

### **Church on the Edge (three Sunday evening discussions)**

The church in Western culture today finds itself in a new and unique situation. The long era of 'Christendom', in which church occupied a central and powerful position in society and Christian belief and values had a mainstream place, is effectively over. Also 'Modernity' which shaped thinking and behaviour in Western cultures (including Christian thinking) for several centuries has given way to 'Post-Modernity' where there is no overarching meta-narrative and truth means different things to different people.

Here at CRBC, we also find ourselves at the beginning of a new era (without a 'minister'), as we explore together how to effectively incarnate the life of Jesus and demonstrate and extend the Kingdom of God in relevant and effective ways. We are *on the edge* – of a potentially exciting and challenging new era in our life together as church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, on the edge of Christendom and the edge of Post-Modernity.

These three Sunday evenings are intended to provide facilitated discussion about the key issues we face, and seek creative and realistic ways forward that are practical, relevant and contemporary, whilst holding to the unchanging truth and reality of the life of Jesus in our midst.

1. **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October (7.30- 8.30pm): Post-Christendom** – what was good and what was bad about Christendom; what do we need to affirm and what do we need to disavow?
2. **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November (7.30- 8.30pm): From the Centre to the Margins** – how can the church minister effectively to society from a marginalised position?
3. **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November (7.30- 8.30pm): Being a new community** (and telling the old, old story in new ways) – how can we enhance our life in Christ together in ways which are mutually encouraging, and attractive and welcoming to all, whatever their background?

Facilitator – Huw Morgan

Resource: 'Post Christendom' by Stuart Murray, Paternoster Press 2005.