

New Start 2010

A robust Christian faith: standing up to challenges

March 22nd Beyond sex: permanent, faithful, stable

1. I wanted not to do this session as the church talks too much about homosexuality.
2. Homosexuality is used as a touchstone for
 - a. Authority of the Bible: what do Jesus, the prophets and Paul say about Homosexuality?
 - b. Tradition and certain cultural values: the voice of the young saying “I won’t come back to Church until it deals with Homosexuality better” – cultural markers work 2 ways.
3. ‘Permanent, faithful stable’:
 - a. is that a good starting point for describing what is good about any relationship?
 - b. What other words might you want to use to guide those who are single/elderly/divorced/married/homosexual/seeking friendship?
 - c. Different patterns of relationship can be “equivalent” in a moral rather than social way.
4. Yet in all this confused, changing and chaotic social world, perhaps we need certain stable markers. Look at the split between the western and eastern churches in the 10th century – when the markers which had huge symbolic significance were the style of the haircut, the beards of priests and whether the church used leavened bread in the Eucharist.
5. How to reply to Rowan’s approach which relies on “our liberalism makes life difficult for Christians in other countries”? How the Anglican Communion handled Polygamy in the 19th century. If we can’t properly deal with this, how can the Anglican Communion be a beacon of hope to the world on how to handle differences?
6. Does reticence (the ability NOT to ask certain questions) lead to hypocrisy (the slipperiness of applying rules differently in public and private)?

*Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
Amen.*

March 29th The Passover Seder Meal

A Passover meal, drawing on our Jewish heritage, marking the Passover, and designed to help us prepare for Holy Week and Easter

The Trinity Centre is in use until 1700; we therefore need some extra help in setting up the tables and “preparing for the Passover”. Please let Robert or the Office know how you can help.