Towards a Theology of Church Growth

David Goodhew,
Cranmer Hall, St John’s College, Durham
10th March 2016
Throat Clearing...
Salvation shows us why we should seek church growth

• Salvation: Kingdom and Church, not Kingdom or Church
• Salvation: people encounter the Good News of Christ in the Local Church
• Salvation: Trinitarian Church Growth
• Salvation: a matter of social action and evangelism
• Salvation: a matter of Contemplative Prayer and church growth
• Salvation means being Fully Sacramental
‘Which is more important, the kingdom or the church?’
What is ‘the kingdom’?
READING ROMANS IN POMPEII

PAUL'S LETTER AT GROUND LEVEL

PETER OAKES
Reading Romans in Pompeii

• Iris: the Bar maid

• Sabina: the stone worker

• Holconius: the cabinet maker

• Primus: the bath stoker
Welcome to
ASLOCKTON

Birthplace of
Thomas Cranmer
1489 - 1556
Archbishop of Canterbury
Salvation: Three P’s

• Purpose

• Pardon

• Peace at the last
Social Action and Evangelism
St Cuthbert?

‘he used especially to make for those places and preach in those villages that were far away on steep and rugged mountains, which others dreaded to visit and whose poverty and ignorance kept other teachers away’ (Bede, *Ecclesiastical History*, iv.27)
Salvation and Being Fully Sacramental
Salvation shows us why we should seek church growth:

- Salvation: Kingdom \textit{and} Church, not Kingdom \textit{or} Church
- Salvation: people encounter the Good News of Christ \textit{in the Local Church}
- Salvation: \textit{Trinitarian} Church Growth
- Salvation: a matter of social action \textit{and} evangelism
- Salvation: a matter of Contemplative Prayer \textit{and} church growth
- Salvation means being \textit{Fully Sacramental}
‘...growth is as fundamental as worship to the health of every tradition of the church.’

Justin Welby, foreword,
Towards a Theology of Church Growth