

SO YESTERDAY
+Adrian Newman. 2010

Bible follows human trend from garden to city – 90% UK. Revn: urban heaven
CUF was a ‘get out of jail free’ card to save CofE changing culture. It was
‘salvation by projects’.

Neo-capitalism, Globalisation, Communications rev – disappearance of
Marxist analysis – Church lost edge. Went for New Labour style partnership
(Faithful Cities wrestled with this compromise) and introversion (moral
compass?)

The Growth Agenda

1. Harsh understanding of salvation – but urban churches have softer edges to
their theology and ecclesiology. 2. To sustain the church.

Hallmark notion of neo-Capitalism! But brings inequality and fracture
Rather than *kenosis*. Upward mobility & allows opt-out of local responsibility.
It favours churches where growth is easier to achieve – calls others ‘failing’
Liverpool Dioc tried ‘Living Hopefully’ to measure parishes more holistically.
CofE does bias to poor in its national and diocesan disbursements.

Vocation and Training

Less urban experience, from suburban style churches. Lee says 85% feel called
to SE England. Vocational moves to a Contractual approach. “People nearer
the edge of the church are more prepared to go nearer edge of community.”
Stones the builders rejected (gays etc)

Training period is short, family commitments, Min Div less funding.
Preparing ministers for the middle class (Hind). Needs indigenous leadership.
Where are next tranche of Urban Bishops coming from?

Church Tradition

Individual soul-saving is particular brand of suburban evo. Need converting.
Now there are Pentecostal, charismatic etc.
Fragmenting Anglo-Catholic: incarnational
Liberal (Eric James)
Liberational

“It is dangerous to formulate any theology at a distance from the poor”. (LG)

Models of Urban Ministry

Think outside parochial box? Tiller. Teams, Cathedrals, BMOOrders (Byker)
Base Communities, New Monasticism, Love Bristol (Southend) Community
Living

Traditional parish model can isolate and discourage – fresh ideas.

Inequality and Poverty

25 years since FitC these have increased. Richard Wilkinson thesis.

Organising. Too often church does good work TO the poor. Switch from
projects to process, from regeneration to relationships.

CofE credible at local but not national level.