

## JOURNAL OF A CHURCH PLANTER

**Paul Pavlou (PulishU)**

I was thrilled to see this new book from Paul Pavlou, a vicar and church planter in the Church of England, based in Coventry Diocese, for three main reasons.

Firstly, I always appreciate seeing people respond to God-given passions and ideas. This book is the culmination of Paul's extensive reflection, thinking, and processing of his experience in preparing, planning, and planting a church in the Midlands.

Secondly, Paul is a voice that many church leaders will resonate with, whether through his podcast 'Church Plant Chat,' his work at CCX, his leadership, or his church planting efforts. Paul is an honest and winsome character who consistently points us to Jesus.

Finally, this is the kind of book I wish had been available when I planted and led a church. Paul combines practical insights with honest evaluations in a way that is entirely relatable to church leadership contexts. He understands the church planting terrain and offers a kind of 'sherpa's guide' for others seeking to navigate similar paths, highlighting potential pitfalls but also breath-taking vistas.

The book features raw diary entries that detail thoughts, prayers, and insights, giving readers a behind-the-scenes view of 'live' church planting. It is particularly engaging because Paul's church planting story is ongoing, adding an element of real-time authenticity.

The core content presents an original framework to help prospective church planters become church-plant ready. Paul examines five different perspectives, helping readers think through the internal and external dynamics leaders will face, including issues around discernment, leadership shape, collaboration, and authenticity to calling. He also sensitively addresses the shadow sides of church planting and the early joys and encouragements.

The Journal of a Church Planter provides an honest account, an insightful framework, and a behind-the-scenes perspective that will undoubtedly serve to resource and encourage both church planters and church leaders. I highly recommend this new book.

Review by Matt Hogg, CPAS Leadership Enabler

