

A Brief History of Pastoral Care

1 First churches church: Using the example of Jesus the Good shepherd, there was a strong emphasis on Word and Sacrament – as Jesus commanded .

2 The Early church had to sort out whether to follow the spontaneity of Peter’s approach or the strong leadership model of Paul

3 they created the posts of deacons and Bishops

4 C4th Christianity became the official religion to the Roman Empire, under Constantine, and there were many changes and conflicts arose

5 C6 Pope Gregory the great sent missionaries to England.....esp in the north. ‘Not Angels, but angels’

6 C13 Some important practices were defined:

‘By C13 .. the art of pastoral care was to be crafted form the discipline of Penance, the celebration of the Eucharist within the context of the Christian year and the skills of the confessor, (who was) a doctor of souls’ (David Cornick in Evans p227)

Penance,
Eucharist,
the Christian year

7 In Medieval times most people were illiterate therefore.....

In medieval times, people learned not by reading but through their senses by watching and re-enacting events , savouring the smell of incense watching the flickering lights of candles illuminating pictures on the walls and gazing on the pictures of saints, by feeling the piece of bread in their hands and tasting it, ‘O taste and see how gracious the lord is’.

8 C16 effects of the Reformation

within a matter of months.....

On 31/7/1547 the order went out that all shrines and pictures of saints were to be destroyed, and the only candles allowed in church were those needed for illumination. Processions in church or outside were for hidden, palm crosses banned,....by September all images in churches had to be removed. In Feb 1548 Candlemas candles, ash Wednesday & ashing, Palm Sunday foliage and creeping to the cross were all prohibited. Cranmer quickly followed that by outlawing the 3 favourite Easter ceremonies, the sepulchre, the paschal candle and the hallowing of the Easter fires.....The guts of popular religion had been surgically removed....’ Cornick in Evans p228)

9 The Reformation – brought Discipline

OUT went a visual culture with its central symbolism of God made present in the Eucharistic Host

IN To replace these losses were a) preaching in vernacular and b) courts for church Discipline.

10 A pastoral theologian/ clergy now had 5 tasks

1 To lead to Christ and the church all those people estranged from the church

2 To restore those who had fallen away

3 To secure amendment of life for those who had sinned but were penitent.

4 To strengthen the fainthearted Christian

5 To encourage the faithful and strengthen in their personal journey

11 The cycle of penitence (guilt- conviction- redemption) were dealt with by teaching in the pulpit
public liturgies
through person to person confession and
private pastoral advice

Church discipline kept the growth of holiness up to the mark and the elect/ chosen were regulated by church discipline / courts

12 Result?? Well many but The universal western church was divided up leaving Germany France, Holland Britain form their own ways of doing church

Henry V111 - left Catholic (universal) church in order to divorce and founded the Church of England

...Replaced by Queen Mary (still under the Pope) queen, 1552-1557

...Replaced in 1558 by Elizabeth 1 (Protestant) who was excommunicated by Pope in 1570

returned the country to Protestantism again (see 'Voices of Morebath ' by Eamon Duffy (pub Yale university) 2001) the account (using the local church minutes and bills) of a village in Devon which lived through these disturbing times Queen Elizabeth 1 returned the country to Protestantism again

13 When it all settled down, the C of E organized themselves into parishes and dioceses, . Roman Catholics continued as before, and were joined by various Free churches (Puritans , Methodists Presbyterians) some of whom were more strict than the C of E.

14 In C17th... the Age of REASON, new knowledge and the origins of science... ,

John Donne wrote sermons,

George Herbert wrote poetry

the Presbyterians wrote letters,

in C18 Methodists sang hymns and helped educate deprived people ,

InC19th Mary Sumner Started the Mother' Union for her husband's parishioners

Octavia Hill got people rehoused –

Freud and Jung looked into Psychology

C20 Interest in Psychology grew.... Kenneth Leech, Michael Jacobs etc

A multiplicity of ways of caring for people by prelates priests, deacons & laity