

# SINGLE CHRISTIANS AND THE CHURCH



## To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral/don't know	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Rating Count
The Church embraces me for who I am.	22.5% (621)	<b>45.2% (1,249)</b>	21.2% (584)	8.4% (231)	2.8% (76)	2,761
I feel part of the church community.	24.1% (667)	<b>45.5% (1,258)</b>	15.6% (432)	11.4% (316)	3.3% (92)	2,765
My single status does not restrict my ability to lead or participate in any ministry.	27.8% (767)	<b>39.8% (1,098)</b>	16.2% (447)	12.5% (346)	3.7% (103)	2,761
Being married is the expected and accepted lifestyle in the church.	29.0% (798)	<b>38.4% (1,056)</b>	12.9% (354)	15.0% (414)	4.8% (131)	2,753
It feels as if there is presumption that there must be something wrong with me because I am single.	11.8% (325)	27.2% (749)	20.1% (554)	<b>29.4% (812)</b>	11.5% (318)	2,758
The church does not know what to do with me as a single.	14.8% (408)	<b>28.0% (772)</b>	19.1% (526)	27.2% (749)	10.9% (299)	2,754
As a single In church I often feel inadequate or ignored.	11.1% (305)	26.7% (733)	17.6% (483)	<b>31.1% (854)</b>	13.6% (375)	2,750
I feel that I am a less accepted member of the congregation because I am single.	7.4% (204)	19.7% (546)	17.4% (480)	<b>37.5% (1,037)</b>	18.0% (498)	2,765
The church says it is a family but doesn't treat singles as family members.	12.4% (343)	25.0% (690)	16.9% (467)	<b>32.5% (896)</b>	13.2% (363)	2,759
Personally I feel accepted in church but see that there are other singles who are not so well accepted.	4.2% (114)	21.5% (590)	31.2% (856)	<b>32.9% (901)</b>	10.2% (279)	2,740
As a single I feel more accepted and valued in wider society than in the church.	9.5% (261)	21.9% (603)	25.3% (696)	<b>32.7% (899)</b>	10.5% (290)	2,749
The ethos of the church is too feminine - it is not very attractive to the average single man.	10.7% (292)	23.2% (635)	<b>30.1% (825)</b>	26.2% (717)	9.8% (268)	2,737

Any additional comments

712

**answered question**

**2,807**

**skipped question**

**373**



**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

1	I don't think it is consciously done, but everything in my church is child centred. Mum, da and 2.4 kids.	Nov 10, 2012 8:01 AM
2	I am struggling with depression at the moment and don't feel at all supported by the church (not just "a church" - but "the church") with regard to that. I have never had any Christian friends my own age. The chances of me getting married are decreasing all the time. There are very few activities in any of the churches I have visited in the last three months that are focused on single people.	Nov 10, 2012 6:06 AM
3	Going to Church makes me feel more lonely than anything else I do during a normal week.	Nov 3, 2012 3:08 PM
4	Church life revolves around family and children and single women who wish to have children can find it very difficult when others are having children	Oct 23, 2012 11:54 AM
5	The first statement is ambiguous - I agree with the first half, but not the second.	Oct 18, 2012 11:38 AM
6	There are not enough christian men, therefore, forcing women like me who are christian and single to find men outside of church. Non christians are more open minded to meeting someone who is not white as well, which I think is a big issue. In addition the church is quite neutral on interracial relationships/marriages. I certainly have not been successful on christian dating sites. Actually I have felt christian dating sites are prejudiced. I have preferred to join secular dating sites but am saddened that this forces women like me to find someone who is then not christian.	Sep 30, 2012 6:09 AM
7	My church is caring & accepting of all sorts . Its well pastored. However I look to christian gatherings outside my church for wider adventure eg. Healing on the Streets	Sep 27, 2012 2:22 PM
8	The church I attend is the church I work for, I probably wouldn't choose to worship there otherwise. I don't think the church is biased against single people, but they are not very good at welcoming them either. People mainly talk to me because they want to ask about youth work/ask me to do something as opposed to just for the sake of having a conversation.	Sep 27, 2012 10:41 AM
9	being single is more noticable during Christmas and holiday times. Married couples dont invite me to thier houses for Sunday meals	Sep 27, 2012 10:20 AM
10	My church is unusual in the way it works with singles and I don't feel it's representative of other churches,	Sep 25, 2012 1:16 PM
11	It is not important in this church if you are single or married. Every person is the same for them. They welcome everyone, it doesn't matter, if you are single or married, but they encourage the marriage. Also, they provide us opportunity to get to know each other.	Sep 25, 2012 10:39 AM
12	I prefer activities in church that is for both single and married couples. I don't think to single out one or the other party is helpful to the church as a whole.	Sep 24, 2012 1:34 PM
13	I feel that I dont lack the ability to lead but because i am a single mum i am not chosen to lead. All leaders are married. There is no provision for single parents in the church often. No one offers practical help or invites you over much because they feel awkward I guess. Especially married women who I feel think may feel inadequate as im very attractive and outgoing and can chat easily. All I want is a family environment to belong to. Going home alone	Sep 24, 2012 1:26 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	with my kids after the service can be painful. I want to set something up for single parents but feel its too much for me to do alone, the church are not interested. My church is 500 strong but only four single parents that I know of, in the two years I have been there two have left as they felt so alone.	
14	would the person who wrote questions I chose not to answer please try harder and rephrase the questions.	Sep 23, 2012 9:24 PM
15	Difficult to answer because I rely on a few good friends who understand my situation. I often do find the experience of church a challenge as a single person	Sep 23, 2012 3:06 AM
16	I have attended various Churches, who have tried to make me feel welcome, it's hard when they are married couples or have their own set of friends. What is needed is a mentor or "buddy" scheme whereby other singles befriend the new ones.	Sep 22, 2012 8:10 AM
17	I think I am probably still accepted but too often, as a man, you are told that there is still time to find someone. This gives you an unfair expectation that you won't always be single until one day it is a struggle to deal with the fact that it may be too late	Sep 21, 2012 1:02 PM
18	What about us homosexuals?	Sep 18, 2012 7:05 AM
19	I feel like most things in my church are designed for partners or for children. As a single adult it can feel quite isolating to see everyone else coming and going and serving with their family while I spend a lot of time on my own. I have friends at church but few of my own age, and only one other fairly regular member who's single and/or close to my age. I "know" a lot of people at church, but still feel like an outsider, really	Sep 17, 2012 2:20 PM
20	I find churches can be quite snobby.	Sep 17, 2012 2:17 PM
21	I think the church wants to support and build up single Christians, but a lot of the time doesn't really know what to do with single people over the age of 20.	Sep 17, 2012 1:14 PM
22	Churches are cliquy, or though they often don't realise it and often is unintentional, I have recently changed churches and find the same in both. When briefly I was going with someone I seemed a lot more accepted.	Sep 17, 2012 7:27 AM
23	In my church, the leadership are welcoming to anyone getting involved in the various activities of the church whatever their marital status. Where I see a difference however is that there are courses for married people, ministry for parents and children, etc but nothing specifically aimed at helping those who are single to live their lives well. It feels as if there is no understanding that there are particular pressures / stresses etc that come from being single.	Sep 16, 2012 11:06 AM
24	There are singles who seem to be accepted but they have family in the church. Families socialise together.	Sep 16, 2012 3:58 AM
25	I am currently in a church where there are a good number of single people and that really helps. Previously I was in a church that was family dominated and events were very focused that way and although I was accepted for who I was it made it hard to go to some things	Sep 15, 2012 1:42 PM
26	being in the minority is challenging whether its being single or something else, you have to work harder at fitting in. Church would be easier if you had a partner because you would feel you had support and company, it would be	Sep 15, 2012 12:11 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	easier to go to social events etc.	
27	it is extremely hard being a single person in church, families, couples etc are most definatly favoured and accepted.Its actually very lonely being a single person in church, and harder the older you get!! as you have to make even more effort to go to things on your own..i find this stops me from attending alot of things sadly.	Sep 15, 2012 3:01 AM
28	I feel very much that these answers are true for me and in my own church, particularly as a result of a solid friendship group of people my age at church who are also single. I understand, however, that in the wider church, some of these answers may be less positive.	Sep 14, 2012 11:13 AM
29	Being "single" is not the problem, but a loner going to church on their own will typically be isolated and/or shunned.	Sep 13, 2012 6:23 PM
30	havent really attended church since becoming single so dont really know.	Sep 13, 2012 1:31 PM
31	Although I agree that the church accepts me for who I am I do often feel left out socially. But I am fortunate to be an elder at my church and was surprised to be asked as a single woman who had also been divorced as well as widowed!	Sep 12, 2012 1:49 PM
32	I have found that married couples seem to find it easier to invite another married couple round for dinner. They don't know what to do with a single person. I would often feel left out because I never get invited round for dinner by married couples. This is the only problem I find. In my current church and fellowships there are many of us who are single so I don't feel it so much.	Sep 10, 2012 2:31 PM
33	Singledom seems to be a problem that the church simply does not know what to do with	Sep 10, 2012 1:38 PM
34	i have been ignored ,left out and judged for being divorced and a single unemployed woman in most churches ,but not in my present church	Sep 10, 2012 5:48 AM
35	I don't know that the Church knows how to encourage singles into relationships i.e setting up events etc. Also there are far more single women to men so as a women it always feels that you are at a disadvantage and throw any negative personal feelings you have about yourself into the mix then as a woman you can find it really hard to integrate into the church and particiapte.	Sep 9, 2012 11:30 PM
36	Church is or should be Objective NOT subjective	Sep 9, 2012 5:05 AM
37	As I have young children I am in another bracket where I don't quite fit the 'family' mold nor do I fit the 'singles' mode.	Sep 8, 2012 12:26 PM
38	In the Church I attend no one is chosen because they are married or single, and they Ministry you participate in, The Bishop have to hear from God first that it is your purpose and position your calling is for.	Sep 7, 2012 2:44 PM
39	When I first came to my current church, my homegrown were mainly singles/unmarried couples. I would have considered them all close friends: our lives were integrated, we prayed for each other regularly and it was an amazing time/place to be a Christian because God was changing the hearts of those that we as a group came into contact with. As various people have married over the last four years, the group has fragmented. It is true that	Sep 6, 2012 9:42 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	<p>newlyweds need to invest in their marriage, but it is also true that marriage exists for the building of the Church rather than simply to satisfy the other. None of those newly married couples have any time for me, under the banner of "I need to invest in my marriage" or even worse "Our friendship is inappropriate" (talking to each other? Friendliness? Inappropriate?!). It is immensely frustrating and I will probably leave my church as a result: I simply don't know anybody there anymore.</p>	
40	<p>The church in general needs to realise that not having any children is a very painful experience for many people and should remember this in its general focus and on such occasions as mother's and father's days.</p>	Sep 4, 2012 2:20 PM
41	<p>I felt my new frontiers church had more of an issue with what to do with single women not being family to singles, unsure about my ministry without a husband, my identity dependent on being married and one which superstar male christian I was married to (therefore invisible if single) than in my current Anglican church where I'm very much part of the family of church and adopted into families within it, as well as socialising with other singles.</p>	Sep 4, 2012 1:24 PM
42	<p>Church is to find God not a partner!!</p>	Sep 3, 2012 10:19 PM
43	<p>Being single and on the younger end of my church congregation, I am accepted as an important member.</p>	Sep 3, 2012 12:57 PM
44	<p>I can not always attend things or take part as I can't get care for my 16 year old daughter who is disabled.</p>	Sep 2, 2012 1:58 PM
45	<p>Most people are couples and they're probably just don't know how to include us in activities. Its very easy to feel the odd one out. If I had a partner, I would easily invite another couple over for lunch, but being single, I don't do it at all.</p>	Sep 2, 2012 11:03 AM
46	<p>well to be quite honest there are some people who feel threatened by singles in church. People would be like 'my husband this my husband that</p>	Sep 2, 2012 6:47 AM
47	<p>Many people in my church are older; so I don't meet many single men of my age. Either that, or they are teens, 20s or married already. Also, not many men my age have never married. I also feel some people seem to think that, because my boyfriend and I are still not married after 5 years together, I must be doing something wrong (!) Perhaps I am...I do feel very lonely ;(</p>	Sep 1, 2012 2:07 PM
48	<p>My church is welcoming and accepting of anyone who chooses to attend, but it is me as a single person who feels an outsider and less able to get involved than if I had a partner or family to go with. I have rarely been to a church which has a high number of single people of my age who can give me the support/safety net I need to feel confident as a member of the congregation.</p>	Sep 1, 2012 11:52 AM
49	<p>This is in my current church - in previous churches I have felt less accepted and that my ability to lead and participate was restricted. I have found it more difficult to get to know people socially because I am single.</p>	Sep 1, 2012 6:32 AM
50	<p>the leadership sometime feels sad for and unsure how to address the lack for men for committed Christian women</p>	Sep 1, 2012 1:02 AM
51	<p>Single people are treated as nobodies within the churches as far as I'm concerned. It is dominated by married couples and they do nothing in relation to trying to organise anything that involves single Christians having</p>	Aug 31, 2012 7:37 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

the opportunity to meet potential marriage partners. London churches should try to do something about this. It leaves single Christians feeling despondant and neglected!

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|----|---|-----------------------|
| 52 | As a divorced individual in my previous church, I felt awkward and was stigmatised. I have now left that congregation after 30 years and where I am now, I am accepted for me, regardless of my marital status. I am seen 1st and for most as a christian and anything I want to get involves in is not restricted by my marital status. There re couples there who are on subsequent marriages, but i do not know whether this was through divorce or through other actions. If I were to marry again, it would be intresting to see the reaction.   | Aug 30, 2012 10:49 AM |
| 53 | People know that I'd like to get married and so will say things like "keeping praying that you meet someone". Sometimes it's difficult to feel fully accepted or to understand certain things because of being single. no specific single events for my age group happen in church and we're not encouraging single people of my age to come. There are older single/widowed/divorced people in the congregation but none in my age group. Those that were all seem to have gone off and accepted non Christian men into their lives and only come occasionally to church. I'm the one left to try to live a Christian life and struggle. The vicar and his family and other friends with families invite me to do things with them, and will cook for me or take walks with me but it's difficult at times, especially given that my parents also attend the church. | Aug 30, 2012 5:56 AM  |
| 54 | I think many of the comments of strongly agree above apply to my homegroup as well - the others are all married. Another friend of mine going to my homegroup has left. I am considering leaving because there has been no practical help in a recent move of mine that was very traumatic. No offers. A few people offered and helped from the church.   | Aug 29, 2012 10:43 AM |
| 55 | Whether single or not makes no difference to the way I am treated.  | Aug 29, 2012 10:35 AM |
| 56 | Christmas is very hard for single christains as families shut off   | Aug 29, 2012 7:43 AM  |
| 57 | They do accept me and I do have a ministry but there are times I struggle with my singleness because the assumption is there I will get married one day, and the emphasis is on families.   | Aug 29, 2012 6:30 AM  |
| 58 | I honestly don't think singleness is an issue - it is generally personality that decides how well you integrate into church life.   | Aug 28, 2012 8:49 AM  |
| 59 | I've only just moved to my current (Baptist) Church - don't really know. At the Messianic being single is much more a norm.   | Aug 27, 2012 9:56 AM  |
| 60 | I feel it would be more acceptable and I would be of more 'use' if I was married  | Aug 26, 2012 2:56 PM  |
| 61 | Feel accepted now, but some 12-13 years ago was turned down for youthwork help as I was not married!  | Aug 26, 2012 1:52 PM  |
| 62 | As I am divorced due to my husband having an affair leaving me with my daughter. Many people in church believe I am the one at fault. So many Christian men seem to want a woman who does not have any children which I feel sad about. I would love to have more children but it is very difficult to find a 30 something year old man who wants a family. I am starting to loose hope but pray every week that god will send me someone soon.   | Aug 26, 2012 12:51 AM |

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

63	Doesn't matter how many surveys you carry out, it's the clergy you need to educate	Aug 25, 2012 12:55 PM
64	Although i wouldn't be stopped from taking on roles within the Church, i feel i get asked to take on different roles as a single person	Aug 25, 2012 8:11 AM
65	its my fellings,chruch loves me, but feel cannot go by myself.	Aug 25, 2012 6:49 AM
66	My Church is very caring, but just don't see it as an issue. Sometimes it is expected that I would have more free time to carry out church jobs. Such as cleaning rota and shopping for events. Also expected to turn up to more events. But then on the reverse am overlooked for areas of ministry which I would be happy to do, but the church is being specific and wanting a married mother. Because i don't bang on about my single status, the church assumes that i'm single out of choice.	Aug 25, 2012 1:27 AM
67	I feel that as a young single in the church is good, perhaps as you get older it is less easy for churches and they feel unable to connect with unmarried people	Aug 24, 2012 4:01 PM
68	Married people have steady lives, whereas I am constantly hoping that one day I will be married and anticipate that that will change the way I relate to the marrieds and singles around me.	Aug 23, 2012 8:43 PM
69	Leadership tends to have more married people than singles, but I am not the only single person on PCC. There are still more older singles (over 45/ 50) than younger adults, but the balance is changing. I find it difficult to be hospitable to whole families, but this is a personal barrier (probably) My church has been very positive, but I have had subtly more negative messages from recently married speakers on a christian holidays in the past year - teaching on how to be married or find a partner, when equal weight could have been given to other relationships in the bible passages. I have challenged the company and had a very positive repsonse & they plan to address this in their next training.	Aug 23, 2012 3:04 PM
70	My church does accept me but I feel it would be easier and that I could take part in church life more easily if I was in a relationship.	Aug 23, 2012 7:24 AM
71	I am not sure if the church does not know what to do with me, or just doesn't appreciate how difficult it is to be a single person in a place where most people my age are married. I think they understand that there are young single people - in some ways to be expected and again for the eldrely there is an expectation that they will lose a partner, divorcees who are not free int he day because they have to work and not free at nights because they have children are often left to thier own devices and they can not join in with church things.	Aug 23, 2012 12:51 AM
72	The struggle in our culture is the worship of Romantic love and marriage, you read scripture and its affirmation of singleness but find the church mirrors the cultures worship of the married state.	Aug 22, 2012 2:39 PM
73	I think that society in general regards it as the norm that a person is in a relationship, whether with opposite sex or same sex. However, I don't feel discriminated against in my church because I'm single. I'm a lay minister and perhaps people feel that I've more time for this role because I don't have a husband and children.	Aug 22, 2012 2:03 PM
74	If my answers are inconsistent, this is because I am in two minds about this -	Aug 21, 2012 8:17 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	I think my church does accept single people, but it can still sometimes neglect their needs.	
75	I have been to a few churches and if you are not a student or have a family you slip through the cracks often, as I get older I also find it difficult to connect with people of my age as they are often married with children and so involved in different areas of church. This is one reason why home groups with a mix of people in are so helpful.	Aug 20, 2012 10:29 AM
76	My church is very accepting of Christians but does not actively seek to meet single people's need for community, family, friendship...	Aug 19, 2012 8:09 AM
77	I'm loved as a Child of God, not because im single!!! Who is there to Judge me? Only my Lord can judge me!!	Aug 18, 2012 2:28 PM
78	Often times it has been my experience to find people who think they are rejected on the grounds of singleness, are more likely to have other underlying problems, in themselves or aimed at them from others.	Aug 17, 2012 4:17 AM
79	in my previous experience there is constant emphasis in churches to get married and have family life, and those that do are then accepted as leaders etc. Of course this is not applicable to all churches but in my experience the majority	Aug 15, 2012 12:39 PM
80	I think churches are generally welcomming and accepting of single people, but don't necessarily know how to deal with the issues surrounding singleness, especially of those of us who are single parents.	Aug 15, 2012 5:57 AM
81	I'm a single parent (divorced, but I was never married to my son's father) yet despite my son being baptised in my Church, he was the only child not invited to the Sunday School Christmas party!! :-O Disgusting behaviour and when I confronted the Minister's wife and the leader of the Sunday school about it, they were both highly embarrassed and tried to pass it off as a mistake but we all knew it was NO mistake. My son should not be penalised because of a few small minded individuals who sit in judgement of my past mistakes and wrong decisions, surely that is between me and God?	Aug 13, 2012 5:49 PM
82	i feel like an out cast	Aug 13, 2012 9:38 AM
83	Problems with my church are not really about being single as such. The problem is my age and how most people my age are married off and have small children. Other singles my age or older (30s and 40s) are less likely to come to fellowship groups because they feel unsure as to where they fit in.	Aug 12, 2012 9:29 AM
84	I have often found myself sitting alone in a pew	Aug 8, 2012 10:00 AM
85	my church accepts and includes me but then it is only a very small church. other married christians treat me as younger than them because i am single i can't be on parr with them.	Aug 7, 2012 7:33 PM
86	For the final question I would say ignored as opposed to inadequate.	Aug 7, 2012 3:36 PM
87	It is not the church policy or leadership making single people feel marginalised. It is the ignorance and insensitive comments made by some of the individual's at church.	Aug 7, 2012 1:52 PM
88	Single mum - has been welcomed emcouraged and allowed to enter into ministry. I don't see that being single makes any difference. We have one	Aug 6, 2012 3:04 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	deacon who is single.	
89	While a student, the singleness is fine, but there's a huge gulf between that and married with kids church members	Aug 6, 2012 12:50 PM
90	I did once have words with the vicar after he preached on divorce. I'm divorced but never expected to be so! Not all divorced people are sinners.....	Aug 6, 2012 10:56 AM
91	I do feel that I would be able to be more involved in ministry if I had a partner to work with me.	Aug 6, 2012 8:40 AM
92	There is a lot going on for younger singles - church's don't know what to do with older singles who have never been married or have children	Aug 6, 2012 12:59 AM
93	My church treats me as a valued member of the church and a Christian regardless of my Relationship Status	Aug 5, 2012 6:08 PM
94	In my experience, church usually only provides a secondary support network, except in the cases of very visible need. I've never really felt turned-away or unaccepted as such, but it's normally felt like everybody assumed somebody else would be looking out for me.	Aug 5, 2012 1:52 PM
95	If you don't fit the criteria or box you are expected to fit into then it creates problems.	Aug 5, 2012 2:14 AM
96	Widows lose their status within the church by losing their husbands and women alone are not encouraged in their ministry if they are on their own.	Aug 4, 2012 2:12 PM
97	if there are any church events or meetings, although I get along brilliantly with people who will be there, I do sometimes avoid going because I know i'll be the only single there.	Aug 4, 2012 1:23 PM
98	I don't believe my vicar means to sideline singles but as he is a married man I'm aware he cannot fully understand what it's like to be single.	Aug 4, 2012 11:14 AM
99	I'm don't think my church has anything against singles but singles like me might feel a little bit out of the loop sometimes because there's aren't very many of us so the married people tend to be able to relate better to other married people.	Aug 4, 2012 10:52 AM
100	GOD SAYS PEOPLE WILL PRAY IN CHURCH 2 B SEEN BY OTHERS TO BEDOING WELL.THEY HAVE THER REWARD.PRAY IN SECRET GOD HERES OPEN	Aug 3, 2012 8:10 AM
101	the local churches do not cater for older single people	Aug 2, 2012 10:37 PM
102	I feel the church is not dismissive of singles but does not know how to deal with the issue of singleness. There should be more focus on actively trying to link people - eg through singles socials. I also feel it is a bit of a taboo area - there is a lot of teaching on how to have a good marriage or how to 'date' but none on how to cope with unwanted singleness.	Aug 1, 2012 3:00 PM
103	I feel respected for who I am but also at the same time , you keep getting labelled single. Sometimes not nice being in a place where everyone is mostly married and you are single.	Jul 31, 2012 8:54 AM
104	The attitude is different in the different churches I attend. URC has elderly congregation including several single people so feel accepted. Independent	Jul 31, 2012 3:13 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	is family based and do feel less part of things.	
105	this is subjective and i may be wrong maybe people dont think these things but i feel im the odd one out and that there is an unspoken pressure to get married or be on the shelf and be ok with that which is actually very difficult. I find a lot of people in church expect me to jus accept that i cant date a non christian as they think its not biblical when really there arent enough men in church and im mean to be ok with it that i may not marry or have kids and accept it as gods will because i havent met a christian when really i think god may use me to bring a non christian guy i could date to know him by coming to church.	Jul 30, 2012 12:58 PM
106	My answers reflect more about me than the church I attend. I'm the one who has 'pulled' away at times because of how I feel as a divorcee. Not their fault, more about my inner esteem/insecurity issues. A source of sadness for me was that 'Church' family were uncomfortable with my new status. There was no one at that time who could help me, or empathise. I would have welcomed a chat with anyone who had gone through similar, and they were there. Just not prepared to open up and help. At the time I did find that difficult. Older and wiser, understand it was probably too difficult for them to face.	Jul 30, 2012 12:27 PM
107	Difficult to answer. Church community probably gives a fair balance of attention to each person, with no particular focus or emphasis on singles. The personal feelings I have of being an outsider are more about my personal social comfort and are not different between in church and in the outside world.	Jul 30, 2012 5:18 AM
108	It feels like when a person gets married they are suddenly considered more wise and someone who can be relied upon.	Jul 29, 2012 1:57 PM
109	My church is making an effort to embrace singles but not all singles participate.	Jul 29, 2012 12:49 PM
110	It is hard to take the children to church with other families with their dad , but that it no ones fault.	Jul 29, 2012 11:54 AM
111	Started in the Bible where singles were also in the minority/side-lined - except Jesus	Jul 29, 2012 7:12 AM
112	Being a very traditional church it does not easily accept those who are 'other' eg. gays, ex-offenders, psychiatric problems, radical thinkers	Jul 29, 2012 1:07 AM
113	Being single means loneliness	Jul 27, 2012 11:09 PM
114	It's getting harder to find the right life partner these days. Apparently lots of single christians don't go to church, perhaps due to disappointment.	Jul 27, 2012 11:47 AM
115	Single parents struggle more within Church with commitments: lack of childcare, support to fully participate on nights out, ministry. Am fed up of listening to Christians telling others to wait, especially when they are already married.	Jul 27, 2012 5:16 AM
116	There are very few single people in my church - especially my age - and they are women. I feel that people are expected to be married because that's what christians should do.	Jul 26, 2012 10:34 AM
117	There is more emphasis on coping with being single than with any practical	Jul 26, 2012 1:08 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	attempts to help; that said, not many people in my congregation are single.	
118	My church has become my second "family"	Jul 25, 2012 4:37 AM
119	I go to a church that for some strange reason do have a lot of single females of my age group. But the younger ones seem to have a better balance. I am not too sure if it a generationally thing. I have been accepted in my church as a single but I think I am at an age of 32 where I don't think they know what to do with me. I am serving as part of leadership where there is a strong male representation of at the top but when it comes to my age there are hardly any single males.	Jul 24, 2012 12:17 PM
120	I think things are changing for the better but I think the church needs to acknowledge single people more	Jul 23, 2012 5:41 AM
121	Bein single can have its advantages, but I do find that people within church will gravitate towards those that are in their same circumstances eg married, families etc. Single people can be left out of some social situations.because they don't 'fit'. That can be a lonely place, and can be difficult. I tend to get involved in doing something in the church, even if it is washing up or serving tea, this gets you talking to others and feeling part of things.	Jul 22, 2012 2:44 AM
122	It has taken a long time to be recognised as part of the church family, but consistently serving and helping alongside other families within the church it is finally beginning to feel like I belong.	Jul 22, 2012 1:25 AM
123	I can only comment on my church.	Jul 21, 2012 3:20 AM
124	my past experience of church has been about single people being on the margins and not understood or supported. However, because I have been in my church for 12 years - I am known as an individual and accepted for who I am. I have been given responsibility so cannot say I have been overlooked	Jul 21, 2012 3:18 AM
125	As a single guy maybe, but not necessarily as a single girl.	Jul 20, 2012 3:21 PM
126	Most of my church family are married couples, with families, so this makes it hard for me to meet other singles, but I don't feel less of a member of hte church. It is what it is, no-one can help that.	Jul 20, 2012 2:42 PM
127	My church is (unusually) affirming of ALL it's members from the tinies to the oldest, whether single or married. Whole body ministry is encouraged.	Jul 20, 2012 2:12 PM
128	The church seems to do very little to support me as a single person	Jul 20, 2012 1:51 PM
129	Most of our church is single. Being single seems to now be acceted as the 'norm'. This is also more true outside the church.	Jul 20, 2012 6:54 AM
130	I often feel as if single people in church are just seen as sunday school teachers or useful labour rather than valued as individuals- many activities/ ministries are oriented around couples/ families. likewise there are frequent meetings/ talks/ groups etc focusing on marriage and relationships, but none focusing on the difficulties of singleness.	Jul 20, 2012 3:03 AM
131	My church is so 'family friendly' that it is has no time for single people. All resources are directed at children, families and the elderley. Each Sunday I read the Church publicity to look for oportunities for me to join in and find almost none. I have started to attend a second church in order to find fellowship. I have also started an ecumenical group which meets once a	Jul 19, 2012 12:25 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	month for single christians to find support and fellowship.	
132	our church is one big family, with a very good pastor,he treats every1 with respect,@ for who they are.	Jul 19, 2012 9:39 AM
133	I think its partly ignorance that is behind the church's neglect of singles and partly because they don't want the status quo to be challenged, as most church leaders are married and generally will not appoint single leaders. Also, the church is terrified of thinking, change and confrontation and the singles represent a challenge to all these things.	Jul 19, 2012 4:46 AM
134	There is a big difference I feel b etween The Church and MY Church	Jul 18, 2012 1:03 PM
135	I am told I am "isolated", which is probably true.	Jul 17, 2012 2:47 PM
136	The answers apply to the church I attend now, had I been answering when attending my previous CofE church the answers would be the opposite way round. My church is a bit different I reckon many would feel inadequate and incomplete as single people in 'church' generally.	Jul 17, 2012 12:45 PM
137	I think I'm very blessed in that my church has supported me through the breakup of my marriage and subsequent divorce. I've been loved and cared for and ministered to when the tears have flowed. Maybe our church is unique in this respect, but I certainly hope not!	Jul 17, 2012 11:44 AM
138	in Some environments singles are in a minority and may feel marginalised. The church has a strong ethos for childrens work and rightly so, so childless singles are more marginalised however they need to find church activities that are not child orientated.	Jul 17, 2012 9:01 AM
139	regaurdless of ones status in life if you are in connection with god he loves you as you are sometimes its better to be single as then god is more central to ones life but that dosnt detract from being married either	Jul 17, 2012 4:43 AM
140	for me is not a big deal what status you are church is for everyone	Jul 16, 2012 9:53 PM
141	This survey is geared towards the overall ethos of people's churches but doesn't necessarily account for individual cases where the church hasn't been able to cater for them, while it may cater to other singles in general.	Jul 16, 2012 4:37 PM
142	I was born-again as a undergraduate student at age 21. I then was married to a Christian woman at 29 and four and a half years later she left me. I was divorced at 35 1/2. The last four and a half years of my Christian life as a single man have been the very hardest of my whole life. I really was not prepared for how lonely and difficult it is to be a single Christian man in his 30s in the Church. I'm a devoted Christian, so I don't really think a relationship with a non-Christian woman would work well (or even really be appropriate for me as a Christian), so that means I must find a future partner within the wider Christian church. There are so few good quality, non-embarrassing social events held for single Christians in their 20s and 30s it is very, very difficult to get to know single Christian women. Church leaders most of whom got married early in their lives as young adults have no idea and seemingly no real concern for the single adults in their congregations - they are seemingly obsessed with Church growth and so-called "revival" and concentrating on spirituality to the exclusion of peoples' God-given physical humanity as well. It really seems that they couldn't care less about the real isolation and genuine loneliness and pain of single Christians, who are often very gifted, passionate, committed and caring church members. I have many	Jul 16, 2012 3:51 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	<p>single male Christian friends in their 30s, who are also really suffering because of this lack of interest in helping younger single adults to meet in friendly, warm and civilised circumstances. Sadly, the sexes are often pitted against each other and men are often wrongly presumed by single Christian women to have it much easier than the women. I am sure that it is very difficult for single Christian women and my heart really breaks for these ladies, but it isn't easy for the guys either. I really think that the way the church is not-addressing with love and respect the situation of adult singles is one of the greatest unhealed wounds in the Kingdom in the UK at the moment. It is also I believe a real blockage to true "revival" both spiritual and physical taking place in this country. Singleness, in the church is a double cross for many Christians to bear as they are both isolated within the church and without because of the different relational values that are practised in normal society.</p>	
143	I feel the Salvation Army has a distinctive atmosphere which engenders a complete acceptance and integration of single persons of both genders	Jul 16, 2012 11:27 AM
144	iv been a christian for 5 yrs and was in a bad relationship when i began. since then i left my childrens father and have become a committed christian as a single parent and my church respects me as theyve witnessed my journey	Jul 16, 2012 9:57 AM
145	Would prefer more functions for singles/ divorced people	Jul 16, 2012 7:52 AM
146	I don't think being single in church makes that much difference - its more to do with the individual and how they feel - but there is a pressure to marry young as a christian	Jul 15, 2012 1:40 PM
147	my church welcomes everyone as a equal	Jul 15, 2012 11:47 AM
148	Depends on th church u go to. Different churches can have different attitudes toward single people.	Jul 15, 2012 8:07 AM
149	I find it hard that the word condemns even the thought of intimacy as sin. Those with partners are intimately involved with their spouses and they are holy, but for us single people just the thought of it condemns us to sin. I do not know what the pastor can do to promote my chances of getting a spouse again, apart from praying for me, and that I have done even for myself for a long time, but have received no answer-is the church meant to have an answer? Single people outside the church don't see me receive the answer to my prayer, I am not sure if they can get encouraged to join church.	Jul 14, 2012 7:41 AM
150	I find CC and other Christian organisations can get a bit hung-up on this whole issue of singles struggling to find identity and acceptance in church. It simply has not been my experience.	Jul 14, 2012 6:54 AM
151	NO COMMENTS	Jul 14, 2012 2:54 AM
152	The church seems to expect single people to 'get on with it' and get married but provides no opportunity for single men and women to interact, while at the same time stressing the importance of purity and seemingly trying to keep single men and women apart.	Jul 13, 2012 12:23 PM
153	A lot of the things given in talks refer to only those who are married or who have partners.	Jul 13, 2012 4:58 AM
154	My church does not recognise the needs of single people particularly in my	Jul 12, 2012 8:19 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	age group.	
155	Churches have courses for married people but not for single people	Jul 12, 2012 12:31 PM
156	I think my pastor and 'some' people in church try make an effort with single people, however its not down to to pastor alone, and unfortunately being in a church with lots of families, they do not understand what it is like to be single	Jul 12, 2012 11:04 AM
157	The difficulty with being single in church, speaking as a widow, is a feeling that comes from within, not really from other church members.	Jul 11, 2012 12:59 PM
158	I noticed the change when I was widowed and became excluded virtually over night, very strange reaction, as previously my husband and I had been in leadership but also had singles as part of our extended family	Jul 11, 2012 10:13 AM
159	its hard to answer some of the above questions as it is not black and white. Some people ccept single people and some don't.	Jul 10, 2012 12:52 PM
160	i have rencently moved to a new church so hard to comment	Jul 10, 2012 12:22 PM
161	God is in control of my life	Jul 10, 2012 8:15 AM
162	CHURCH SOMETIMES FEELS A LITTLE AWKWARD AS THERE ARE NO OTHER SINGLE PEOPLE, AND EVEN THOUGH WE'RE CHRISTIANS SOMETIMES SOME OF THE WOMEN SEEM A LITTLE STRAINED IF YOU ARE IN A CONVERSATION WITH THEIR HUSBANDS	Jul 10, 2012 7:46 AM
163	Possibly if /i was younger, my answers would be different. I am an established member of the Church, and have been for along time. Singleness was harder when I was younger, and all my Church friends were married. now as a Widow it is a different concept	Jul 10, 2012 3:34 AM
164	I'm probably slightly biased because my husband and I were both very active in the church until he left me.I hve experienced huge support and love from the Fellowship since then.Attempts have	Jul 10, 2012 2:09 AM
165	Think about it - we have "father's day", "family services", "youthwork", "mother's day", we celebrate and clap our applause for those with "wedding anniversaries", we celebrate "valentine's day"... All while singles, divorcees and widows/widowers look on... Our single missionaries we parade on stage briefly to hear a report then do we involve them in church leadership? Do we know what to do with them or "just hope they'll find a partner and settle down"?	Jul 9, 2012 1:24 PM
166	Wives can be a particular problem for single females	Jul 9, 2012 7:25 AM
167	The church is so often a homogenous community reflecting what the affluent secular western culture promotes. Since the Apostle Paul promoted abstinence from marriage and, the established, Christian Church decided to ignore the Jewish and early church culture i.e. of looking out for one another form birth-marriage-death (The life cycle) it is now just a great ethos which has lost its core, its real understanding of heterogneious community where old meets new where experiences are shared. When the Christian church is like this it will be a great place to be, where looking out for one another is as important as looking recruiting new converts.	Jul 9, 2012 2:22 AM
168	Church sucks	Jul 8, 2012 8:45 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

169	We can all improve upon our love for one another, whether we are married or single	Jul 8, 2012 8:34 AM
170	IS GOOD TO MARRY THAN REMAIN SINGLE	Jul 8, 2012 4:47 AM
171	My answers very much reflect how I feel as an "Under 30yrs Old" person. I feel those in their 40s+ or those who have been divorced would answer differently.	Jul 7, 2012 9:18 AM
172	I really do not understand this discussion about being single or married in the church. I don't agree with people going to the church to get married, the Bible says that we will have people who never will be married.	Jul 7, 2012 6:19 AM
173	The church gives me hope of finding someone.	Jul 7, 2012 6:04 AM
174	Our church is getting better at this but it is taking a long time & how us singles feel about ourselves obviously plays a part too... The basic church structure is based around the traditional family. It is incredibly difficult to meet other like-minded Christian guys who are single in my age range. Helping people like me to meet a nice Christian guy is not really encouraged or even thought about. The church is there to reach the lost & that's what energies are focussed on... After 11 years we do finally have a single parents group but would like to make it more social & practical rather than spiritual as this is where the need lies	Jul 6, 2012 1:51 PM
175	The church doesn't know what to do with single Christians who would like to find a husband/wife and partially ignores the needs they have for meeting single Christians.	Jul 6, 2012 1:29 AM
176	single and young or widowed within the church is ok, but for people like myself it is very different and awkward	Jul 5, 2012 11:36 PM
177	It depends on the church! Some accept you more than others! Since losing my beloved wife, I have been fully accepted in the Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches but totally ignored in the C. Of E. Where we used to go!!!!	Jul 5, 2012 1:52 PM
178	It's the Churches that are at fault they need to cater for all sections of their society and it is not the Churches role to find singletons a partner.	Jul 5, 2012 2:38 AM
179	I don't feel marginalised because of my singleness, but I notice that we are not often included in family things; ie being invited by a family to have lunch with them	Jul 5, 2012 2:11 AM
180	I think this is a very British 'thing' too, not the same in other European countries for example.	Jul 4, 2012 2:02 PM
181	My church has an annual holiday which i feel completely disconnected with because I am the only single over the age of 23! I don't think my married church friends understand that it is actually difficult for me as a single!!!	Jul 4, 2012 10:56 AM
182	A lot of the statements do not make sense to me theologically	Jul 4, 2012 5:56 AM
183	My own church has woken up to "the problem" of what to do for singles but there are many events and programmes that I can't participate in because they are around parenting or support for families.	Jul 3, 2012 3:09 PM
184	we have sessions at church about parenting, or being a good husband/wife,	Jul 3, 2012 2:06 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	or pre-marriage courses - but there is little teaching about being single	
185	There may be some who think the last statement, but they should know better, and I'd think less of them for not doing so.	Jul 3, 2012 11:44 AM
186	i answered these generally from previous experience but my church in nz works very hard with singles and i do not feel 'left out etc' there	Jul 3, 2012 9:27 AM
187	Nobody is aware of the isolation that I feel in my church. The leaders express no concern and don't give any time but my house group are accepting. The leaders are selective of who they regard which has an influence on my feelings and the works I do. Generally people are completely unaware of the feelings felt by a single Christian.	Jul 3, 2012 9:13 AM
188	sadly at my age many are becoming single again through death of partners	Jul 3, 2012 9:06 AM
189	I feel that christian men need to be more pro-active in bringing male friends to church. Women appear to be so much better at it. It's no use criticizing women for looking outside of christian circles because there are no available men around. I feel especially sorry for younger women who would love to have a family and there are no christian men around, what are they suppose to do!!	Jul 3, 2012 8:04 AM
190	A lot of the above tends to vary between churches and areas. I moved from a rural town to inner London partly because i did not feel so 'strange' being single	Jul 3, 2012 7:37 AM
191	The only problem I find is that the church is having difficulty finding me a suitable prayer partner and group, mainly because of my remote location and that I am single.	Jul 3, 2012 7:28 AM
192	My comments are based purely on my own experience of my own home weekly church, Salvation Army, and my friend's Worldwide Christian Fellowship Church, whose weekly bible study I attend - I appreciate other singles may not have been as lucky as I have - but then from hearing some stories from married brothers and sisters, they haven't been welcomed at other churches either...	Jul 3, 2012 7:06 AM
193	It is fairly recently that I have been part of the church Leadership team, but it has taken a looong time to happen! Before that i felt the Lord told me that He was the one who gave me opportunities rather than the leaders, and that helped me a lot - to pray for people, spend time with them etc - no one minded me doing it so maybe it was my own perception that stopped before that.	Jul 3, 2012 3:01 AM
194	I'm a strong character and a confident Christian, however I can see that seekers and less confident people could have quite a challenge, particularly those who, like me, still have the dream of meeting someone.	Jul 3, 2012 2:02 AM
195	My particular church (inner city/town centre) respects singles however I have suffered for being single when I lived in the outer suburbs. My GP actually recommended I attend another denominational church (at the time) because of the lack of care I was experiencing.	Jul 3, 2012 12:35 AM
196	These are general assumptions and each individual should be treated as such. Anyone who agrees with the negative comments should maybe change churches.	Jul 3, 2012 12:19 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

197	Apart from House Groups over the years I have found that regular friends have tended to be single within the church. Married couples tend to gravitate towards other married couples or couples per se. Most churches also go out of their way to cater for all sorts of issues but singles never seem to figure on their radar.	Jul 3, 2012 12:17 AM
198	I am part of a small and accepting church - my marital status (or lack of one!!) does not affect my ministry or place within the church family	Jul 2, 2012 1:38 PM
199	Single women particularly divorcees can be perceived as a threat to couples.	Jul 2, 2012 1:16 PM
200	There is a lack of understanding of relationships in general no just in the marriage sense but also relationships in general friendship, family, social & personal, Everything is so geared towards being "spiritual" that the natural needs are underrated and ignored.	Jul 2, 2012 1:14 PM
201	Its up to a single person to 'shop around' until they find a church that fits their needs, but I agree that churches should have events for all groups - kids, families, singles, elderly, men and women. Depending where the church is - they may need events for different cultures too... my church has about 1/3 African members - so we have some events for/by them. We dont have any 'inter church singles' events - maybe churches are worried they will lose a member if anyone pairs off!	Jul 2, 2012 12:58 PM
202	The leadership are all married with children so they just don't understand singleness/childlessness	Jul 2, 2012 12:51 PM
203	I have been attending my church as a married woman then as a divorcee. My friends have supported me and make me feel accepted and supported as a single parent. Divorcee is still a difficult status within the church	Jul 2, 2012 12:30 PM
204	Really, people are mainly interested in themselves anyway. Single women can be seen as a threat.	Jul 2, 2012 11:59 AM
205	My single status does not restrict my desire to lead or participate in ministry. But as a single parent this is difficult to do and in my experience there are no support systems in church that help single parents take part in ministry.	Jul 2, 2012 11:46 AM
206	There is a tendency to pity people who are single, and to try to "set them up" with another single Christian simply because they are Christian, as opposed to anything about their personalities. They also feel that you must have a biological clock, and don't quite get it if you tell them that your clock simply isn't that loud!!	Jul 2, 2012 11:40 AM
207	Point 3 is two questions at once. I feel I am accepted in a general, superficial way but they don't really know how to make singles feel included as most people of a similar age have very different free time and interests as most have young kids. It just means it is hard to build relationships and have any deep sense of belonging unless you become known for a role of some sort. (this goes for all the churches I have attended in the last 10 years not just the current one)	Jul 2, 2012 11:32 AM
208	people avoid getting to know singles because we are single -seen as a threat	Jul 2, 2012 11:31 AM
209	There are not many single people at my church in my age group. If you have a family or a couple of male you are included. Being a professional I can relate to the Male of the couple rather than the female, as baby or family talk is limited as I have no children.	Jul 2, 2012 11:14 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

210	I get my best fellowship in the local Christian singles group (people on the same wavelength.	Jul 2, 2012 11:05 AM
211	It all depends on which church one attends. I serve in various Ministries in my church and I am a divorcee. I am valued and encouraged to fulfil God's purposes for my life. I want to get married and I am not judged for that either, neither is there pressure on me to get married.	Jul 2, 2012 11:02 AM
212	The statements above seem to assume everyone in the church holds the same views/prejudices. In my church there are probably a variety of views. A lot depends upon those in leadership, eg house group leaders. My church knows its neighbourhood well and is aware that there are quite a lot of single households, eg young and mid-age professionals, as well as divorced/separated.	Jul 2, 2012 10:37 AM
213	I've even had prophetic words telling me how bad i am because I'm still single.	Jul 2, 2012 10:01 AM
214	The church I have been attending for 10 years (Baptist) does not know how to treat/care for/understand needs of singles. Have recently reached out to a Messianic Fellowship (2 hours' drive away) where I am attempting to go weekly, where I feel much more accepted for who I am. I truly believe people will go to great lengths to attend a congregation / travel a great distance to be with people with a like heart and mind.	Jul 2, 2012 9:59 AM
215	It is my friends within Church that help me feel so valued in the Church, but my Church itself doesn't really cater for me very well!	Jul 2, 2012 9:53 AM
216	Q1: I have answered from the perspective of people outside the church rather than inside the church. Q4 / Q5: there are a number of celebrations to do with "families", e.g. mother's day, weddings, but none for singles - some of these celebrations can therefore undervalue singleness.	Jul 2, 2012 9:45 AM
217	It is difficult to answer as a single person because I have been treated with more respect than when I was married.	Jul 2, 2012 9:44 AM
218	The meaning and concept of family services is firmly embedded into the mindset as equally those who are married and those who are married with children. The church is based on teh school calendar and everything 'shuts' down in the summer. Single people don't- they have to work, are often expected to help with summer church activities to relieve the parents from the burden of childcare! The church needs to shift its thinking fast as they are quickly pigeon holing and isloating the singles very quickly. I have found myself not attending church as frequently as I used to, which saddens me/	Jul 1, 2012 1:31 PM
219	I AM OFTEN TOLD THAT IT IS BETTER TO WAIT FOR GOD TO BRING SOMEONE INTO YOUR LIFE AND NOT TO RESTRICT HIM.. MY CHURCH DOES NOT BELEIVE THAT ONLINE SEARCHING IS A GOOD IDEA AS IT COULD INTERFEER WITH WHAT GOD'S PLAN IS..	Jun 30, 2012 2:03 PM
220	Many 'elders' church members who have lived most of their life tend to treat single women coming into the church as though they are there to find a husband which is not true for many singles. The church does not seem to know how to cater for single women who have lived 'in the world' before turning to christianity and especially those who are single mothers. Men still seem to want a 'good christian girl/woman'	Jun 30, 2012 1:29 PM
221	Single people are given 'jobs' in our church. I think there is an expectation	Jun 30, 2012 4:04 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	that because we are single we have more time than married people. Maybe it is to make us feel part of it.	
222	I feel the church does not know how to respond to the difficulties single people face, in their every day life. I tend to get rude comments when I say, that I am going along to a single event, outside of the church. This is from both those that are married and singles alike.	Jun 29, 2012 2:13 AM
223	As a divorced older single I have attended different types of churches where attitudes differ greatly towards those who are single and therefore can not say that there is a "typical"church attitude to singleness.	Jun 28, 2012 1:34 PM
224	I have a church with loads of different ministries I can get involved in. Singleness frees me up to get involved with them. If there are any issues re singleness, they are with individuals rather than the body as a whole.	Jun 28, 2012 8:42 AM
225	The majority of Christian singles I meet, and I meet hundreds in my job, tell me that they feel isolated in church.	Jun 28, 2012 6:51 AM
226	The church is led by men, and men are not coming to church - what's that about? Surely we need a different type of leadership to include single men and women as well as married leaders. The most successful church in our area is one where the pastor used to be a con, so he can relate to people affected by crime. We do not keep it real in church because those preaching do not have the experiences the congregation face, or at least do not confront the issues with compassion e.g. people never married, in their 40s, 50s, 60s or older, divorced and seeking remarriage, single parenthood etc. We need to be teaching about all stages of relationship: living with singlehood, courting, engagement and marriage. There are some extremely unhealthy and ill informed views about relationship out there, among older and younger Christians - the root I believe is that people are not being taught, or understanding, who they are in Christ. Single and married people need to stand together in mutual prayer and edification. Singleness is not the problem (God knows marriage isn't a stroll in the park). Ignorance of God is.	Jun 27, 2012 4:47 PM
227	while there are opportunities to be in ministry, there is very little focus on the needs of single people in the church.	Jun 27, 2012 2:25 PM
228	Most of the leaders are married	Jun 27, 2012 1:40 PM
229	My positive responses are only for my present church. I have tried other churches where I felt like an embarrassing alien!	Jun 27, 2012 10:12 AM
230	There are things for young singles to do - social activities are encouraged and arranged, but nothing for 30+.. and even less for 40 or 50+	Jun 26, 2012 12:14 PM
231	A lot of the time the feelings I put on myself as a single person. My church is so family focused i notice that I stand in church alone, and it hurts. In fact so much so that currently i am on a break from church.	Jun 26, 2012 11:59 AM
232	people are hurting so why go to church to receive more hurt, often people stop going.	Jun 26, 2012 8:54 AM
233	I don't think that the church is necessarilly femanine, it's just that more women than men attend. This can put pressure on single women to not make friendships with married people because they are seen as a threat to married people, especially if you have made it known that you would like to	Jun 26, 2012 2:17 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	meet and marry. There is a comfort that married people have that singles do not	
234	How sad that these questions are relevant to the church today. So happy to have found a community where those questions make little or no sense.	Jun 25, 2012 12:28 PM
235	one could presume that there must be something wrong with me IF I GOT MARRIED. considering the hell some people go through in relationships - marital or otherwise. i had one for 23 years - been there - bought the T.shirt !! not a bed of roses. but then - neither is bein' alone !!	Jun 24, 2012 2:58 PM
236	These questions are rather negative and may skew your results. They are very loaded!	Jun 24, 2012 12:31 PM
237	The church celebrates significant happenings for people who are married-weddings, christenings, engagements, children etc. This can be difficult if you are single, as you can feel that you will never have anything significant in your life celebrated.	Jun 24, 2012 3:27 AM
238	The norm of people outside of Church think that a single person must be gay	Jun 23, 2012 10:13 PM
239	I think as an Anglo-Catholic, I am a very particular type of single man - possibly not 'average' if there is such a thing.	Jun 23, 2012 12:30 PM
240	The biggest problem for single women (in particular) in a church is that there are no single men so meeting someone else is almost impossible unless the church or oneself is engaged in interchurch links and activities. Even then it's difficult as the church overall is made up of more women than men.	Jun 23, 2012 9:28 AM
241	In some churches I experience that singleness was more of a problem, particularly Anhglican Churches.In my present church(free church) I dont's have these problems, I am more accepted because there is less emphasis on status.	Jun 23, 2012 2:17 AM
242	-	Jun 22, 2012 2:59 PM
243	The church does not know what to do with me as I was very active but not so much now and am not married.	Jun 22, 2012 2:40 PM
244	There is often a marriage ministry (e.g. marriage prep), children's ministry, but not a singles ministry. One could argue that some singles could get this started, but as yet this hasn't happened. I personally would not be able to take this on, but I would like to be involved if someone else did!	Jun 22, 2012 2:31 PM
245	I wouldn't rule out some of the above negatives regarding being single within a christian church applying elsewhere but not in the church I attend, thankfully.	Jun 22, 2012 1:43 PM
246	My church is unusual in that it is comfortable with singles of any age.	Jun 22, 2012 12:48 PM
247	I think church puts less pressure on people for being in relationships than the outside world because people are treated as part of a wider family...therefore have less need to get in a relationship	Jun 22, 2012 10:23 AM
248	When widowed, was almost ignored by church.	Jun 22, 2012 9:32 AM
249	I am fortunate in that I have family (brother and his) who also attend this Church so I may feel less uncomfortable because they are there. Generally	Jun 22, 2012 8:31 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	in life I feel increasingly awkward in social situations as a singleton, and tired doing everything alone, and that applies to the Church to an extent too, but I am also valued at the Church for what I can bring and feel part of the Church family	
250	As a Reader I have definite role which possibly makes a difference to acceptance	Jun 22, 2012 8:25 AM
251	I feel that in the big churches I have visited there is a great emphasis on youngish married couples and their family units which can make a reluctant divorcee such as myself feel a bit of a failure! and I have attended one particular service where there was the assumption that working at a difficult marriage can solve the problems;as a reluctant divorcee I found this attitude very hurtful and upsetting.	Jun 22, 2012 7:19 AM
252	There are very often no real events for single Christians my age, its expected that we are all married. The church focussed most of its energy reaching married people as that is the norm	Jun 22, 2012 5:08 AM
253	I cant believe the questions are so close to what I have said on the previous pages, it could mean Im not the only one.	Jun 21, 2012 5:10 PM
254	I think the Church as a whole is not very good in general at teaching on the positive things about singleness. There is therefore a lot of expectation that you will get married. When your in your late 20's and still single you ask 'what is wrong with me?' as a result and people don't get why you haven't found anyone. But lets face it there are no men in the church my age and those that are aren't mature and there is a reason why they are still single (not always but often).	Jun 21, 2012 2:42 PM
255	I've heard Christian guys in various churches making the "too feminine" type comments, but personally find this rather odd when I consider that in my church (any many others) the service is largely run (ie preaching, notices and worship band/ leader) by men. Surely these men can sort out something suitable for the guys?!!! I think that some (larger) churches cater quite well for younger singles (eg aged up to 30), but it becomes far more of a problem after this age. Our church had a "young" persons weekend away last year which included people up to the age of 40. This year, they had to restrict it to below 30 as the age range was putting people in their late teens off from coming. The result was that half the people who wanted to go this year were too old - which just goes to show how great the demand is.	Jun 21, 2012 2:17 PM
256	in my church, i am single, divorced and also a leader. I am accepted and valued. However, they do not understand the 'single' , divorced status. It is the opportunity to meet other singles of a similar age group that is so missing, especially in a small village.	Jun 21, 2012 10:55 AM
257	I have always felt very welcomed and included in my Church.	Jun 21, 2012 10:51 AM
258	I agree with the last statement, but there is less support as a single person with leadership responsibilities than there is for couples in leadership responsibilities.	Jun 21, 2012 9:35 AM
259	Simple thing- when conferences are on, marrieds get a discount. With 2 salaries coming in, it should be singles with 1 coming in who get the discount. Otherwise singles are subsidizing marrieds. It is just an example of unthinking attitude & preference towards married ppl. I will be speaking to leadership about this soon. : )	Jun 21, 2012 4:56 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

260	Difficult as a single woman to find a minstry place. Been studying the Word seriously for 10 years and just been told I have the gift of adminstration.	Jun 21, 2012 3:52 AM
261	It isn't just Church, society sees 'single' as 'something wrong'	Jun 20, 2012 9:55 PM
262	Apart from a few conversations with folk, dont think church knows how it feels to be single. Or at the very least, doesnt know how to express its feeling for these individuals.	Jun 20, 2012 2:50 PM
263	our church was started to serve students. Singleness is therefore normal. As a single of 42 I feel the hope they have for me to find someone but not criticism or superiority. However, I miss out on invitations from the newly weds I presume because of the ease of organising 2 couples is easier.	Jun 20, 2012 1:20 PM
264	My church is exceptionally good with singles as they make up about a third of the congregation	Jun 20, 2012 12:30 PM
265	married couples invite married couples round.....families invite families....rarely do I get invited round by a couple/family....despite me inviting people and being inclusive...and no I'm not dull, boring or a nuisance to have round...people say I'm really nice, fun. sociable so that isn't why!!	Jun 20, 2012 11:54 AM
266	Churches do not appreciate the unique challenges faced by singles: socially, emotionally, spiritually and financially.	Jun 20, 2012 10:31 AM
267	I am married, but I recall feeling inadequate as a single - although am not sure exactly why that was. My previous evangelical church did contribute to that, but my next church which was mainstream, with fewer singles than previous churches, actually made me feel more adequate - how curious!	Jun 20, 2012 9:32 AM
268	One of the things that started me off on the track that eventually led to me drifting away from committed attendance and involvement to only very occasional attendance was when at a church meeting one member stood up and said, on the subject of appointing a youth minister, that only a married person would be acceptable, as that was the right role model of relationships for their children. Shocking really - I don't think this person can possibly have realised how insulting that was who were struggling to remain chaste and hopeful despite the isolation of singleness.	Jun 20, 2012 7:21 AM
269	My church is friendly. The issue to me is more that they are very few people if any in my situation i.e. a single person in his thirties.	Jun 20, 2012 7:17 AM
270	Being a single man in the church is like being constantly faced by a "double whammy". Christian singles' organisations are predominately run by and for women. Their events are usually attended by more women than men, unless measures have been taken to even up the numbers attending. Christian mens' organisations are primarily concerned with evangelism. They are not interested in providing pastoral support for men, whatever their marital status. Also I am interested in theology. In most new-to-me Christian settings that doesn't get discovered, because people struggle to cope with the apparently unprecedented circumstance of a man who has turned up by himself. When my interest in theology does come out I am regarded with even more caution, as I'm "obviously" somewhere between unsound and unsaved.	Jun 20, 2012 7:16 AM
271	Some churches require priests to be single. The Religious life (monks & nuns) are almost entirely single. It is possible in some churches to take a lifetime vow of celibacy.	Jun 20, 2012 7:04 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

272	I know far more single Christians than single non-Christians. Although increasing numbers of singles is an issue in society at large, I think it is worse in the Church.	Jun 20, 2012 6:57 AM
273	I think there is more emphasis on children or having children, but talk about marriage comes a close second!	Jun 20, 2012 4:24 AM
274	Churches do not do enough for single people. There are ministries for married people, single parents, men, women, etc, etc but nothing specifically for single people. I go to a church where there are courses for married and engaged couples but there are more single people than these two groups put together and nothing is being done for us!!	Jun 20, 2012 3:35 AM
275	I think that single people without children are particularly excluded	Jun 20, 2012 3:31 AM
276	The relationship with church is a two-way-street. An obnoxious person (even a Christian!) will have a difficult relationship anywhere - single or married. Conversely, a person with a caring personality will be welcomed - single or married. The other thing I would say is, that since I was younger, the make-up of the 'single Christian community' has altered considerably. Many singles are now divorced, where they've had a relationship that has failed. This comes with it's own baggage. It also makes it hard for someone not wanting to marry a divorced person (on biblical grounds) to find a single friend.	Jun 20, 2012 3:16 AM
277	depends a lot on the size of the church	Jun 20, 2012 2:56 AM
278	Churches always have great single women and few or no suitable single men	Jun 20, 2012 2:05 AM
279	I feel some married women in the church see single women as a threat to their own relationships.	Jun 20, 2012 1:40 AM
280	Personally I feel very accepted by my church. It is very family focussed but I am never left out of things. If anything they make more of an effort to invite me to things like dinner and other gatherings.	Jun 20, 2012 1:00 AM
281	I do sometimes feel excluded from social occasions by church members because I am not a "couple".	Jun 19, 2012 1:31 PM
282	As previous answer the church is very feminine and needs to attract men and challenge men to look up to Jesus and follow him. the Jesus of the worship songs is weak and does not attract blokes but attracts passive men	Jun 19, 2012 1:05 PM
283	It's much easier to fit into a church in a couple. I find it difficult that so many people are married because I do really want to be married but don't feel I can do anything about it, and so struggle with jealousy and worry about the future. Most things are led by couples, which does put me off leading things on my own.	Jun 19, 2012 12:50 PM
284	I found myself newly divorced in inner city Liverpool and found myself completely accepted and encouraged to learn new skill and join the team leading worship. Had I stayed where I was in a middle class village I am pretty sure this would not have been the case, even though I was well known and had been a church warden.	Jun 19, 2012 12:18 PM
285	Sometimes a church can slip up with being inclusive. This could be perceived as a rejection due to being single when in fact it's thoughtlessness.	Jun 19, 2012 11:37 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

286	Difficult to know where I fit since was part of a married couple when began attending current church.	Jun 19, 2012 11:29 AM
287	Fortunatley for me, I go to a very inclusive church that treats everyone like part of the family. However, there is a general assumption in church and in the wider society that you should be married or at least seeing someone when you get to a certain age. I feel there should be more local activities for single christians as dating websites don't work for all.	Jun 19, 2012 11:28 AM
288	There is often a strong emphasis on being single is a choice. However, most I know do not see it as a choice and are all very keen to be married.	Jun 19, 2012 10:14 AM
289	The Church does not minister to the specific needs and challenges of single Christians. The Church does not support single Christians seeking to follow the bible's teaching around only marrying other Christians, and any church members are not even aware of the teaching in this area. There is no teaching on remarriage. The Church does not know what to do with single Christians between the ages of 30 and 60 - you don't fit into any category.	Jun 19, 2012 9:18 AM
290	I was much more accepted when I was married. Now that I am alone I feel an odd bod.	Jun 18, 2012 12:56 PM
291	My Church used to be much more family focussed than it is currently, with almost constant references to families/children, making me feel an outsider at times. Our new Pastor is less focussed on families, which has helped me to feel more part of things.	Jun 18, 2012 12:50 PM
292	The statements are difficult to respond to because churches and people vary so much. The UK church needs to embrace singles as part of its community, not as a calling or a choice, but as a reality as the gender balance is skewed towards women. The whole church needs to see this as a problem and be proactive in encouraging and witnessing to men (married and single).	Jun 18, 2012 7:28 AM
293	singles ae made to feel 2nd class	Jun 17, 2012 1:57 PM
294	Just hard when you feel this a real desire of your heart	Jun 17, 2012 1:33 PM
295	not experienced anything particulary bad due to being single	Jun 17, 2012 11:51 AM
296	All of my answers are based on my last expereince of being in a church and on what other single friends have found.	Jun 17, 2012 10:52 AM
297	I have been in this church for a long time and am known which means some of my answers are positive but I do have mixed feelings and see it being more difficult for others, particularly older single men.	Jun 16, 2012 11:22 AM
298	The Uk tends to be somewhat of a closed society at the best of times, so without people meaning to, you can feel left out and lonely as a singlew in chchurch simply because most people are married and part of a family. I felt it particularly because none of my family lives in the area where I live, so not only am I single, but I am in a sense all on my own. Yes, people do invvite me for dinner at Christmas etc but that makes me feel even more that I am different and maybe somewhat of an oddity.	Jun 15, 2012 8:13 AM
299	I feel that in terms of ministrysingles are accepted as we are deemed to have gifts nd also time to commit to leadership. However the negatives come from social church life and general ethos around church life.	Jun 15, 2012 7:47 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

300	.Sometimes you can feel a bit forgotten and alone. There's an interesting article out there called getting married in no man's land. Looks at the church being too girly and not attracting non christian men and instead is full of amazing single women	Jun 13, 2012 1:34 PM
301	I feel because i am divorced sometimes people treat me with suspicion, i dont feel that i would be allowed to be involved in ministry as others see my failure.	Jun 12, 2012 1:09 PM
302	This is to do with my age. We have a lot of single students in my church but as a working person in her early 30's I don't fit into the families- with- children category or the undergrad. student category. I feel that my singleness makes me ignored, only those who are couples get invited round to other couples houses for a meal, even though I have had some couples over more than once. I feel loosely part of the family -or accepted by my closer friends but on the fringes of the actual church ' body' because I don't fit into the married or student cliques.... many in the church are Africans ( I am a white minority) who appear to give off the view that a woman's only true vocation is to be a wife. I don't agree! I tried to suggest to my Pastor ways to embrace singles, but I felt my concerns and my loneliness were dismissed. I feel if were a married person -or in a serious relationship with a man I would have a greater 'voice' and more respect in the church. but I thank God for the freinds he has given me (though most of them are in a relationship which can be lonely) A small group of friends mostly younger than me, where I do feel accepted.	Jun 12, 2012 1:40 AM
303	Although I am fully accepted in my church, i do feel that at times I fall between different groups and not catered for as I am a single mum, so I don't fit in the singles scene because I have children and I sometimes feeling uncomfortable in the family events because I am not part of a couple.	Jun 11, 2012 2:42 PM
304	I think singleness is more of an issue if you are a christian than it is if you are not.	Jun 11, 2012 1:11 PM
305	My feelings of being inadequate are possibly more because I feel inadequate rather than the church family thinking I am. However, I am aware that they preach that singleness is a gift, yet all the clergy I know are keen to get married as soon as possible. The pain of singleness is never acknowledge or prayed about because it is preached as a gift. I therefore find the pain very isolating.	Jun 11, 2012 12:05 PM
306	I am currently in a very loving and supportive church, and as part of the staff team I'm very accepted. :-)! However, I'm not sure that all singles would feel as positively as I do in this church, and I know that in previous churches I haven't always felt as positively supported as a single person. My church is a good place for me - they accept me as I am. I hope it is the same for other single Christians who come. However, they don't provide any specific special support because I'm single.	Jun 11, 2012 5:06 AM
307	I feel totally accepted in my church. I am one of several single people and we are all involved in different ways. There is no presumption that marriage is the expected state.	Jun 10, 2012 1:18 PM
308	It seems like if you're actively seeking a relationship you're looked down on for being 'desperate' or like if you're looking, it must mean you're not ready for a relationship.	Jun 9, 2012 3:28 PM
309	I am seen as a predator of women because i am male and single	Jun 9, 2012 6:31 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

310	I do find a lot of married women are suspicious of me as a single woman and sometimes sadly, other single women are competitive.	Jun 9, 2012 4:25 AM
311	As far as worship and teaching is concerned I feel totally accepted. However, at some social events although I am totally accepted the organisers forget that I don't have an automatic partner or think about how it might be difficult turning up to something by yourself.	Jun 9, 2012 3:46 AM
312	Previous experiences of singleness in other churches though would give VERY different answers.	Jun 8, 2012 9:36 AM
313	I feel very lucky to worship in the same church I have always attended. I am valued and accepted and feel a genuine love in the fellowship for all. I do miss not being part of a couple (before he left my husband went there too).	Jun 8, 2012 4:26 AM
314	There is absolutely no focus on singles at my church. We need to do singles, like we do Youth!!. My church is obsessed with entertaining our Youth and students, and they are important, but singles are important too. I feel ignored, isolated and odd in the church family. I have thought about leaving often, but have to remember I am there to worship the Lord, and not to be entertained.	Jun 8, 2012 2:53 AM
315	The leaders of my church are mainly 60+ years and married and so have no idea of what it is like to be single or have forgotten. Encouraging singles by saying that God will provide is good but they need to think about how they can actually help singles to meet, marry and develop a loving lasting marital relationship	Jun 8, 2012 2:47 AM
316	Being married should be the expected lifestyle for MOST people. It's certainly what I hope for, but isn't the case at present. Church balls, dinner nights, visits. All of these things make me feel really upset because I know it will be uncomfortable as a singleton.	Jun 8, 2012 1:00 AM
317	As a out gay man I am fully accepted	Jun 7, 2012 11:54 PM
318	being single and finding a partner becomes harder as you get older, there are less singles and more married people...so circle of single christian friends is smaller, and not necessarily people that you would click with, which is why i have a larger proportion of non-christian single friends who i can relate to better in personality and interests/outlook, i believe there are more single older christians in cities rather than towns, so maybe dating is easier then?....sorry, but i cant believe how few people seem a potential match on CC website, as this is the biggest dating site...having said that during the year i have been subscribed i have been contacted by and met 3 nice people, i am open to giving it another year. I totally understand why women end up marrying non christians, when there is a lack of christian men....and i feel i can say this as someone approaching 50 and still single. My age is a difficulty, as i am quite young in my outlook, younger guys or even ones my age still want children, which i cant have, and older guys generally do not seem to be young in the outlook, which i am, so i find myself in a difficult position. I dearly would love to meet a man of faith, but also in touch with the world, a difficult ask so it seems.	Jun 7, 2012 2:44 PM
319	The church should consider doing arranged marriages	Jun 7, 2012 1:33 PM
320	My single status DOES restrict my ability to lead or participate in ministry simply because I am having to do a job that is more than full-time (teaching), run a household and look after two teenagers/young adults by myself. I am too tired to go out to evening events.	Jun 7, 2012 12:50 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

321	I am hetrosexual, but I do feel that for those whose sexual orientation is not this, they are not accepted at all, they are made to feel second rate and as if they are in need for deliverance. Would Jesus act like this or accept people as they are???	Jun 7, 2012 11:50 AM
322	I feel pressure to find a partner and get married from both inside and outside of the church. My church is mostly full of couples and families so struggle to find things in common apart from the church.	Jun 7, 2012 10:56 AM
323	Some of these answers I wanted to answer 'sometimes' or 'probably'.	Jun 7, 2012 9:22 AM
324	I don't think it's as much about not being valued as being invisible. It is also a structural issue - groups / categories are set up for older people, people with families, students, young people, people in their 20s and 30s..... but no category for those singles in their 40s who feel that they left the 20s behind a long time ago. I think it is similar for younger childless couples at times. To be fair, I'm not sure that a 'singles' category would go down well either - yes, perhaps there is still a stigma about this. But it is possible to create more categories / groups which are not based on social status - eg music, specialised Bible study groups, walking, reading..... This makes it possible to meet a smaller group of people in the church and get to know them. It also helps to get involved a bit more in organising things - but this isn't always an option for very busy people with highflying jobs, and where the job is where they get their sense of worth from.	Jun 7, 2012 3:54 AM
325	I moved church a year ago and on the whole I have settled in very well and my singleness is not a big issue, however I know single people who do feel overlooked/inadequate because of this status	Jun 6, 2012 3:28 PM
326	I think sometimes the church community do not always know how to handle singleness & see it as a handicap, of course the problem could always be that we think we are perceived in this way when we are not!	Jun 6, 2012 1:55 PM
327	Hey, tell all those single people who've ticked at the opposite end of the spectrum from me, esp to those last few qs, to come to my church, St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey St, SE1. There's loads far from ideal about it, but there's no issue being single in it!	Jun 6, 2012 1:46 PM
328	Need to be aware of distinction between the Church and my local church - they are quite different. Not sure what exactly is meant above because of lack of capital 'c's!	Jun 6, 2012 10:48 AM
329	I am not LESS accepted because i am single, i am just not wholly included in the life of the church as I find I am less likely to be included in informal social events as I am not in a relationship - not because I am not in a relationship but because people tend to not invite just one person. Although it is true to say that people frequently express concern that I am not in a relationship.	Jun 6, 2012 10:20 AM
330	I don't feel excluded in the church because I am single. Just wish more people/ the church would run events/ match making/ inviting singles to dinner more often as in a big church it can be quite easy to stay in the background and not meet many people.	Jun 6, 2012 9:46 AM
331	My churches are more single males than females, any spare single ladies send them along to dorset.	Jun 6, 2012 9:39 AM
332	Presumption that I must have DONE something wrong, as a divorcee	Jun 6, 2012 8:44 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

333	church is very family focused and there is less acceptance for singles, i do not have a problem with this as i see that is just the way it is but it is sad as i also know many other singles that struggle, even when this is brought to the attention through other leaders there still seems to be an unsure-ness of what to do for single people!	Jun 6, 2012 8:26 AM
334	I like going to church to serve God,i don't care what the church says about me but i love the church i am attending because, they do pray for the singles to find their life partner.	Jun 6, 2012 8:01 AM
335	Any contradiction in responses is due to the different churches I have been a member of! Some churches have definitely ignored me, others completely accepted me.	Jun 6, 2012 7:15 AM
336	there is a big gap in provision for single over 25-30's - there's stuff for students and for families, but nothing for those of us in the middle	Jun 6, 2012 4:07 AM
337	Not in church but maybe outside of church with non believers as they see my long years of singleness and waiting for a Christian man as being too fussy etc	Jun 6, 2012 4:03 AM
338	There are a lot more single women than men at churches in my area. Men do not seem to have the same values as women. People 'feel sorry' for you if you are single and are embarrassed. Don't know how to handle it sometimes.	Jun 6, 2012 4:00 AM
339	Now married but a long time single who worked in a church environment. My work was appreciated, but very few would recognise the loneliness and lack of social life that I often experienced, especially as I was the only single person of my age in the church.	Jun 6, 2012 3:31 AM
340	The church has recently started a family event on Saturday nights - there has been no mention of singles at all in connection with this event. I therefore feel excluded from it. I have also struggled with the expectation of the church that as a single person I must remain celibate.	Jun 6, 2012 2:19 AM
341	If a single person throws themselves into service in the church, I think they are welcomed. But, if you have a calling outside church which doesn't allow this, then you are unlikely to feel welcomed.	Jun 6, 2012 12:38 AM
342	I find coz I Single it is assumed that I am available to help with more things as I do not have children.... Which maybe i am, but it feels like alot of tasks are sent my way. Too many. Also I do not get invited to dinner where couples are invited. I dont feel its on purpose, I just don't think people think.	Jun 5, 2012 10:16 PM
343	My focus has changed. I go to church to worship God with others. To do what I can to help us share the message.	Jun 5, 2012 3:47 PM
344	Couples meet with other couples on a regular basis. i feel like a second class citizen. The church does not know how to treat singles or help them with the problems that come from being single.	Jun 5, 2012 2:33 PM
345	I would not have answered so positively 4 years ago when I joined my Church as a married woman whose husband was disinterested in God. However since my marriage breakdown my Church runs relationship breakdown courses (New Beginnings) and since then I have become a member of an identifiable group who network members to keep in contact within and outside of the Church.	Jun 5, 2012 2:02 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

346	Because church is so family orientated you are not invited to dinner parties etc. I use to be when I was married! I really miss that and feel excluded. People say you shouldn't want a man but that's the way you are included.	Jun 5, 2012 1:35 PM
347	its hard being a young single lady in my church. there are students, young mums and a 'ladies group' but the ladies group is all older single women or married ladies whose husbands dont come to church. There are very few single graduates in their 20s and 30s. There is only one non-student single guy, and we arent a couple, and i know he finds it very hard too.	Jun 5, 2012 1:29 PM
348	This varies a lot between different local churches; I've moved from one where being single was treated as almost equivalent to not being a real Christian, to one where it doesn't make any difference. I've answered for a mixture between the two.	Jun 5, 2012 12:53 PM
349	I know I have lots of contradictions here but I do feel accepted in church etc. Singleness however is still an issue. The thing I struggle with most about being a single person in church is that I don't fit in ANY category....I am not a student, I am nearly 30 years old and I don't have children.....I can't go to students events, I can't go to parents events, I work full time so can't go to midweek ladies bible study, except for going to church, I get lonely on the weekends because most of my friends are married with kids and want to protect their 'family time'. I often find myself on a Sunday going to the morning service and then 'filling up the day' with random things on my own before going to the evening service. It's a real problem and life as a single person is not easy! As an extravert, I have done everything I can think of to 'get out there and be involved' but it seems the only solution is to meet my life-partner and join in with the crowd.	Jun 5, 2012 12:32 PM
350	I don't think you can make any of these generalisations about 'the church'. It depends on who you speak to in the church. 'Single' covers a wide range from young adults to those of us 'more mature', those never married, those married/divorced/widowed. Sometimes I think the singles are their own worse enemies and act as if the church owes them something - it doesn't. Singleness is a gift - not for the person who is single, but for the church! My singleness is there to benefit the church in my greater capacity to put God and others first, before anyone else as (looking after elderly parents etc excluded) I do not have the commitment of looking after a family. I have nothing against this view.	Jun 5, 2012 12:30 PM
351	Being single gives me more time to serve, though sometimes a bit lonely	Jun 5, 2012 12:29 PM
352	i have looked at the generations of singles ahead of me in church and have dreaded becoming the stereotypical single who seems to be faithfully at meetings and volunteers for more than married people yet I find I all too readily slip into that role. I think people presume that as you single female you don't face similar heart ache no kids as a married couple no kids.	Jun 5, 2012 12:17 PM
353	feel there should be a singles group for the older age group at our church.	Jun 5, 2012 12:14 PM
354	As I work for the church in a key role I am not sure how different it would be in other circumstances.	Jun 5, 2012 11:53 AM
355	This is a bit age related. As a younger woman I felt differently, for example more of a threat to married women.	Jun 5, 2012 11:35 AM
356	My church does not have a singles ministry and does not address issues in relation to single people.	Jun 5, 2012 10:53 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

357	There is no problem with 'acceptance' but there is also no specific ministry to singles.	Jun 5, 2012 10:43 AM
358	I think that experiences are different in different churches. My church is great, but I do believe that The Church generally has a presumption of marriage as the norm and that if you are divorced or single then the problem must be with you.	Jun 5, 2012 9:25 AM
359	Divorce is painful enough and you can find comfort from God but need to be accepted	Jun 5, 2012 9:16 AM
360	Taken for granted is the word, oh yeah, met a fab widdow on christian connection with 4 kids, took them to church and suddenly got noticed. Umm nice, how old is your son they said, "What! ha ha!" Still at least we got noticed.	Jun 5, 2012 8:53 AM
361	In my experience, I think that the first statement, - single because there is something wrong - can apply to some of the few single men left in the church. Others need more opportunities for mentoring and discipleship. Others are just fine the way they are, they just haven't met the right person yet.	Jun 5, 2012 4:21 AM
362	Its hard being single!	Jun 4, 2012 6:39 PM
363	i just wish the congregations would include people like myself with what goes on at the church we tend to get forgotten when activities are happening in our church we find out after the event usually well i do.	Jun 4, 2012 11:06 AM
364	I have previously attended other denominations, and my answers would be different for different denominations. The answers above apply to my experience of attending Quaker meetings.	Jun 4, 2012 9:38 AM
365	For me it isn't about not feeling accepted at all-it's about feeling lonely. You can be surrounded by people who accept you and still feel lonely.	Jun 4, 2012 5:28 AM
366	Some of my answers above may seem contradictory, for example I agree with 'as a single in church I often feel inadequate or ignored' but I also agree with 'the church embraces me for who I am'. This is because it depends which church I attend. I have a much more positive experience as part of the church where I live now than I do at the church I left to come to college.	Jun 4, 2012 1:11 AM
367	As a single church minister (only recently going out with someone) I think I have an unusual experience of being single in the church. I don't think I have been any less valued because I am single. At some times in some of the churches I have been part of I think there has been a tension for congregation/ other leaders wanting to welcome, but in the midst of busy lives also needing to focus on their own families and relationships. In some of the churches I have been part of there can be an expectation that if you are single you have more time to serve and less acknowledgement that on your own you are keeping a household running and working as well as coming to church (possibly more of an issue for women than men - I've seen more of an acknowledgement with single men in churches).	Jun 3, 2012 5:27 AM
368	People are always telling me they are praying that I will 'find someone special' - implication that I am not wholly alive as a singleton, that I'm living on amber, waiting for the green light. And/or they think that I spend all my spare time at home alone twiddling my thumbs and so can be asked to turn up anytime anywhere and so I get 'volunteered' for all sorts of stuff, with little	Jun 3, 2012 5:00 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	acceptance that I might not want to. This is not seen as a valid excuse, but I don't have the 'alibi' of spouse or kids which others can use if they don't feel like doing something or it is not really convenient.	
369	I would have answered some of these questions differently prior to ordination.	Jun 3, 2012 4:59 AM
370	The issue is more complex than "being single" as the element of being separated/broken marriage has a strong influence within my church	Jun 3, 2012 4:05 AM
371	Im only restricted by not being able to lead marriage or parenting courses! Which i would rather not being single and childless :)	Jun 2, 2012 2:52 PM
372	I feel that I am accepted as a single person at church, but that is partly because I work for the church as a youth and children's worker and that other singles don't feel that way. There is also an expectation that I will find someone, people wanting constantly trying to set me up and not being able to accept that I want to be single.	Jun 2, 2012 12:16 PM
373	I think my church is fantastic and very accepting and inclusive. However there are very few single people so I can feel quite alone sometimes but this is my feelings rather than the way I am treated. However I have had people be insensitive talking in cell saying we're all parents here, oh apart from ..... Which singled me out and made me feel rubbish.	Jun 2, 2012 11:02 AM
374	this is a new church and we have only started three months ago.	Jun 2, 2012 2:40 AM
375	our church has a large number of singles its very commonplace.	Jun 1, 2012 11:32 PM
376	i dont attend any church at the moment so cannot comment on some questions	Jun 1, 2012 5:00 PM
377	I have been in a church where I was very cared for as a single christian and invited out frequently for lunch on a sunday ..I find it sad that where I am now ,I can attend week afre week and not be asked what I am doing or would I like to come over for company or a meal	Jun 1, 2012 1:11 PM
378	I am not deliberately excluded but it is a very family focussed church. I would love to be invited out for lunch / evening meals more often. I often hear couples talking about dinner invitations and getting babysitters etc or if I do get invited round for Sunday lunch I am usually invited along with other singles. I think it's harder as an older single too as the 20s have their own group to go to. By my age most are married so there's no such group for me.	Jun 1, 2012 10:40 AM
379	I dont feel the average uk church does enough to promote christain relationships although I dont think the church chould be match making or dating but single christian socialising groups is a good idea.	Jun 1, 2012 8:50 AM
380	I feel very much embraced and accepted as a person but my singleness is not mentioned so maybe its ignored, or just not relevant, sometimes I would like it to be noticed - in a constructive way	Jun 1, 2012 12:14 AM
381	Younger single people have more activities geared for them and there are more social opportunities. It was the same for me when I was in my 20-30's - more single people around! I find (being older now), that most of my contemporaries are married, (or dating), with have families, and therefore different priorities (understandably!). I enjoy being with my married and	May 31, 2012 2:46 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	<p>single friends I know in church, but I do feel alone sometimes. I don't feel any more valued in society in general than I feel in church (in fact there are times when I don't FEEL accepted in either, and there is a temptation to think there must be something wrong because I've never been married (along with other thoughts that I try not to allow to linger), but I quickly send that back where it came from! I don't think that being single is the reason I don't feel part of the church, though perhaps if I was married I probably would be more involved (is that a contradiction?!) Personally, I think if there had been (and is) more honest teaching about how tough it can be, with real meaty teaching, and "gutsty" deeper worship songs (rather than just the many songs focussing on intimacy of relationship with Jesus - important though that is!), I wonder if more men would have been "attracted" to the Church. It's historical though isn't it that there are always more women than men in Church for one reason or another? Very frustrating! The End! (Sorry that was epic!)</p>	
382	It's hard to find other single guys my age in church. most people my age are married!	May 31, 2012 1:19 PM
383	what can I say how sad it is when I realize from these answers how I really feel however I do love my church and would not go anywhere else... it is after all my home	May 31, 2012 12:52 PM
384	1) My answers for a CofE evangelical. 2) Had I answered for a charismatic 'new church' I have been attending more until recently, the answers would have been not so favourable: married men might be slightly more favoured in participating in ministry, and a stronger emphasis on social activities could occasionally mean some things more geared to couples/families	May 31, 2012 12:27 PM
385	Again.. once you're past 25-ish you're almost expected tp be married... the older you get the worse this perception is.. there is some. There is some room for single mothers to get involved in children's ministries and they meet other women.. but not for single fathers. Older divorcees with no children are forgotten.	May 30, 2012 12:16 PM
386	The church is ok-just people generally are very 'couply' and it feels lonely as if you don't fit sometimes, even to seating arrangements-same as outside world in general Lots of elderly widows, but I'm younger than all of them, makes me feel old!	May 30, 2012 4:28 AM
387	Even housegroups make it difficult by being inflexible when childcare needs arose	May 29, 2012 12:52 PM
388	Many social events assume family. I am ok because I have children, but if I did not have children I would feel very 'out of it'	May 29, 2012 11:10 AM
389	Although my church accepts me as a single person who has never been married, there are times when I feel I don't have much to say to other members of the congregation who are or have been married and have children as families are a huge topic of conversation within the church.	May 29, 2012 9:28 AM
390	BEEING DIVORCED HAD LIMITED MY OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN MINISTRY AND SERVING THE LORD	May 29, 2012 2:15 AM
391	I am divorced and Although my current church are accepting My old church do not understand my reasons and were judgemental sometimes. Definatly not enough single men in church. Also I think part of the problem is that church discourages and tuts upon men standing up and being a man or	May 28, 2012 11:32 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	commenting on a females looks or making a moves towards a female. This doesnt help men or women	
392	most often i went for the service and went home so did not participate in after church activities so i do not feel being single has made a difference to my christian life	May 28, 2012 6:48 PM
393	As a Single I am exploited for service because of my additional free time might be more where I would lay my hat.	May 28, 2012 3:34 PM
394	As a single female, you have very few opportunities for ministry outside of children's work. In many churches, you may have more opportunities if you were married. A lot of these comments can apply to any adults who do not have children, not just to singles.	May 28, 2012 1:01 AM
395	I was married and have only fairly recently been single (now widowed). The love and care shown to me by members of the church has been tremendous. If it is possible if anything I am more accepted than when my wife was alive. The love and friendship has to work both ways of course and involve Christ.	May 26, 2012 12:41 PM
396	I have only recently become single and only recently joined a church, so I don't know enough about this partticular church to comment, I found when I was first a christian 30 years ago, all the singles wanted marriage and children, I didn't want children and felt very odd because of this, Things may have changed now.	May 26, 2012 6:58 AM
397	I feel my church is accepting of people in all kinds of relationship status	May 26, 2012 2:17 AM
398	my answers are based on my own church and our mission statement is open doors, open hands, open hearts, which is how Jesus calls us to live with one another.	May 25, 2012 9:25 AM
399	It might be easier to get to know others if I was part of a couple.	May 25, 2012 8:55 AM
400	I've certainly been told that being single hinders my chances of becoming an ordinand. Co-leading a small group is much more difficult when it's not the standard husband-wife team. There's typically a pair-up culture when there's lots of singles the same age (unlike my current church at the moment, though then when we had a few single 20-somethings, there was an element of that) even if sometimes a bit of joking and when there's not a group of singles, there's the problem of trying to break into the cliques of families-with-kids-a-certain-age. It was very difficult when most of my small group were expecting children, or had them, or worked with them. The voices from the church - typically America - about how it's a bad thing that young people are getting married later is a far more annoying, as I take them seriously, than the culture's "you must have lots of sex". Society is certainly wanting me to have girlfriends (or boyfriends), or at least one-night stands but unlike my non-Christian parents wanting grandkids, or the Church-in-general wanting me to get married, I don't care about what they want. The poor exegesis about the "gift of singleness" that it's for the few who choose chastity and everyone who can't hack-it should get married is pretty damaging - sermons on singleness have sometimes left me more down and less happy with it than before - normally down to that: there's little room for single-by-circumstance-not-choice Christians in much of the church.	May 25, 2012 7:37 AM
401	I think I have been lucky in my church, but others may not be so lucky. It's possibly easier in a small church where we are all part of the community together and just accepted for who we are? Also I've been in the church for	May 25, 2012 6:21 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	20 years and I think that helps.	
402	Lots of young singles at my church - so limited sense of disenfranchisement	May 25, 2012 6:02 AM
403	I put neutral for the one about leading ministry, because I think there are a few things that I'd be able to do if I were part of a couple that I can't do now, but generally I can get involved in what I want to.	May 25, 2012 5:42 AM
404	I can only speak for my church but being married or single there is a place for individuals within church. we all just need to take the time to listen to what God is saying to us.	May 25, 2012 3:12 AM
405	looking at comments and choices so far makes me feel sad about how the Church, in my experience, has gone... it now feels very hypocritical to making taking this survey....	May 25, 2012 3:01 AM
406	I have heard gents say that they'd rather ask out single ladies in other Churches or non-Christians as that way if the lady says no, they don't have to see her again. There isn't an outlet for issues that singles are facing within Church - intimate issues, staying on the godly track when the loneliness truly hits, the lack of single men in Church from mid 30's up, makes me understand why women are leaving Church & going to other religions or dating non-Christians.	May 25, 2012 2:41 AM
407	I am currently in a church where I feel that my singleness is not an issue whereas it has been much more of an issue for me in a previous church. Whilst my singleness was not the prime reason for leaving this church it was a factor.	May 24, 2012 1:16 PM
408	I am single and am about to be interviewed to become a church leader. The interview will be with national leaders	May 24, 2012 10:46 AM
409	My church had a weekend away recently and I didn't go. Honest reason for not going is that I knew from experience I would feel an outsider and I've been in the church for years. A few other single friends couldn't make it and I knew the families wouldn't be welcoming and that the singles are in cliques (which I would been in my friends were around)	May 24, 2012 10:23 AM
410	I have been part of several churches in the UK and found that it definitely depends on the location of the church and the type of service attended as to how 'accepted' I feel as a single person. I personally feel that living in a city and attending a city church is easier than being part of a small town congregation. Maybe it purely comes down to numbers and catchment area	May 24, 2012 2:25 AM
411	I am a single parent - churches don't know how to cater for this. Eg can't attend midweek meetings in the evening	May 22, 2012 1:08 PM
412	As a family centred church everything runs around term time, it doesn't acknowledge that other people are around and active in the main holidays. I am available and actively serve in the church but believe I would be more visible if part of a couple.	May 22, 2012 8:12 AM
413	Some people in the church make me feel less accepted for being single, but most of the time I feel a valued member of the church community.	May 22, 2012 7:03 AM
414	If you go with an open enquiring mind you will find it easy to be included. You have a part to play too!	May 22, 2012 1:16 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

415	I feel that topics are often applicable to married members but not to singles. An effort has been made from time to time though.	May 21, 2012 12:52 PM
416	Easier for young singles than older or second time around singles because of age differences and interests. Plenty to do for young singles but nothing for older ones. Most Christians in church my age are married	May 21, 2012 11:57 AM
417	The question "Personally I feel accepted in church but see that there are other singles who are not so well accepted" is 2 questions - how are we supposed to answer?! I do not feel accepted AND I see that other singles are not accepted	May 20, 2012 5:40 PM
418	As I am a priest I think my experience as a single person within church is probably skewed, I am accepted in part because I am a priest.	May 20, 2012 11:03 AM
419	I've only been single for a couple of years, so not had long standing issues.	May 20, 2012 10:34 AM
420	I found going to church one of the loneliest places in the world. That is why I no longer attend. I worship my Lord and Saviour outside the established church.	May 20, 2012 7:25 AM
421	My Church promotes singleness in the way Paul does in the bible - the preferred status. This means that if you don't want to be single but want to find someone, there is no support for you. As a female I am also expected to wait for a man to approach me, which never happens. Outside the church men are attracted to me but I have to say no as I want a christian husband.	May 20, 2012 7:17 AM
422	Particularly in my church females are much more than males.	May 19, 2012 4:27 PM
423	I think it varies from church to church...because our churches are smaller and totally eclectic, everyone gets to play!	May 19, 2012 1:13 PM
424	I think people in the church rather than the Church itself can 'forget' about single people when focused a lot on family activities	May 19, 2012 10:26 AM
425	Yes it is mainly a numbers game, four years ago we were a congregation of 30, now we are a congregation of 150 + but the vicar has a young family of three so naturally attracts other families of this set up. However I do feel like part of a family probably cause I have a son and also through service and I have been on leadership as a single divorced mum of 1 so I am valued. Also is it the job of the church to value singles?.....it is too big a job for the church to be responsible for every group. I am valued because I am loved and know the love of God no other reason.	May 18, 2012 10:39 PM
426	I don't think all of my life and the circumstances I have experienced is not always apart of my religion or what church I go to. I believe that the church is anywhere. What I feel is the benefit of being accepted for who I am. But I expect to go to a church that is forward thinking, socially aware and accepting. Multi faith and a church without too much judgment on the individual. But provides a place of guidance and belonging in life.	May 18, 2012 7:35 PM
427	I feel more socially acceptable if I am in a relationship. I feel I am expected to be available to help on any and all occasions because I am single. People believe I have nothing better to do with my time.	May 18, 2012 1:12 PM
428	I have found a lovely supporting church.	May 18, 2012 7:24 AM
429	I feel accepted in my church as part of my church family. However I do feel	May 18, 2012 2:00 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	overall there is a subconscious belief within the church in the UK (and the US) that marriage is to be expected for Christians, and there is an undercurrent of pity for single Christians as they are "missing out" on God's blessing.	
430	Strange questions ...	May 18, 2012 12:46 AM
431	Churches and Christians aren't quiet about marriage - providing courses on marriage, saying how great it is to be married etc. It's very rare that singles are acknowledged from the front - the assumption is that you are part of a couple/family.	May 17, 2012 1:45 PM
432	I don't feel a problem with people's attitudes, It's just that so often things are for families. Women's groups during the day, child and family focused activities etc. Though it may just be my insecurity as outside the church it can be the same.	May 17, 2012 12:05 PM
433	It is very hard indeed being single be it in church or elsewhere	May 17, 2012 11:55 AM
434	Difficult questions - My situation as a single mum is different to that of a single person. I fall between the groups aimed at 'singles' and the groups aimed at 'families'. That is why I don't feel I fit in at times.	May 17, 2012 5:52 AM
435	I feel in general the church doesn't really cater for single people.	May 17, 2012 4:19 AM
436	Some people do make an effort to talk to me regularly. On the whole, I find that couples mingle with couples, and singles mingle with singles. I don't think that others think there is something wrong with me because I'm single, but I myself struggle with such feelings, and others might pick up on my insecurity.	May 17, 2012 2:54 AM
437	I belong to an unusually welcoming Church but I do know others who have a lot of problems being single...	May 16, 2012 9:14 AM
438	There is hardly any support for men and no good role models. Many of them are too weak and very feminine.	May 16, 2012 7:05 AM
439	also discrimination about status. a single affluent christian much more accepted than a mother left on her own with children.also male single more accepted as seen to be more useful.women especially are ignored	May 16, 2012 12:38 AM
440	My primary belonging is to the kingdom of God, within which there is neither single or married. A church which is truly seeking a kingdom perspective is more `marital status blind` than the average lets say Anglican church. The most off putting thing is to advertise a church as a `family church`. I won't go there.	May 16, 2012 12:11 AM
441	my church excepts me and others the way we are	May 15, 2012 12:55 PM
442	My new church has other single people around my age, but in other churches its very family orientated or married couples dominate and if they don't live near you either you never get to see them in the week.	May 15, 2012 10:16 AM
443	People's attitudes toward me as a single seem to be more about quiet concern rather than thinking something is wrong with me as a person. There is a general feeling that it is difficult to find a husband as a christian single female in her late 20's/early 30's	May 15, 2012 3:23 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

444	My current church is very good at accepting me as a single person, but previously I have felt ignored because I haven't been part of a couple.	May 15, 2012 12:17 AM
445	I am a youth leader in my church but this came after lots and lots of praying and i feel that if i had just asked my Pastor then i would have been turned down. I had to fight to gain my postion. A 'family' man in our church gained his postion as youth leader without any questions. I do feel sometimes that i am on the bottom of the ladder out of all our church leaders because i am single but we are supposed to step aside and allow God to move.	May 14, 2012 5:26 PM
446	When I was still in my 30's I would have answered many of these differently. There are lots of single people in their 20's and 30's. Now that I'm in my 40's being single in Church is a far more of an issue.	May 14, 2012 2:53 PM
447	The church I go to at the moment has a lot of older women who come on their own as their husbands don't come to church. However most have children and grandchildren and so living without a family makes me feel excluded from all they focus on. The church feels disfunctional without functioning families.	May 14, 2012 11:23 AM
448	As a divorced woman I don't feel able to comment on the experience of the single man. While married relationships are celebrated I don't feel discriminated against in any way.	May 14, 2012 10:44 AM
449	Because I have attended the same church all my life, I sometimes feel that I am still viewed as my mother's son rather than an adult in my own right.	May 14, 2012 10:29 AM
450	I am increasingly involved with leadership, but the underlying thing is, that others less experienced are often given responsibility for things that were natural for me to take over. Youth leadership is one example: The person placed in charge did not know the kids, couldnt handle them as one group, rarely appears... But is a married female. Bleugh...	May 14, 2012 8:58 AM
451	Singles seem to be forgotten.	May 14, 2012 8:50 AM
452	i refer to church i attend not all churches the same	May 14, 2012 7:19 AM
453	I think singles in the church often feel excluded by couples; but equally I have married friends who feel left out of the things that a group of single people do.	May 14, 2012 5:53 AM
454	Having been married just under two years (and been married at age 31) I experienced many years of singleness within a church setting. It was mainly an overwhelmingly positive experience of providing me with a family and connecting to other singles and also families, however as I began to enter my 30s it became harder and harder to find other singles at my level of church leadership. There seemed to be unspoken expectation that someone in leadership would be married.	May 14, 2012 5:42 AM
455	The responses to Q.15 are for the emerging church I attend. For many other churches I have attended, however, the responses would have been the opposite.	May 14, 2012 2:39 AM
456	This can make the church look bad. But this is not the case and a lot of churches are a good supportive loving place to be. However I do think they struggle with single people, especially is the leadership of the church is male and its female singles. You do feel like you are missing out and not being used to your full potential of what God intended. And there is not a lot of	May 13, 2012 10:42 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	support to help the matter in the way of meeting people.	
457	I feel thoroughly accepted as an active member of my church, but sometimes being single and not having a family feels a little isolating.	May 13, 2012 1:27 PM
458	We are all equal in God's eyes, single or not.	May 13, 2012 12:30 PM
459	I just don't think most churches (not all) don't know what to do with or for singles because most churches I have attended have mostly married people with families.	May 13, 2012 2:28 AM
460	I have a very loving church family but I do feel like I'm incomplete as a single person and therefore the church doesn't quite know what to do with me. The single congregation is probably less than 5%.	May 12, 2012 8:11 AM
461	I do know of an older lady in the church who feels put upon as a single - that others opt out of some responsibilities because they have to balance church, job and family life and presume that she will pick up those responsibilities because she is free to do so.	May 12, 2012 8:02 AM
462	our church has changed a lot as we lost so many to the Catholic offer including the vicar...which devastated me...Losing the vicar and his wife etc felt once again like a broken family before I had finished coping with my own loss of family status!...strange an unexpected feelings...never the less true however I did not tell the vicar how let down I felt!....so now our church members are doing their best to rebuild itself and cope with all the needs with less people...Our vicar had been there about 10 years I was told! so huge change!	May 12, 2012 7:26 AM
463	I don't feel unaccepted due to being single but I think there should be more activities available for singles. Also as many people are family orientated it is hard when you have no direct family near by to meet up with, it would be good to feel more included rather than left out. The church is meant to be a family and inclusive but does not always seem to reach out to everyone. I don't think other church members realise how hard it can be when you are on your own.	May 12, 2012 6:37 AM
464	I think the evangelical church and Anglican church are too feminine. The Catholic church is full of men. I've not told anyone at my church I'm single, it's not really worth going there.	May 12, 2012 4:28 AM
465	There remains some kind of bias in the church that restricts Singles from Leadership positions, especially Women.	May 12, 2012 4:23 AM
466	church family is a term often used but in practice it seems to have little value	May 11, 2012 11:46 PM
467	I am only speaking for my own church, however I am sure there are issues in other churches regarding singles.	May 11, 2012 12:40 PM
468	I do sometimes feel less than because I am divorced but think that is possibly something I put on myself. Perhaps having children means I have more in common with families without children. I can find church hard at times because everyone-else seems to be in a family. My kids are only 2 & 5. My christian husband left when they were 3 months and 3. I joined my current church 16 months ago. I sometimes worry that people must be judging me for being divorced with such young kids. This is maybe my own judgements of people, everyone has been supportive and no-one has said anything out of line.	May 11, 2012 12:29 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

469	don't think being single in church is an issue	May 11, 2012 11:23 AM
470	not many single men attendchurch	May 11, 2012 10:49 AM
471	There is a perception among childless singles that church is set up for families. But that is only because parents (including single parents!) make things like Kids Church / Sunday School happen. There are plenty of singles in churches (mainly single women), but they don't perceive themselves as a group needing help, so they don't create groups for themselves in the way that parents (including - again! - single parents) do.	May 11, 2012 8:12 AM
472	It is certainly easier to socialise within a church community if you are part of a couple or have a family. For example, couples and families invite other couples and familes for dinner, not singletons. It requires a lot more effort to make friends if you are single.	May 11, 2012 7:52 AM
473	My church has plenty of men (most married, ladies), and is not feminine.	May 10, 2012 1:17 PM
474	This is my answer for my current church - which i have been attending for nearly 8 years. I have had slightly different experience in previous churches - more expectation of me getting married, having children and doing sunday school	May 10, 2012 10:37 AM
475	Although I am actively involved in the church I attend, I do sometimes feel alittle isolated, by the fact that there are not many single people my own age in the church. Most of my peers are married with children. They natuarally culminate together and you can feel abit of an outsider, especially when they are descussing married life and children. Although I play an intergral part in the church, I do not alway feel respected, being treated like one of the teens rather than an adult. Although I have been told many a times that I look much younger than my years and I am not particularly assertive, which may play a part. However I can't help but feel that if I was married things may possiblypeo different. I have a friend in her 50's who didn't get married until she was 42. I asked her if she had felt the way I do when she was single, and she said that she had.	May 10, 2012 10:06 AM
476	I need to party more and communicate with more people to find the one	May 10, 2012 9:46 AM
477	Being single does not affect church in any way or form!!	May 10, 2012 6:09 AM
478	In relation to the question about the ethos of the church being too feminine and not appealing to single men - in the church I was previously part of, there was an emphasis on male eldership, but wives of the elders were granted an almost equal status in leadership, and it was seen as a partnership between the elders and their wives. There were also single men who were elders. However, as a single woman with a leadership calling on my life, and who had been involved in leadership from the early days of the church plant, there was no role for me when the church plant came to formally appoint leaders. If I was married, I would be given leadership status on account of my husband - single men had leadership status. However, as a single woman, I was automatically relegated. Obviously, various churches will have different responses to issues of female leadership, but the primary concern for me was the clear distinction made between married and unmarried women, and the willingness to respect their leadership and authority depending on whether or not they had a husband.	May 10, 2012 6:05 AM
479	The problem for single Christians at many churches, if they are looking to find someone with the same faith, is that the congregations of ageing and	May 10, 2012 2:52 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	dwindling, and there are not many Christians there full stop.	
480	I think the church in general is guilty of a lot of negative attitudes, but I don't find that in my own church, so it wasn't always easy to answer this part of the survey	May 9, 2012 12:57 PM
481	It is expected that people should be married and I think it is right for the church to expect that to a degree, but it is also hard for single women people because the men in charge are usually married, and I don't think we (they) have quite got the "I'm your sister" aspect down, so sometime single women can be excluded.	May 9, 2012 12:00 PM
482	I am also counted as a member in my church no matter what circumstances	May 9, 2012 11:39 AM
483	I feel personally accepted by the people I know within the church it's just that I'm in a large church and because I'm not part of a family within the church I feel invisible	May 9, 2012 10:07 AM
484	This is difficult for me as more recently single (last 14 months)	May 9, 2012 6:37 AM
485	While I certainly cannot speak for other single Christians in my church, though I am warmly greeted by one fellow Christian nevertheless I am conscious that, over coffee afterwards, people still tend to congregate in groups - whether as family members or as friends.	May 9, 2012 5:37 AM
486	I have answered these with my recent experience in mind, but my previous church was far more accepting, and did make me feel part of the family, though some members were judgemental about my divorce.	May 9, 2012 2:35 AM
487	Churches obviously cater very well for families and have a focus on marriage, children's church, youth work and student provision which are all good things. Also there's often something for those divorced/separated and single parents and retired people but there's not much for singles. Some attitudes are changing in church to affirm singles and say it's fine to choose to be single, but those of us who are single and really don't want to be, there's not much support	May 9, 2012 2:09 AM
488	When you say "the church" do you mean" a) The church in the U.K? b) The church I regularly attend?	May 8, 2012 9:51 PM
489	Gave up attending morning service for some years as I did not feel part of the "family". Others of similar age married with children led to feelings of failure. Easier to attend with a dozen 70+ year old women in the evening than the livelier morning service. Friends who have attended as couples and/or with their children are positively welcomed by people who haven't spoken to me ever in the years I have attended.	May 8, 2012 1:23 PM
490	Don't always understand to need to invite singles especially on Sundays	May 8, 2012 12:09 PM
491	My comments are based on the church I am at.....churches in general, I would mark more unfavorable.	May 8, 2012 11:17 AM
492	socially there is little communication outside of church meetings, which is probably due to churches being more younger single orientated	May 8, 2012 11:07 AM
493	Our Church appears to have a good group of young singles, ie those in their late teens or 20s. You may as well forget it if you're a single 30 something.	May 8, 2012 10:36 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

494	There is clearly a deep seated problem in the UK with attracting men to becoming Christians. Why is this?	May 8, 2012 8:55 AM
495	I made up my own projects to feel i was making a real difference - for the better in the local community	May 8, 2012 8:22 AM
496	HAVE FOUND THAT SOME CHURCHES ARE VERY FAMILY BASED WHICH IS GOOD BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT OF MAKING SINGLE'S FEEL LIKE THEY DON'T FIT IN	May 8, 2012 8:05 AM
497	My particular church community is very good at demonstrating the value and contribution of single people - but that has not been my experience in the wider church to be honest.	May 8, 2012 12:21 AM
498	Some of my responses may seem to contradict each other but they are all valid responses because experience can vary, sometimes even from week to week	May 8, 2012 12:19 AM
499	I have no problems in my church, but many single women in other churches have told me they find things hard where they are. I know that my parents, who are Christians, think there must be something wrong with me because I am not married, and that is hard.	May 7, 2012 1:35 PM
500	Do not get invited when I am aware there are family gatherings/lunches/ladies meet ups etc. If I was male and single I would be invited!	May 7, 2012 11:55 AM
501	So much here that I could comment on. Complex picture. Church has plenty for singles to do, but sometimes females feel more like skivvys than 'family members' eg creche, serving thanklessly for hours on end etc. while male speakers sweep in and out to great applause. Big issue of bad behaviour by some men in the church - from patronising leaders to 'ladies men' - towards women in the church. Worst feeling of not fitting in EITHER with promiscuous secular society or family-oriented, male dominated church scene.	May 7, 2012 11:32 AM
502	Re " the church does not know what to do with me as a single" I would comment that there are youth groups etc for younger singletons and also single parents but not really for "single agains" such as myself. I am not excluded but there is nothing specific for my age range	May 7, 2012 10:06 AM
503	I feel estranged & lonely in my church because I am overlooked - socially and in ministry service both as a female, but particularly as a single female.	May 7, 2012 10:02 AM
504	It is in social circles that I find that I feel excluded on the odd occassion that I do. As soon as people are in couples they seem to only want to do things with other couples.	May 7, 2012 9:58 AM
505	I believe it's a person's responsibility to read the bible and understand the truth that we are valued single. It's normal that if most people are married it'll be hard for singles, but it's not personal, it's then up to the single person to be proactive and find a friendship group and fun life for themselves.	May 7, 2012 9:41 AM
506	I am fortunate in being accepted in my own church currently - however that has not always been the case at other churches in the past	May 7, 2012 8:42 AM
507	I feel excluded on some Family lead services, obviously any Marriage Courses & occasionally through various Church socials	May 7, 2012 8:21 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

508	The church could help with the single issue by running courses to help people deal with it and also by praying for God to bring a solution, but individuals also need to take responsibility and not expect the church to solve the problem for them	May 7, 2012 7:28 AM
509	need more pray for singleness and more support meeting in place	May 7, 2012 4:14 AM
510	The church is there to worship the Lord and to Put him first, being single should not come into it, too much emphasis on pairing people up or highlighting a single status takes things away from why people go to church, it's not a meat market you know?	May 7, 2012 1:07 AM
511	These comments are unique to this church. I think that because we are small congregation, my experience is very different.	May 6, 2012 6:23 PM
512	as a long standing member and employed by the church I grew up in I can't help but feel accepted. I think if a single woman/man walked in a tried to integrate they would find it really hard.	May 6, 2012 5:07 PM
513	The church which I go to are very accepting of singles and I haven't encountered problems of this sort in the past with the other churches either.	May 6, 2012 2:18 PM
514	I think its about the church accepting all people from all circumstances - once it does that, being single, of differing ethnicity, homeless, alcoholic all doesn't matter - it becomes about loving each other as Christ loves us and being true brothers and sisters	May 6, 2012 12:51 PM
515	I wouldn't say the church (in general) is too feminine, but there is an extent to which it is effeminate. That seems both to attract gay single men and deter straight single men.	May 6, 2012 12:34 PM
516	It's probably as much my own perception rather than reality that's the problem. I'm very much involved and feel that i'm accepted as a key member by the church staff, it's families that just see and talk to other families that are more of a problem.	May 6, 2012 12:34 PM
517	I am very blessed to have had the opportunities to serve in my local church. However, in every church it always appears to me that if you are not friends with the key people in a church then you will never be able to serve the church in the way that you feel God is calling you to. I believe my church does allow both singles and non-singles opportunities if it what will bless the church. However, I have not always been part of a church that provides positive opportunities. The church that I grew up in, although was aware that I wanted to get more actively involved in leading music worship, did not give me the opportunities, because I was not friends with the right people in leadership. I was also very sad when I left the church. I had a been a drummer in the worship band for many years, but before I left the church did not recognize my contribution, however, the curate was nice enough to send me a short not to thank me for my time in the worship team.	May 6, 2012 12:27 PM
518	Pressure to appear happy and busy all the time. Uncomfortable hanging with friends in couples	May 6, 2012 12:11 PM
519	I've found out recently that the denomination we're apart of does not allow Pastor's to visit women on there own. Having now been off work sick for two and a half months and being a single woman, I've had no Pastoral visit during this time. They have no idea how that makes us feel as single Christian women.	May 6, 2012 10:59 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

520	My Pastor is always saying how wonderful his wife,of 20 years his junior is and I am unsure how he see's me as a single person,and as long as he doesn't think I am having a secret relationship It really doesn't bother me.	May 6, 2012 10:47 AM
521	It's not that the church makes me feel inadequate but I do still feel it. I think this is because society sees singleness as abnormal and marriage is so celebrated, especially within the church that I end up feeling inadequate as I'm left out if that celebration.	May 6, 2012 8:48 AM
522	Calling events family events rather than parish events is off putting to many singles who feel they will not be welcome. The church seems unaware of this unintentional discrimination though	May 6, 2012 8:04 AM
523	Too many women run the Church & I am a traditionalist so no longer have a voice or accepted opinion.	May 6, 2012 7:49 AM
524	Single females are expected to look after other people's children and serve the coffee. I noted that requests within my home group to serve coffee were aimed at women, not men.	May 6, 2012 1:08 AM
525	I don't think that being single stops me being part of the church community and in a leadership position. I do think that the issue of singleness, particularly when it's because of circumstance rather than by choice, and the challenges that this presents in a church environment which predominantly highlights the importance of marriage and having children, are not understood by church leadership. Singleness and the distress that this can cause for those who don't feel they are 'called' to it is not a subject which the predominantly married leadership of churches can relate to.	May 5, 2012 3:39 PM
526	I am answering for the church I currently attend however I do know in other churches my answers would be very different!!	May 5, 2012 2:18 PM
527	I am a single woman; but there are no single men in my church in my age group.	May 5, 2012 11:56 AM
528	I am Divorced that tends to carry a social stigma that is hard to escape from or to begin life again as a single.	May 5, 2012 11:39 AM
529	I think that the church is more accepting and friendly to single men than women and this is particularly relevant when a single woman is 30 or older. It seems as though people are afraid to talk to single women in their 30s as if we can't be trusted because of a perceived desperation which is very sad.	May 5, 2012 10:12 AM
530	I think my church would be horrified by my comments. They do not overtly discriminate, but nor do they address the issue of singles. I know of a church which has a special housegroup for singles - absolutely not a "dating" group! They have a communal meal as part of their meeting as it is something they especially relish - for people in the thick of family life this would be a nuisance. As I am very involved in church life, and as there are no single men in my age group in the church, the time that I have available for seeking a new partner is heavily restricted. If I were not a church goer I feel I would have a more varied and enjoyable social life - but I would miss the worship, and anyway I feel God calls me to contribute to Church life.	May 5, 2012 9:49 AM
531	the church I usually attend - but there are many churches in the UK where all my answers would be exactly the opposite....hence for many people, being a Christian single is hell.	May 5, 2012 8:32 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

532	Church focuses on the needs of the majority - children, families, marrieds. It says its a substitute family but that requires a time commitment that families do not have to give. Couples generally invite couples to their homes. Single women can be seen as a threat to other wives.	May 5, 2012 8:01 AM
533	I've put neutral/don't know for 'The Church embraces me for who I am' because I don't think the Church knows who I am. I have a lot of history that I'm not brave enough to share sober. I think the ethos of the church is getting ever more feminine as we have more ordained women. I'm not against the ordination of women, but I think we need to be very careful that the church already has more women than men, and there's a risk that while trying to focus on families we end up focusing on mothers and children and accidentally leave Dads out. This may give little boys the impression that Church is something they're meant to grow out of.	May 5, 2012 6:47 AM
534	I think I'm accepted as a single Christian but there are no groups or support for me in my age range like there are for married couples, parents, students, etc etc	May 5, 2012 5:29 AM
535	Our church has more single than married people.	May 5, 2012 5:03 AM
536	It feels as though there is an expectation that single people will give themselves more to the work of the church, to serve, maybe should be thinking of going abroad, things like that. This is all very positive, but in my case I have an immune problem which means that I cant really fit lots of things into my free time. In fact I dont really have free time and have had to reduce my working hours as a teacher to manage the everyday things in my life. So this kind of encouragement can feel like pressure and make me feel guilty that I should be doing more. I'm not sure my church really knows what to do with me! I cant get to many social events and so the perception is that I am not trying. I believe God has a plan in it all though, and I have further reduced my hours in order to train to be a counsellor The church is great for single students as there is a strong student focus. Families adopt students and look after them. They see a lot of potential in students for future roles and leadership and sending out, and see them as maybe being lonely being away from family. My experience as a student didnt feel at all lonely as so many people are in the same boat as you, it was a very sociable time. Older singles are left to fend for themselves and are invited to couples houses less often. There is an expectation that if you are lonely that you will be the one to make the effort. I understand that it is an individuals responsibility to voice their needs but in my experience some of my single friends are not in a place to do this as their confidence can be knocked and a couple of them suffer from depression.	May 5, 2012 4:53 AM
537	i think presumptions about single people like you are content being single you are not interested in relationships. lack of understanding about the challenges of being single particularly if there are othe issues like poor health, lack of close family, money issues.	May 5, 2012 2:48 AM
538	As a single I have felt pressure to be very involved in church ministrys but not included socially.	May 5, 2012 2:08 AM
539	We need more singles in our church of my/similar age	May 5, 2012 1:07 AM
540	I feel accepted in my church but nevertheless most activities are geared round families and I reckon singles are invited out less often than couples	May 4, 2012 10:56 PM
541	There should be more attempts within most churches to a) encourage more	May 4, 2012 4:38 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	men to attend - church tends to be predominantly female lead, no matter what denomination and b) encourage single people within the church to socialise and get together.	
542	Language used in churches whether in prayers, worship etc. is geared to married people/families. Singles are not catered for in social events. The ministers being married with families show favouritism to those in similar positions.	May 4, 2012 3:26 PM
543	I resent the emphasis on the nuclear family by some churches (not mine) - as in Family Service etc. I have heard the nuclear family preached as God's ideal plan, whereas I think it's a modern evil, and we should promote the extended family and community which can embrace all.	May 4, 2012 3:17 PM
544	Its not so much just being single but being over 30 and single!	May 4, 2012 2:01 PM
545	As a widow who has brought up 2 children (now young adults) I don't think I am looked on as a 'single'; my friendship group tends to be married people, often with children similar age to mine; as a widow I feel more in common in terms of life-style with married people, but miss the love and companionship of a husband	May 4, 2012 1:58 PM
546	I find it hard to link up with people of my age as they are in couples	May 4, 2012 1:48 PM
547	I feel accepted in church. However, because I find singleness and childlessness painful, I find it even more painful in church because of the emphasis on families.	May 4, 2012 1:18 PM
548	Singleness can be better understood in the church than outside where people can't work out why you aren't throwing yourself at lots of men!	May 4, 2012 12:24 PM
549	I have never ever known any church with such comments about being single or not	May 4, 2012 11:54 AM
550	Currently I go to a large central London church - it's fine to be single there. Less so when I lived in a small town, my answers are largely based on a mixture of two experiences	May 4, 2012 11:53 AM
551	I have attended five churches over a period of just over 30 years and only one of them has really helped me find my identity in Christ and achieve my potential. That was a Methodist Church 1978-1982. The others really allowed me to be passed over. I have worked so hard over the years with so little recognition that I now have no real desire to get involved but just to turn up for the service, worship the Lord and go home fairly quickly afterwards.	May 4, 2012 11:47 AM
552	Really depends on what type of church you attend, evangelical charismatic perhaps less tolerant of singles	May 4, 2012 11:43 AM
553	I do find it hard at Church sometimes because there is a lot of family emphasis. Expectations to help don't seem to consider that I have to manage everything at home myself. I wish there could be more teaching and comment around failed relationships even when both parties are Christian	May 4, 2012 11:28 AM
554	Having children makes it easier to be accepted	May 4, 2012 11:13 AM
555	I don't feel that the church excludes me because I am single although often one can feel out on a limb at events where there are a number of families.	May 4, 2012 11:07 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	However this is not deliberate on the part of the church because they 'don't know what to do with me'.	
556	I have noticed that all the house group leaders at my church are couples, but expect this is because it's probably wise to have both a male and female leader, although I led a house group at a previous church with a male friend, which worked well, so in theory it wouldn't necessary have to be a married couple.	May 4, 2012 11:00 AM
557	I'm answering the questions in relation to the Vineyard church I attend. It is hard to answer in the broader sense of 'The Church' as a whole. The church I attend is accepting of females to have a wide role in ministry. There are single females in the worship team.	May 4, 2012 10:35 AM
558	there could be more events for christian singles so we can have a chance to meet a partner	May 4, 2012 10:33 AM
559	I feel they pity me slightly and assume I have lots of free time as I don't need "family" time	May 4, 2012 10:15 AM
560	It depends on your attitude it is really what you can offer to your Church , that is more important.	May 4, 2012 9:37 AM
561	I have come from a chronically abusive background and most churches don't know what to do with me as a person. When I was married I was seen as less dangerous!	May 4, 2012 9:11 AM
562	There are lots of groups for married people and families, but nothing for single people. Very little recognition of how hard it can be to be single both in society and in the church itself	May 4, 2012 8:45 AM
563	A lot of your statements are simply outside of my experience so I can't comment. I will say that, while I don't feel the church full understands what to do with singles in their 30s, I'm not sure that's a huge problem; there simply aren't that many of us from what I see.	May 4, 2012 7:47 AM
564	I does not seem to me that singles are not treated well by the church. It would be good for singles to have the chance to meet other people before/after church in a simple and unconstrained way (I mentioned that I see measures to avoid age difference in potential couples and I disagree with that).	May 4, 2012 6:06 AM
565	Cleraly I feel very strongly but no one has bothered asking my opinion before...	May 4, 2012 5:55 AM
566	More needs to be done to attract a mixed congregation so that those who do want to marry have a choice of single men & women to pick from!	May 4, 2012 4:42 AM
567	Have been discouraged / not invited to home groups or Church events.	May 4, 2012 3:48 AM
568	I joined my church at the same time as friends who are married. It took me longer to feel known and recognised as part of the church community.	May 3, 2012 11:57 PM
569	Answers seem contradictory but church does embrace me for who I am, but as far as being single is concerned, they have no idea, and I get left out when the couples get together for things.	May 3, 2012 11:07 PM
570	I find it difficult - there is so much focus/teaching on family and none on	May 3, 2012 10:38 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	singleness, there are family events but no single ones	
571	There isn't a consistent answer to the last question. I do not feel accepted in the Church but concede that there are some singles who feel more accepted and some who feel less accepted. Regards, "The ethos of the church is too feminine - it is not very attractive to the average single man.", this statement is too simplistic because some Churches are too feminine but others are not.	May 3, 2012 4:47 PM
572	Peaks and troughs. Overall I know that who I am in Christ shouldn't depend on whether or not I have a partner but there is however an awkwardness in speaking to and praying for singles in the church.	May 3, 2012 4:26 PM
573	WE GO TO GODS HOUSE TO WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP	May 3, 2012 3:50 PM
574	I left a church two years ago because of this. Because I was single I was put in a house group of 18yr old - youth young adults who I had taught in sunday school.	May 3, 2012 2:11 PM
575	I have based this on my experience in my congregation, where I feel very accepted as a single person. The church puts no restrictions on ministry for single people, although I think it can be harder to take on a role such as leading or hosting a homegroup as a single person. It concerns me to see Christian employment adverts where a married couple is required. Single people with appropriate gifts are automatically disqualified by this, and I would guess that organisations that advertise in this way are breaking anti-discrimination laws.	May 3, 2012 1:44 PM
576	There is no stigma attached to any relationship status, whether single, married, divorced, living with a partner, or gay. I wouldn't attend this church otherwise.	May 3, 2012 1:32 PM
577	Life is crap as a single in my church.	May 3, 2012 12:42 PM
578	As a divorced woman I definitely feel they 'don't know what to do with me'.	May 3, 2012 12:26 PM
579	As an older single person I feel the church either categorises me into a role of `woman on her own` and therefore, must be with other single older women irrespective of interests and the married couples no longer invite me to joint events.	May 3, 2012 12:09 PM
580	The problem is there is a general lack of understanding about the implications of being single - most people who are married in the church have never really been single so don't really understand this issue or even acknowledge that there might be any.	May 3, 2012 11:58 AM
581	The church I have been attending recently makes me feel generally ok about being single but my main experience of church as a single person is that I don't fit in and am ignored. That they do not know what to do about older single people, especially women, and they make me feel like I don't fit in - which is the main reason why I have left churches.	May 3, 2012 11:37 AM
582	The struggles I have with being single are my own, my church my family, they love me for who I am but sometimes I myself struggle with thinking there must be something wrong with me. Logically I know that the true reasons are that there is a shortage of single Christian men of my age range. There are only 2 in my church!	May 3, 2012 11:25 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

583	Churches have events for families, older generation, youth etc etc, but very few for singles. I have tried to organise cross church events in my town, as no one else seems to want to. I know you can feel so alone in a crowd.	May 3, 2012 11:10 AM
584	There are more men than women attending our church.	May 3, 2012 10:36 AM
585	Having been a member of my church for very many years, now that I am widowed I am treated just the same as always but there is nothing for single people. The usual jobs in the church are offered ie. tea making running cake stalls stewarding. I am happy to do these jobs and many more but there is a need for meeting people in similar situations. I have spent many hours trawling the internet for local christian groups for singles and there are some around but non for over 65s. Our lives are not over and we don't want just to be part of womens and mens meetings.	May 3, 2012 10:25 AM
586	churches could do more to work together to bring singles the chance to meet other people	May 3, 2012 10:20 AM
587	Some people seem to accept single people as part of the family, but they dictate what role and status the single peoson gets within the family. It felt to me more like being treated like a household servant for a family that is just there to be used and put to work as they please, rather than a full and equal member of it.	May 3, 2012 10:15 AM
588	Im tolerated but feel as if nothing is done for single people, we are 'the minority' who people may feel sad or sorry for ...	May 3, 2012 9:47 AM
589	I think my only comment would be that there is not an overt encouragement for single people to look outside, at other Christian groups or churches, to find a partner.	May 3, 2012 9:39 AM
590	I have belonged to the same church all my life and I feel part of a family. I have never felt ostracised or marginalised because I am single. I am accepted for who I am.	May 3, 2012 9:29 AM
591	Some of the above answers would seem contradictory but one can feel loved at one level but isolated and uncared for at different times, and can feel those same emotions at the same time as a single person.	May 3, 2012 9:08 AM
592	Don't look back go foward with time changes	May 3, 2012 9:01 AM
593	My experience of different denominations would make these answers different.	May 3, 2012 9:00 AM
594	most of my friends are couples	May 3, 2012 8:54 AM
595	One needs to be content for who one is, not reoly on the church to give one a sense on self-worth	May 3, 2012 8:28 AM
596	I feel much more accepted in my current faith community - Quakers - than ever in evangelical/Charismatic churches. Some of the replies above relate to now, others to previous churches. Quakers are MUCH MORE inclusive and less judgemental than any previous church I have been in.	May 3, 2012 8:03 AM
597	One of the reasons I moved to my current church is because my last church was very family centred and I felt excluded	May 3, 2012 7:40 AM
598	I think Singles should stop moaning about their church and go to various	May 3, 2012 7:36 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	churches to find out where they belong.	
599	Your own attitude to singleness ie if you embrace it is the main thing in singleness	May 3, 2012 7:27 AM
600	My particular church makes everyone feel as part of the church family.	May 3, 2012 6:56 AM
601	Thank you, this is a very relevant survey and I'm glad I got to take part and make a difference! Please help us singles. It's so hard to believe that God has someone for us. It's such a lonely existence and we feel like we don't fit into this world. Thank you.	May 3, 2012 6:22 AM
602	I think one has to differentiate between attitudes of the leadership and the attitudes of the ordinary congregation, esp. where there is sometimes a gulf in experience of the two! Our church leadership has (in my view) unfortunately been rather influenced by the teachings of the US neo-Reformed crowd, inc. Joshua Harris's book on dating, and the minister seems unable to treat single people of older ages as adults.	May 3, 2012 5:58 AM
603	There are lots of good single role models at my church one of whom is a great woman preacher in her forties - but I don't know if this is the same in every church. There is one service that is very family oriented and the evening service tends to be more single oriented which is good. I do feel accepted by my church but they are quite urban and modern - less so by the local village chapel where I think people expect you to marry younger	May 3, 2012 5:39 AM
604	Singles are pitied a little bit and awkward match-making can be off-putting. I personally don't feel less for being single but do feel society including church society expect a person of late 20's onwards to be in a relationship.	May 3, 2012 5:23 AM
605	I am differentiated here between 'me' & other singles. I know I'm right with God & His Church, BUT that's not the same as the church I attend! Therefore, false modesty aside, it is perhaps my perceived 'authority' that differentiates me from other singles.	May 3, 2012 4:58 AM
606	I think my bubbly, cheerful and caring manner helps me to feel more involved in the church whereas if I were less like this like many other Christian singles I feel and have witnessed a number of singles left on the 'outside' of things which is why I try and home in on those that appear left out and attempt to involve them in social events which I feel the church should focus more on.	May 3, 2012 4:33 AM
607	There are many young families at my church, it is very noisy sometimes and sometimes one just needs peace and quiet to be with the Lord. Otherwise almost everyone is friendly, welcoming and courteous. I love children anyway and would do anything to protect them and aid a good upbringing for them so I try to shut out the mayhem sometimes!	May 3, 2012 4:03 AM
608	If the Mothers Union is to mean anything then it needs to look at isolation in a holistic context. There is so very little to challenge congregations. My sense is that for many places family stability and caring for children, and these are vital and important, is a cover for tribalism- that "dark side" of family life is rarely tackled by clergy and thinking people within congregations-my guess is that it raises uncomfortable issues. My sense is that single people-not necessarily women, maybe those with labels eg Learning disabilities; mental health; physical issues remind people that within their congregations there has to be a duty of care-which perhaps becomes a comfortable placebo for "we are doing good". Without a real thinking through of what inclusion may mean. Again, within patterns of groups there is the excluded...perhaps its	May 3, 2012 3:51 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	time for some serious rethinking?	
609	I feel that there is nothing in church for fifty plus guys who are single	May 3, 2012 3:40 AM
610	It was once suggested that I hugged someone too freely inside the church building!	May 3, 2012 3:13 AM
611	The church does nothing to get decent christian men into the church only down and outs.. We had a church dinner dance and I asked for some men to sit on our table. They stuck us with a load of girls and one married man!! Makes you want to go out into the world and find a non christian man- or you'll be single for ever!!!!	May 3, 2012 2:20 AM
612	I think until people become widowed especially females they don't realise the issues they are going to face both in the church family and also in the wider community. Our needs as single people are at times ignored or not even considered. Been vunerable also is a big issue as a woman on my own.	May 3, 2012 1:12 AM
613	the whole femenne masculine debate is very interseting is it a perception, boy bands are they masculine? is singing not masculine what about gruops like u2 and judas preist? what is the difernce between male and female what does it mea to be a male christain., is it about attitude? there area many leaders in church that are male women sometimes say not enough role models for them. the marriadge apassage is interesting in the bible, more respoinibilty about us as men that god asks of us rally explored in wider context or enough conter messaages to that of sciety.	May 3, 2012 1:08 AM
614	Before having my daughter I made a big effort to get involved in the church and I think that helped alot.	May 3, 2012 12:01 AM
615	The church can be very judgmental at times and within a limited survey difficult to quantify...for example when my twins were 16 i was asked if they would now be leaving home as they were going to college...the college was 9 miles down the road so i said no...the reply was 'Oh i feel so sorry for children who have to be at home with their mums?????' It is crazy stuff like that. Or the men in the church and web sites ask 'what is your passion?' Like they are trying to tick all the boxes and looking for that perfect someone rather than lighten up. I know of a married couple who attended an Alpha course but felt inferior after someone inquired what their proffession was...they completed the course but never went back and are still non church goers...and that is a married couple	May 2, 2012 6:02 PM
616	Have never felt valued in Church	May 2, 2012 5:34 PM
617	Many churches, including mine, dont accept singles in ministry, and always look for couples to lead, teach, or run any groups.Also is difficult to have people in my home as i am a single woman with child at home	May 2, 2012 4:32 PM
618	"The Church" in question 3 is ambiguous. If this refers to the Church in general the answer is one thing; if it refers to the church which I attend it is another. I know several churches where singleness is a disadvantage.	May 2, 2012 3:40 PM
619	These questions are rather closed minded. Surely we have moved on from this type of thinking?	May 2, 2012 3:00 PM
620	When visiting other churches as a single (even charismatic outgoing and friendly ones), I often find that whatever the service is like a lot of the people around will either treat me as invisible or back away as if I'm a threat...	May 2, 2012 2:57 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	simply because I'm an unknown factor to them.	
621	I feel that for the quieter single personality there can be quite a lot of so called "well meaning" older male folk who can give advice but come across as patronising and not really give enough time for the single person to be heard.	May 2, 2012 2:36 PM
622	I feel accepted in the church but can't comment on how others feel as I don't know. How can I as a female say whether church is attractive or not to a male?	May 2, 2012 2:29 PM
623	I think I am fortunate to be in a very inclusive and welcoming church, but often I feel (and this is mostly my own issues and not really from experiecne) that being divorced is a little akward in Christian circles.	May 2, 2012 2:27 PM
624	I feel welcomed and accepted but I know others who don't.	May 2, 2012 2:16 PM
625	There are a number of other singles over marriageable age in church who will obviously be accepting of me as a single person and also several couples and also I have never had an issue with anyone in leadership therefore it feels unfair to suggest my church is not accepting of me however I have been patronised and accused of being bitter because of being single inside the church but never outside of it.	May 2, 2012 2:02 PM
626	The Church I am attending at present are very welcoming and supportive but other Churches have not been so.	May 2, 2012 1:49 PM
627	Q8 seems ambiguous. ticked disagree, i feel accepted and know other singles who are accepted.	May 2, 2012 1:48 PM
628	there are different attitudes within the same church	May 2, 2012 1:43 PM
629	My church does not offer any 'singleness' course, that enables singles to accept their singleness and know that this does not affect how they stand before Christ. Although I personally have never felt the *need* for this myself, it may be a good idea to have this, especially as they have a course for improving people's marriages.	May 2, 2012 1:33 PM
630	I have been at my church for years, it has progressed in all ways, but the bottom line is clergy get married at 22 and don't care about singles.	May 2, 2012 1:31 PM
631	it is as much what I can do as what the church can offer. Its hard being single but in our church we tend to support each other - definitely more single women than men.	May 2, 2012 1:19 PM
632	I go to a very accepting church who love me as I am, but I feel that the issues raised here could be prevalent in some churches	May 2, 2012 1:07 PM
633	Church does not understand singles need for social network, friendships are key to single people as are social events where we can meet each other.	May 2, 2012 12:29 PM
634	Strange questions. are they more for Americans?	May 2, 2012 12:24 PM
635	These scores are given as an older single person. A younger single person in our Church may have a differing perception. See question 16.	May 2, 2012 12:19 PM
636	In my church there is a big emphasis on The Marriage Preparation Course or Marriage Course or Parenting Course, all of which are good but there is	May 2, 2012 12:06 PM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	nothing for single people. There are things for students but if you are a professional above 30 there is nothing. I'm not sure whether the leadership are aware of this and presume because we are single we can cope or 'choose' to be single.	
637	My church as a whole is very accepting and affirming of me but sometimes I do feel like I'm pitied because I'm single.	May 2, 2012 12:05 PM
638	People who are married seem to be valued more highly in church by some people, not everyone.	May 2, 2012 11:58 AM
639	The Church I attend does not deal with the issue of singleness. I always find that the teaching is that we should be married which foes make it very difficult.	May 2, 2012 11:52 AM
640	There is an expectation that single people are just waiting to get married and then life will be complete..... !!!!!!!	May 2, 2012 11:50 AM
641	Older singles especially are forgotten.	May 2, 2012 11:46 AM
642	I think I am the opposite of the last statement! Ie that I don't feel accepted but feel there are other singles that are more accepted! Overall, recently at church there have been quite a few sermons about marriage etc and even in sermons that are not specifically about this, where examples have been given to illustrate points they come back to singleness - for example recently a sermon about not being tempted to sin or to take the easy route - the example was about single Christians sleeping around, marrying non-Christians etc	May 2, 2012 11:44 AM
643	I think my church is worried about me because I have been single for a long time and I have a fear about not being in the right church for me.My attendance has gone down recently and I am less involved as when I started.I have become more withdrawn.	May 2, 2012 11:34 AM
644	About half my church are gay and about half of both the gay and heterosexuals are single - a bit unusual - there are not many outside of city centres.	May 2, 2012 11:27 AM
645	This strongly depends on context. My chief bugbears: "All-age" worship that is entirely aimed at children; and one or two people who, when they lead prayers, like to include things like "we pray for ourselves as parents". At other services, or with other groups (e.g. my home group), I feel much more accepted and part of the group.	May 2, 2012 11:23 AM
646	I feel accepted in my church, but still feel stigmatised around the couples. I often feel lonely.	May 2, 2012 11:22 AM
647	I love attending my church but do feel left out of some social circles within the church itself	May 2, 2012 11:14 AM
648	I don't think that churches place enough emphasis on the importance of friendship, and give far too much significance to the family. The church should be a place where natural families are more dissolved into a larger community. I think that Protestantism has a poor understanding and appreciation of the callings of celibacy and singleness and overemphasises the importance of marriage. It isn't common to find single persons in Protestant church leadership, for instance.	May 2, 2012 11:12 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

649	So glad you are doing this survey - people do not understand how hard it is being single in church	May 2, 2012 11:10 AM
650	My church is an extremely supportive and caring place but there are times when, as a single Christian, I feel a little left out.	May 2, 2012 11:06 AM
651	it can be difficult to be single and in a church where there are a lot of couples - you always feel if you are the spare part! If you are invited to lunch with couples there is always another single there to make up the numbers!	May 2, 2012 10:51 AM
652	I certainly feel accepted as part of the church family where I attend, but also feel in the minority and am surrounded by young families and babies. I don't feel ignored because I'm single, but it does sometimes feel like a waiting game, like I (and others in church) are waiting for me to get married and have family etc.	May 2, 2012 10:41 AM
653	I feel comfortable and happy with my single-ness but am aware that it means I am prevented from contributing as fully as others might, or being involved in activities such as cell/housegroups, as a single parent. I am resilient enough for this, but am aware other single parents I know have fallen away from church, having come seeking 'family' and left disappointed, feeling unwanted. They have also struggled to grow because it is even harder for them to receive the basic teaching they might otherwise have from small group fellowships.	May 2, 2012 10:37 AM
654	There are never any clubs for singles in my church. I have tried to set something up but have not been encouraged by the ministers or elders .	May 2, 2012 10:33 AM
655	I used to feel as if there was a presumption that there is something wrong with me because I am single, but thankfully I have been enabled to move into a more positive (and appropriate) mindset, towards confidence in singleness.	May 2, 2012 10:27 AM
656	The problem with the questions above is it puts all the other members of the church in the same category which cant really be done. Thus I feel very accepted and loved in my church, however there are times when I feel less accepted by particular people in particular instances at particular times. So it is very difficult for me to score your questions above. So for example with regards the question about family above, I very much feel that the church is my family, apart from at Christmas when the church is mostly closed and I really struggle with the church feeling like family. When I look around the church on Christmas day, everyone seems to be with their blood family in church, at which point I no longer feel that the church is my family.	May 2, 2012 10:23 AM
657	It is difficult to answer these as it is not that clear cut. I think there are a number of people that don't know what to do with us and they don't factor in how we may feel in certain situations.	May 2, 2012 10:18 AM
658	Because of my age I have felt for the past few years people would like to relegate me to the "old widows" or retired groups rather than see me as the "young", if middle-aged, working woman that my family sees. In all my single experience in churches (since mid-80s) no-one has ever known how to deal with my situation, either because Christians shouldn't be divorcees or because I was seen, albeit subconsciously, as a threat. There are always groups for kids, youth, young wives, men, couples, seniors, the bereaved, and even for "singles", with the expectation that this status will somehow magically disappear by age 30+. Nothing for divorced or long-widowed folk in the middle age ranges, no acknowledgment of their particular needs or wishes, just the (subconscious) expectation that being unattached they can	May 2, 2012 10:11 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	be on call for others at all times! Being single you are often invisible and your needs, esp for a social life, are unmet (unrealized?) until you suddenly attain an acceptable grouping and become someone with acceptable needs ie no longer want a partner, just need to deal with old age!	
659	I think the congregation dont understand what it is like for singles. You feel you cant contact your married friends weekends and bank holidays as it is their time and when it is family days out you dont quite fit.	May 2, 2012 10:07 AM
660	Many church members unhelpfully opposed to divorce for abusive relationship.	May 2, 2012 10:03 AM
661	I believe that how one feels about being single depends on how one perceives their position and status; there are a few very positively minded single people around!!	May 2, 2012 9:49 AM
662	It all depends on the clergy / leaders	May 2, 2012 9:34 AM
663	The 6th question is a bad one. What is an "average single man"? Why isn't there a question like this for women?	May 2, 2012 9:26 AM
664	Socially couples are happy to "meet a need" for a single by inviting for a meal etc, but they do not invite singles purely for a social occasion. For relaxation and enjoyment they meet other couples.	May 2, 2012 9:26 AM
665	I won't say the church is necessarily excluding single people but marriage is seen as the norm and in society in general couple tend to socialise with other couples. So I won't say singles are excluded on purpose but it is just a symptom of society. There are certainly more single women in the chuch and agree the ration is 2:1. I also have the additional stumbling block in that I don't experience sexual attraction (at least not primary sexual attraction). In some ways the chuch is more accepting of single women than non church society so in that way it is easier to be identified as the single Christian woman. At least in my experience I don't see general society as so accepting.	May 2, 2012 9:17 AM
666	These answers are based more on feelings rather than reality	May 2, 2012 9:16 AM
667	I feel reasonably comfortable with being single in my church although I would very much like to be married sometime in the future.	May 2, 2012 9:14 AM
668	Neutral/don't know - not sure what other people think about me being single, or if it even matters!	May 2, 2012 9:13 AM
669	I feel that in most Churches the 20's-30's group are forgotten about, especially the single people.	May 2, 2012 9:08 AM
670	As a woman I do feel my church could do more for the single people in their late 20's or more. We "youngsters" who are still single have organised ourselves. I do feel ostracised and invisible and/or uncomfortable sometimes when things are aimed at those with families or already steady dating, engaged etc. I usually avoid morning services as these appear to be aimed at people with families, and it reminds me I have no-one to share my life with and no children to enjoy. The evening services are much better and I feel a included. Despite this I am involved a lot and there are some wonderful encouraging Christian's in my church.	May 2, 2012 9:07 AM
671	There is an imbalance of young single men to young single women, making	May 2, 2012 9:05 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	it very poor with respect to potential partners.	
672	I am in a church I've been in for many years. For several of those years I have been single, but I am currently in a relationship with a christian man from another church. We now have a backlog of invitations to dinner from people in my church, many from couples/families who rarely if ever invited me when I was single!	May 2, 2012 9:01 AM
673	I feel more accepted as a young single Christian at my current church where the average age is much older than I did at a previous church where the average age was much younger.	May 2, 2012 8:56 AM
674	It takes a long time to get to know people in the church I attend, you have to really push to get yourself noticed.	May 2, 2012 8:50 AM
675	I think attitudes vary significantly between individual churches. My church does not appear to treat singles as less valuable than married people, but I believe that there are many churches that see marriage as the normal status and that singles are either going to be married eventually or don't quite fit in. It seems that in many churches the majority of the congregation are female, so to assume that all of the congregation will be able to marry Christians is perhaps unfair if there is inequality between the number of single men and women.	May 2, 2012 8:45 AM
676	My church caters better for single women including single mums than single men.	May 2, 2012 8:34 AM
677	The single ladies that I have met through CC have said how hard it is to fit in to a church family because it is made of families. As a bloke I have struggled with that. No matter what married people say to you you still feel a second class citizen because it does not fit into the norm . I am divorced and have been anxious. Anxiety then has been interpreted as being seen as a bit of a wierdo. That is from my perspective. You dont tend to socialialise as you should .	May 2, 2012 8:34 AM
678	I would say that I feel accepted by my friends at church, however in terms of the body as a whole I feel very much on the edge of things. I had quite an odd experience when visiting a different church with a married friend. A welcome team member and her teenage daughter came to talk to us and after finding out I was single, the daughter moved her chair away from mine (perhaps singleness is catching?!) and both stopped talking to me and only talked to my friend. Apparently my singleness made me not worth talking to anymore.	May 2, 2012 8:33 AM
679	It is a bit difficult to fit in because as a single, one does not have the experience of having a wife or children	May 2, 2012 8:23 AM
680	I am replying as a Quaker and my ticks represent that. We all have God in us. We believe in peace, equality, truth and simplicity	May 2, 2012 8:14 AM
681	While I don't find that my church discriminates against me for being single, nevertheless the demands of single parenting do prevent me from being as involved as I would like. That's not anybody's fault, though.	May 2, 2012 8:13 AM
682	These are my own personal comments which I haven't shared with anyone else.	May 2, 2012 8:04 AM
683	Chusrh's are often family natured but that's because families want to give	May 2, 2012 7:54 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

	their children a good start in life with the right moral values. A good deal of the parents were not as regular church goers before they had a family.	
684	I think sometimes single people have a way of singling themselves out by assuming that they are unwanted/less important than their married peers, when in fact this is rubbish. I think it can be our own insecurities that bring this on.	May 2, 2012 7:53 AM
685	answering as single parent	May 2, 2012 7:45 AM
686	The church does not reject me as single, however, they are not always well set up to cater for and consider single christians and their experiences	May 2, 2012 7:32 AM
687	Often when a preacher is telling us to relate a passage to our lives they discuss how it affects our relationships with spouses and children. I know that for many of them these are key aspects of their lives but maybe mentioning friends and work colleagues as well would be more inclusive.	May 2, 2012 7:05 AM
688	The churches tend to preach passivity. Wait and God will bring the right person into your life. It is God who brings the right person into our lives but the waiting should be active - getting healed, moving on as directed by the Lord.	May 2, 2012 6:56 AM
689	Churches in general dont no what to do with single people. They just let them get on with things and that is hard because we cant help being single and to be honest some of the single men who are left in church u would not want to marry because they are married to there mothers.	May 2, 2012 6:51 AM
690	I find that people are comfortable talking about their children, their husbands/wives, their family events etc but seem to come to a stand still and don't know how to relate to you as a single person. They don't always know what to talk about. I find that ministers talk about singles being part of other peoples families and yet they don't seem to understand that being part of another persons family highlights what you want and makes you more aware of the fact that you are single. I have also found that singleness is hardly ever mentioned in sermons and if it is there seems to be very little understanding that for some people it really is very painful.	May 2, 2012 6:48 AM
691	The church members do not consciously judge but do often carry the same view as often given in the media, that is, people just walk out of marriage without trying to make it work. There also nothing in place to make life/ministry easier for single parents, people look surprised when I can't make evening meetings as I don't have a babysitter.	May 2, 2012 6:44 AM
692	I feel people have their own lives to live with their partners so when it is time to go home after church they go off and I find myself alone once again . As an ex south African I find he British very unsociable and I miss the social life	May 2, 2012 6:44 AM
693	Marriage is upheld so strongly that divorced people can feel as if they have failed. There is an ignorance about what it's like to be a single parent and the implications e.g. financial struggle, of that.	May 2, 2012 6:40 AM
694	These are complex issues that is had to get over through such a feedback form,for example the issue of singleness has not be addressed adequately in my church but I don't feel isolated because of it. A solution to this could be a forum in the way of a group discussion, you could invite your members to attend.	May 2, 2012 6:39 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

695	People don't necessarily know what to do with me because I am single - what to invite me to, what to ask me to be involved in.... Eg one couple asked me to dinner once they realised I had a boyfriend. how much more would I have needed that invite before I had the boyfriend. I gave one married guy a lift home where he commented that it must be difficult moving into an area on your own, you kind of need a family to be part of. And then i dropped him off, with him making no mention of inviting me into his family.	May 2, 2012 6:36 AM
696	we in the uk are to in ward looking, and build walls around us. I lived and worked alot overseas and 10 years in east africa, where homes are more open more welcomeing.	May 2, 2012 6:25 AM
697	In almost 10 years at my current church I have never heard any teaching directed at singles. There has never been any ministry to singles, whilst there are of course marriage courses etc.	May 2, 2012 6:25 AM
698	There are very few single people at my church and those that are married are not welcoming to those who are not. Being older and widowed seems to be OK!	May 2, 2012 6:21 AM
699	I think that the church places a huge emphasis on marriage and family and hardly any on living a good single life and the blessing that can be to many including the single person. I think that all the role models in church are married couples, with hardly any single preachers and teachers. I think that married people aren't taught to include singles in their families and therefore it leads to exclusion.	May 2, 2012 6:20 AM
700	I do believe that the Church doesn't always appreciate that single people may like the occasional dinner invite, but equally do singles offer to babysit for their married friends? In my experience both groups can be as guilty as each other in seeing needs and offering their help.	May 2, 2012 6:15 AM
701	ageism is prevalent also, I have left one church recently because the lambs not the sheep were being fed.	May 2, 2012 6:11 AM
702	There is often a social divide between singles and couples in church - it seems that outside of organised events the two groups rarely mix.	May 2, 2012 5:47 AM
703	I have noticed that it when I was in a relationship I had many more invitations to dinners/social events as a couple with other couples than I ever did as a single.	May 2, 2012 5:38 AM
704	I am very fortunate with the church that I (infrequently attend) I have attended a charismatic church where single people were not treated with the same value as those who were married and were marginalise. I left, as did many other single people after me.	May 2, 2012 5:38 AM
705	i impose myself in church events having been a member for 30+ years but other newer people do not have the same degree of confidence to do the same	May 2, 2012 5:34 AM
706	Hard to be accepted , once divorced	May 2, 2012 5:31 AM
707	when the church is making meetings there are only meeting for couples but not for singles	May 2, 2012 5:31 AM
708	I think there should be more activites run by the Church to get singles together	May 2, 2012 5:26 AM

**Page 17, Q1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?**

709	My present church leaders is unusual in that he is far more understanding of singles that I have ever experienced before in a married church leader. Over all in other churches it is hard to say as I have been in Church ministry and this colours how accepted I am in a church, in that I am generally automatically accepted whether single or married.	May 2, 2012 5:25 AM
710	I go to a church which is very understanding of the fact that people are at different stages in life and some are naturally single. I feel at times that the people there who have their own families need to work more at building relationships with singls and newcomers, but in my church I think that issue has more to do with people being financially well-off and therefore less able to put themselves in the place of those who experience any kind of lack. That said, many singles do find church excludes them or makes them feel uncomfortable, so I realise that my experience is not representative.	May 2, 2012 5:25 AM
711	My church Hillsong get they have a bunch of single girls and affirmed this so well last weekend at Colour. I would probably travel a bit further to church though to find an environment like this. I do feel though that the leadership model is more tailored to couples in most churches	May 2, 2012 5:20 AM
712	While I feel accepted as a single, I have to fight to get the singles point of view and lifestyle heard. The church is very based in the local community around the church building, which I feel less part of as a single, as I have few ties to that community - I commute into the city where I spend most of my waking life, and have no children at local schools, little socialising locally etc.	Apr 21, 2012 10:07 AM