

Questions for Discussion

The Church In The Future Should Be

- popular** the church must address all humanity. Yet it follows a man who was crucified, and who said his followers would be treated like him. The name for “witness” in Greek is “marturion” - *martyrdom*. The urge to be popular may therefore be dangerous, the fact of unpopularity may be honourable.
Q: How can we be “for everyone”, and still reflect a crucified Founder?
- in touch** the church must communicate effectively, so that people can hear the real Gospel and make a real choice, not one falsified by misunderstandings. Yet even Jesus failed to get through to some people; there is something in human nature which can say *no* to the truth.
Q: Can *we* make the Gospel real to more people?
- up-to-date** being Christian must be seen as the revolutionary thing it is; there is nothing more “modern” than the Resurrection. Yet the truth is *timeless* rather than fashionable. Nothing *dates* faster than “up-to-date”.
Q: Can we make this 2000-year old palpably “modern”?
- youthful** people are always happy if the community is full of young people. Although the church must be home to people of every age, not just the young, perhaps the young are more likely to be lacking. Our age tends to segregate the old and the young in insidious ways.
Q: Do we have a distorted picture of the age-profile of a healthy community?
- humane** being Christian should be more humane than any other way of life, for it is a following of the law of humanity’s Creator. Yet “humanity” as perceived at any one time may itself fall short of, or differ from, the way God sees it. Sometimes real humanity may preclude short-cuts that seem attractive.
Q: Is tangling with God always going to cut across “merely human” values?
- relevant** Christianity engages human life in its depths, addressing great questions about life and death. If the church allows itself to look archaic or irrelevant this fact will be obscured. But that does not allow the church to jump on any bandwagon that rolls past.
Q: Is there a necessary distance between the church and politics?

