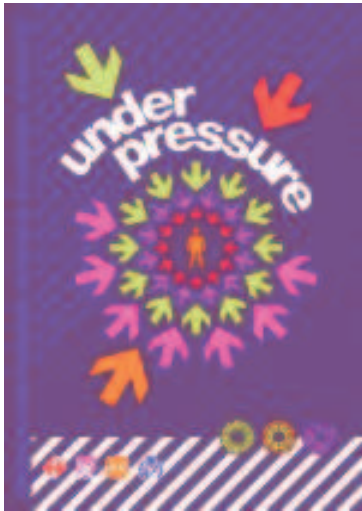


## If you like sending postcards....

People are contacting Christian Enquiry Agency to ask about God as a result of the new range of Contact Cards. The cards, which may be given out by individual Christians and used by churches for outreach, tackle the key issues of stress, love, forgiveness and satisfaction. It's the 'Under Pressure' card that is attracting the most interest, which is not surprising. The Government's Health and Safety Executive reports that "stress is a huge problem in the workplace", and a recent survey by 'Complicated Lives' showed that millions of us are experiencing all-time high levels of anxiety.



Each card has striking graphics and thought-provoking words plus a verse from the Bible inside, an invitation to click on the evangelistic website [www.rejesus.co.uk](http://www.rejesus.co.uk) and a tear-off response section to Christian Enquiry Agency.

Picture Postcard Monthly has even featured the postcards, and says "they deliver a message .... in a modern and clever way."

The Contact Cards are produced in partnership with Scripture Gift Mission and Deo Gloria Resources. They are ideal to give to friends, put on a church welcome desk, place in coffee shops... anywhere it is possible to place a postcard for people to take.

Details of the cards: [www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk)

## Fair trade – a Christian response to poverty

Imagine if every time you enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee, bit into a biscuit or indulged in some chocolate it could make a difference to the lives of others. If you choose fairly traded products then that's exactly what you do – whether you are serving them at a church event or in your own home.

Each one of us can make a difference. By choosing fair trade we know that our purchase is helping to provide decent livelihoods for the people who grow or make the products.

Fair trade is not about charity, it's about giving people the dignity of working their way out of poverty, providing opportunity and hope for the future. It's about developing a different way of buying things, whether we're choosing coffee or cards, tea or t-shirts.

To make a lasting difference to producers and their families, people need to be encouraged and reminded about the benefits of buying fair trade all year round. Many churches see running a Traidcraft stall as part of their Christian response to poverty.

Traidcraft, the Christian-based fair trade organisation, was formed by a group of people concerned about issues of Christian witness through trade. Christians are called to love the poor – but also to ask questions as to why they are poor.

Unjust trading systems are not new. Proverbs 13:23 A poor man's field may produce abundant food but injustice sweeps it away. But in 1 John 3:18 we are told "My children, our love is not just to be words or mere talk, but something real and active."

Miguel is a coffee farmer who benefits from fair trade as his crop supplies Cafedirect and Traidcraft. "If it had not been for the fair trade buyers it is likely that we would have had to give up this business altogether," he said. "Those of us small farmers who have survived are very grateful to those who have participated in fair trade and we hope these links will continue."

We can all do something — and it can start with something as simple as a cup of coffee.

	<p><b>Traidcraft Stall Saturday Morning in the Church Rooms 10.15 – 12.15</b> Details from Margaret Elves on 8460 0829</p>
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## What is the correct shape for the future church?

The Church of England will have to abandon the notion that there is only "one standard form of church" if it is going to survive through the 21st century. This is the conclusion of a report, Mission-shaped Church, which was debated at the General Synod. Mission-shaped Church has been produced by a working party under the Bishop of Maidstone, the Rt Rev Graham Cray.

The report warns that the present parochial system, while still central to the C of E, is not flexible enough to reach modern day Britain with the Gospel. The sweeping changes in British society mean that 'a mixed economy' of church models is necessary if the church is to connect with people who have no background of Christian faith or Sunday worship.

The report suggests a wide range of alternatives, "fresh expressions of church". These include 'network churches', where the worshippers are drawn together because of an existing social network (i.e. mothers and toddlers) rather than a geographical area.

Finding a better expression of church for young people is a major concern. The report is deeply concerned that only four per cent of children now attend Sunday School – "this is a time bomb".

Mission-shaped Church: Church planting and fresh expressions of church in a changing context Church House Publishing, £10.95

**Man's way leads to a hopeless end  
- God's way leads to an endless hope.**

Anon