

Religion Fragments

Secularisation

Discussion Point: The Role of Religion

Divide into groups and read the following articles taken from the Church of England web site (www.cofe.anglican.org).

Each group should then discuss - and make a case for to the class - *either* of the following:

The primary role of the Church in contemporary Britain is to look after:

1. The spiritual needs of society
2. The material needs of society.

1985: Faith in the City	2005: Commission on Urban Life and Faith:
<p>“Faith in the City” was a call for action to church and nation. The report highlighted the growing number of people and places that were experiencing disadvantage and exclusion at a time when others were experiencing economic boom.</p> <p>Concern was expressed at the level of church attendance, the failure of congregations to play a leading role in community life, the cultural gap emerging between perceived Church life and Urban Priority Area (UPA) people.</p> <p>In the nearly twenty years since the report’s publication the many of the problems faced by inner city and outer estate communities have failed to disappear. At the same time changes in industry, employment, migration, local government and programmes from central government, have lead to a very different scene in which the churches now engage.</p>	<p>The “Commission on Urban Life and Faith” will promote a vision of urban life which analyses and addresses the realities of its delights, injustices and its needs. It will spotlight work, especially by faith communities, that makes a difference in disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>The Commission will listen to and reflect on the experiences of individuals in urban communities. Reporting at the end of 2005...the Archbishop of Canterbury commented: "Real commitment involves listening to and learning from those in most need. By working together with them, with different faiths, with the government and the voluntary and community sector, we can make a real difference to people's lives.".</p> <p>Paul Boateng, MP. said: "The role of faith groups in community regeneration and renewal is vital; my colleagues and I welcome the opportunities for effective partnership that it will offer."</p>

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