ministry	Professional/experienced ministers
Young people take active part	Young people passive consumers

Adapted from Howard Astin *Body and Cell*, p16

Values

There are 5 key values for cells:

- Jesus at the centre
- Everyone using their gifts (everyone has a role)
- Everyone grows/matures
- Everyone makes God known (multiplication by outreach)
- Community – life together – accountability & sacrificial love

Cells In Youthwork

The vision is for cells of young people, inspiring one another to live for Christ and reach out to their peers, using their gifts, and building each other up.

Laurence Singlehurst suggests:

“In youthwork we have often been forced into situations where we are just looking after the young people (almost like babysitters), and the youth become consumers of the programme. Youth work has traditionally been centred around us wanting to tell young people the truth and keep them coming along...in our changing times we need to look at things in a new way”

Cell Meeting

4W's:

Welcome – icebreaker – to form the group & set the tone, encourage interaction

Worship – To focus on Jesus at the centre, encounter with God

Word – application and edification – not straight bible study – the aim is to be real about life not just get head knowledge

Witness – prayer and share and support for every member sharing faith

How can it work?

Testimonies:

I lead a cell. It works because there's not one figure head for it, my job is to help other guys realise their potential, find out what their gifts are and help develop these gifts

Andy St Albans (in *Taking Apart*)

“Our Icebreaker question was ‘tell us one thing that's happened to you at school’. As we went round answering it became obvious that most of the group had been deeply hurt by something they'd

experienced at school. The tears began to flow and anger was expressed. We spend the rest of the cell time praying for each other for healing of hurt, with words of encouragement and prophecy. Lives were changed that evening”
From *Cell It*