



Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 at 1000hrs  
The Lion Hotel

## Minutes

- **Introduction**

This was the biggest turnout yet, with 20 members present including 5 newcomers. Vivienne Barker sent her apologies and Helen Taylor kindly hosted the meeting.

It was agreed that the group has exceeded the ideal number of members and that either a second monthly meeting or a second Café Society group needs to be arranged.

- **Discussion Topics**

A short summary of the subjects and discussions follows:

**To what extent does advertising fuel widespread discontent in our society?**

- It was agreed that modern advertising is well designed and sophisticated. It must create a 'need' where there possibly was none before. Our economy is largely based on production and consumption, and reduced consumption would cost jobs.
- Because money is not unlimited an unequal society is produced when some can afford more than others.
- Strong opinions were expressed about how to deal with discontent. Some thought we should just 'get over it', and that children should be taught- either at home or in school that no-one can have everything. We should learn to manage our response to advertising- whether this was advertising designed to create demand or to corner a share of an existing market (although it was pointed out that not everyone, including children, is materialistic).
- This coping process assumes a functional family, and more vulnerable people would possibly find it harder.
- We discussed the kind of society we want, and whether there should be more regulation of advertising than the restraints already in place. In particular, should advertisements directed at children be more tightly controlled? This was put to a vote, with half wanting rather more regulation, and half considering that we already have quite enough.

### Women Bishops- a good thing?

- The general feeling was that of course equality of opportunity is a good thing, and that we should have had female clergy a long time ago. However, this merely reflects the attitude to women generally in society. It was pointed out that the early church had a positive regard for women, but that there was a tendency to lag behind, and to react to changing ideas quite slowly.
  - One member was very uncomfortable with the idea of any women clergy, but could not quite say why, while another had had experience of a pioneer female lay worker, who was somewhat irritating because of an overt feminist agenda.
  - The problem was seen by some to be not just that society is still very male-dominated, but that the very idea of a 'priesthood' is misplaced. For the non-conformist churches, it is the norm that women should play their full role. This has been the case for a long time. In the Church of England there is still some anti-women feeling, and the recent appointments have caused some resentment.
  - Although both men and women can bring the same qualities to a ministry, women do tend to have more empathy and men tend to look more for solutions. Both approaches are needed.
- **Future Discussion Topics**

There were a few suggestions which have been added to the bottom of the Discussion Topic Pool:

    - Should we be charged for plastic carrier bags?
    - Should abortion be legal?
    - For or against genetically modified (GM) foods?
    - What is the point of holidays?  
Has science improved our lives?
    - Is our generation as good as it gets?
    - A few more suggested topics were:
      - Is positive discrimination ever a good thing?
      - Should our royal family have attended the funeral of the Saudi king?
      - What privacies would we be prepared to give up in return for safety?
      - Should Charlie Hebdo have published those cartoons?
  - **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 at 1000hrs at The Lion Hotel.** Those parking in the hotel car park are reminded to give their registration number to the reception staff.

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