

Book Reviews

"Liquid Church"

Pete Ward Hendrickson, 2002.
1-56563-6805



Have you ever wondered and worried about the shape of the Church for the future. The difficulties of falling numbers, supporting buildings and communities, the increasing divergence of activities people are involved in. How is the Church going to support the structures that already exist whilst maintaining a relevance to the communities we exist in.

Pete Ward begins to explore the issues of a future shape in this book, of a church with a foundation in modernity but facing an increasingly post modern culture, a church which in the past had a solid structure as a, 'Nostalgic Community, as a Refuge and as a Heritage Site,' in the way it operated and related to society. To one that needs to be more fluid, **Liquid Church**, as to who is part of the church and who is not, in an increasingly consumerised society the power of choice, to opt in to this and out of that, Ward argues for a more fluid response, than a church that simply offers sacraments and preaching of the word, the pillars of solid church, as the essentials for 2,000 years of being **IN** the church.

Pete Ward does not give any answers but poses very relevant questions to the church in the west in the 21st Century and as a starting point for discussion is an excellent book and perhaps asks us at St Mary's how we can be Church to the town centre of Banbury for the future. Should others read, *Liquid Church*, or similar works, I would certainly value further discussion.

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