

Facing the City: urban Mission in the 21st Century.

Rod Garner. Epworth. 2004

1838: Frederick Denison Maurice: *Kingdom of Christ*.

Incarnation, goodness of creation, fellowship. Earthly city is to be lived in not escaped from.

1877: Guild of St Matthew. S Headlam CSU.

1889: Dock Strike. *Lux Mundi*.

1890: *In Darkest England and the Way Out*. Booth.

1924: COPEC Birmingham. Conf on Chr Politics, Econcs & Citizensp.

1956: M Ramsay berates Ch for no social engagement (Abp Fisher! & LP)

1957: Ted Wickham: *Ch and People in a n Industrial City*.

1979: Thatcher

1983 Toxteth, Brixton, Scarman.

1985: FitC. Anglican prefer good works to transformation as true religion.

3 CITIES TODAY. LOCAL AND GLOBAL.

1. Fragmentation and disregard.

Has city-life become so atomised that collaboration impossible?

Fixated on obsessive consumerism?

People have opted out, opted for virtual reality, no longer nation.

Jacques Ellul.

2. Conviviality & creativity.

Ordinary lives, clusters, networks & communities, families, churches.

Methodist *The Cities* report – creation, incarnation, death & resurrection, pilgrimage.

A well-intentioned government with clashing philosophies.

1. regionalisation and competitive economic regeneration. (accept winners and losers) Regeneration Careerists. Poetry turned to Real Estate.

2. sustainability and locally-led Communities and need.

Not 'are these data valid?' but Who cares? Party political football.

Problems *of* cities or *in* cities? Racism, exclusion, health, employment.

1. 'Placeless logic' of international capital.

2. But some stand defiant: Premier Michel Rocard – Office 1: 2 housing sq m.

Stratford City: Carol Richards. Newham Councillors.

UK: lowest density urban sprawl in Europe.

Observations:

The Church?

Public Theology; Partnership; Spirituality; Margins

With whom, with what culture, should we throw in our lot?

Mission Shaped Church – follows Norman Tebbit advice: market place competition Church?

AD. Get a strategy or be reduced to piety and sticking plaster.

Social God.

How does Jesus come to us? As the unknown by the Lakeside

Worship: Praising Open.

Civil Society: Onora O'Neill. Trust.

Cultural Battle.

Is conflictual City less than Godly?