

**Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	<b>Response Count</b>
	1,403
<b>answered question</b>	<b>1,403</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1,766</b>



**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1	nothing	Oct 23, 2012 12:54 PM
2	it gives the younger generation spiriual guidance and moral values in its teachings.	Oct 22, 2012 3:24 PM
3	There are a good number of single people of all ages in my church (which is one of the reasons why I chose it). Although marriage and family are most often modelled as the norm, singleness is respected as a valued way of life. Some of the staff team are single, which helps. Some of our most respected figures chose a single life, including Jesus Christ himself, possibly the apostle Paul (who certainly valued the benefits of singleness), and John Stott.	Oct 18, 2012 12:38 PM
4	Lots of young people leading core areas.	Oct 12, 2012 3:25 PM
5	In my church there is only youth group and one for early twenties, if you are older you are pretty much isolated. CHristian networking is great but I find that mostly women attend these events and a few men. My luck on christian dating sites has been awful and I feel saddened that this is the case.	Sep 30, 2012 7:09 AM
6	The elders back my adventures as above, encourage me & ask me to report back on my progress. My homegroup leaders do the same.	Sep 27, 2012 3:22 PM
7	cannot currently... need to find a Church that has a big singles group of 30/40 age people	Sep 27, 2012 11:20 AM
8	Its very fertile. Loads of people getting married (not always members within the church) and someone is always pregnant	Sep 26, 2012 8:07 PM
9	They love them, treat them as valued. We have a lot of people from single parent families and a variety of economic backgrounds.	Sep 25, 2012 2:16 PM
10	I feel very at home in my church however I don't think it is good for helping couples meet. There are no dating events of enough opportunities for nights out for young couples to meet.	Sep 25, 2012 1:57 PM
11	They provide lots of opportunities to get to know other people, e.g. holidays for different age range, involvement in church, parties. It is a very lively church.	Sep 25, 2012 11:39 AM
12	I feel accepted for who I am in church. The church as a whole does not know how to deal with introductions of relationships.	Sep 24, 2012 2:34 PM
13	They have a group for the 18 - 30s they are mostly single and end up getting matched up and finding partners. There is nothing for anyone single above this age.	Sep 24, 2012 2:26 PM
14	There isn't a judgement on people for being single or unmarried, but there isn't a lot to help those who are single to find people. There is only a small group of 20-30s and only a few of those are single.	Sep 24, 2012 1:05 PM
15	see comments in question 15 .	Sep 23, 2012 10:24 PM
16	My church is a small, community church so has the capacity to value people as individuals and even though I may be a minority by being single, I am not excluded for this. I feel people are reasonably understanding of the challenges faced by single people and do their best to include single people	Sep 23, 2012 11:45 AM

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	in family life.	
17	A few years ago I prayed for friends I could have close fellowship with and began meeting in a prayer triplet with 2 other ladies (who are married) This has been a lifeline to me and an opportunity to share together at a deeper level (although I think people who are married also benefit from that type of meeting together) I think the maxim "lonely in a crowd" can often be applied to church where you can feel always surrounded by people who are with someone. It's ok as long as I am feeling strong and in control but not so easy if feeling a bit low/alone	Sep 23, 2012 4:06 AM
18	It is just accepting	Sep 22, 2012 12:45 PM
19	I don't think it is.	Sep 22, 2012 9:10 AM
20	I'm still fairly new at my current church but it seems as though you are still given the opportunity to be involved regardless of whether you are single or not	Sep 21, 2012 2:02 PM
21	The first church (high-profile evangelical) I went to after my divorce simply seemed unable to relate to a middle-aged, newly-divorced man with issues who knew he wasn't a Christian but knew that he needed to re-connect with his spiritual roots. It took another 4 years (and a lot of pain) before I became a born-again Christian. God then led me very positively to a black-majority church where I was made to feel welcome, loved, accepted and encouraged to grow as a disciple from day 1. It seems to me that black-majority church has experienced some of the issues that single Christians face for longer than most white-majority ones and there is a good deal of learning that is transferable - it's a shame that cultural boundaries (on both sides) seem to prevent that from happening.	Sep 21, 2012 9:02 AM
22	As place where you can feel accepted and loved as part of a family no matter what your relationship status	Sep 20, 2012 3:10 PM
23	Mixed age house groups so you get to mix with both married and single christians and getting different perspectives from different ages.	Sep 20, 2012 9:29 AM
24	I go to two churches, one is family focused and in a small village of locals and therefore not good for meeting new people but it is always welcoming to anyone, know one is judged for being single because everyone is valued as a individual and aqual. You are constantly reminded of being single when you see all of the couples there but you are also amazed at how God works in bringing people together and you hear the amazing stories that God has done to bring these couples together.	Sep 19, 2012 3:25 PM
25	It is so friendly and welcoming	Sep 19, 2012 1:50 PM
26	Nothing, and it wouldn't in any case	Sep 18, 2012 8:05 AM
27	From my answers you will gather that I don't, sorry !	Sep 17, 2012 8:27 AM
28	We have both married and single ministers, elders, home group leaders etc in the church, which helps keep a balance. I have never felt that I would not be welcome to get involved in what is going on. It is also the only church I have ever been to which took the time in a series on relationships to give a week over to singleness. I have this on CD to replay when needed. It has only happened once though and I'd love to see more of this kind of thing.	Sep 16, 2012 12:06 PM

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	On mothers and fathers days the church gives a small token to all of the right sex (eg a fairy cake to every women on mothers day) regardless of what their status may be. Being included in these things means a lot to me when the reality is I may never be in a position to have the 'right' status.	
29	Other single people who know what you are gong through but also provide a natural social group where you don't need 'another half'	Sep 15, 2012 2:42 PM
30	There is a good mix and I see single but elderly lead services which shows that younger singles are welcome.	Sep 15, 2012 2:03 PM
31	I'm afraid I am not able to provide information at this time as I am fairly new to my church.	Sep 15, 2012 1:28 PM
32	I am divorced but don't feel judged for it. I feel my children are cared about and supported by the other members.	Sep 15, 2012 1:11 PM
33	I am being comforted by God's grace when I go to church and pray. I can't help believing his mercy and compassion on widow and orphan otherwise the world he created is not fair.	Sep 15, 2012 5:14 AM
34	i would like to say i have some good things to say but sadly i dont.	Sep 15, 2012 4:01 AM
35	We are one family with different ages, race, ability, marital status.	Sep 15, 2012 12:34 AM
36	We have a thriving '20s and 30s' group, and many people both inside and outside of it are single. We accept eachother for who we are, such that the issue of singleness hardly comes up at all. I guess there is so much going on in our church for people to be a part of, that we can be part of the church community whatever our 'relationship status'. As such, I feel that my status as a single person is pretty much irrelevant to how much I can give to my church, and to how much I love and receive from it. It also helps that a good number of people, of different ages, are single in the church. Perhaps if I were the only one I would feel isolated, but fortunately I'm not!	Sep 14, 2012 12:13 PM
37	I don't go to church, but a good church would have a balanced number of people from all age ranges. Too many under 25's, and singles aged 30+ will be isolated/shunned. Too many people over 40, and young people will be put off by the church.	Sep 13, 2012 7:23 PM
38	like above i dont know because i havent really attended church since becoming single	Sep 13, 2012 2:31 PM
39	Since I was widowed I have been well looked after by other church couples and included in their activities and outings.	Sep 13, 2012 11:55 AM
40	Too new into this single again state to make any comments	Sep 13, 2012 9:15 AM
41	my church is so amazing, and haven't judged me at all, which as a single mum, who never in a million years imagined I would be divorced ever, let alone in my 20s and with a kid is great. but think I am harder on myself. and get why guys dont wanna date me.	Sep 12, 2012 3:23 PM
42	I don't particularly think my church is good for singles probably because it is quite small. I would like it if there was more for singles especially on a Sunday when I don't like going home to lunch by myself and I don't always want to br entertaining myself.	Sep 12, 2012 2:49 PM

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43	Effort made to be invited out to meals, socials etc that are not consisted entirely of people in relationships. People in relationships not too cliquy or exclusive.	Sep 12, 2012 2:00 PM
44	I can't really comment on this, been attending a new church. I don't feel exactly welcome, so not sure if it was because I am single with two children or because people are just generally being careful.	Sep 12, 2012 1:53 PM
45	My Church has so many elements of ministry that you can get involved with. Perhaps it is not specifically a good place for singles but it is an excellent place for people who don't have the same demands that people in a relationship may have.	Sep 12, 2012 2:24 AM
46	some coupçes have meet in my church & get married	Sep 11, 2012 3:54 AM
47	Primarily if a church already has a lot of singles in it then it is a good place for single Christians. That is it really.	Sep 10, 2012 3:31 PM
48	We are not catered for	Sep 10, 2012 2:38 PM
49	Unfortunately I can't always get to Church because of my shift work. This is limiting my ability to meet new people and attend Church events which happen during the week. I find it especially hard because when I am there I tend to feel quite shy and lost in such a big Church. Having said that, there are some really lovely people and although there aren't any single people there, attending house group when I can has really helped.	Sep 10, 2012 12:17 PM
50	we have people of all ages ,its lively and have connect groups for all ages and needs .Its well organised to make sure no one gets left out .	Sep 10, 2012 6:48 AM
51	there are plenty of pastorates (small groups) suitable for singles. Many evening and weekend courses that singles enjoy and there are plenty of other single to get to know	Sep 9, 2012 11:51 AM
52	It is not a social club it it a place where worshipers meet to worship	Sep 9, 2012 6:05 AM
53	We tend to be friendly and welcoming.	Sep 8, 2012 7:56 PM
54	My Church has a lot of young people so it is easy to make friends, although most of them are married. The married couples are great and no one makes me feel different for being single, probably because there are a lot of single girls in our Church. There are sadly not very many single men in our Church so that is difficult. It's also difficult to see so many happy couples having babies and to feel left out of that world.	Sep 8, 2012 6:27 PM
55	I wouldn't say it was nessecarily good, unfortunately not enough young Christians about to find single ones!	Sep 8, 2012 6:12 PM
56	We have a very open & active group for teenagers which bring fresh blood into the church... No real relationships that I have witnessed there yet but plenty of potential for the future!	Sep 8, 2012 1:26 PM
57	There are many ways, events and activities that keep us as singles active. In the Church there is a Young People's Protege' that keep them alert and feed on the Words of God. For those in my age bracket, our gift revealed and we get involved where we are to be, We the members goes to Church Sunday's 10:30 am to 2:00pm, Wednesday 7:00 - 8:00 pm, prayer and the YPP on	Sep 7, 2012 3:44 PM

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	Fridays they have some kind of activites going on. Saturdays, chior rehearsal. So, our lives as singles, can never be bored, the only thing that I would see as an loner effect, is when I go back home to the empty house. Nevertheless, as an author, I use up that time to write.	
58	Large church (1000+), Focus is on under 35's, lots of single people 18-40 and a decent number of single 35+, Pastor is well liked and single in his 50's	Sep 7, 2012 9:36 AM
59	people are loving and kind, we are a part of the body of Christ	Sep 6, 2012 5:37 AM
60	I go to a house church, which even though there are only 2 other singles who attend the couples/families who go never make us feel left out of anything. This is different to the experience I have in other churches I've attended.	Sep 5, 2012 1:29 PM
61	there are lots of ways to get involved in the church and not all kids work. There are more and more families coming into the church which makes me feel like I'm more of an outsider. the church does try to include single and marrieds in the church and has put on single events but I don't want the stigma of going to them	Sep 5, 2012 10:38 AM
62	It has functions aimed at singletons.	Sep 4, 2012 3:23 PM
63	I can't. There are very few single Christians in my church. I feel it is very much geared up for families but as a person I do feel accepted and the home group is made up of a good mixture of singles and couples.	Sep 4, 2012 3:20 PM
64	A significant proportion of our church are single, and a proportion of the married women attend without their husbands, so there seem to be more singles (or without their spouse) than married people there. Unfortunately (for those of us what want a partner of our own age) many of them are pensioners.	Sep 4, 2012 2:50 PM
65	Families that invite me to join them for sunday lunch, being asked to babysit. Having a single female curate has really helped me. Home group is a great for stopping me feeling alone.	Sep 4, 2012 2:24 PM
66	Its really not... There are only a hand full of us my age, mainly females, one guys. As soon as I joined the church and made friends with that guy everyone married us off in their heads. This really effected our friendship, and I think destroyed our chances of changing it into a relationship!	Sep 4, 2012 7:06 AM
67	Church is to find God not a partner!!	Sep 3, 2012 11:19 PM
68	i dont	Sep 3, 2012 3:43 PM
69	A couple has recently set up a singles group once a month. This includes happened on Sunday after the main morning service. Also there is a men's walking group.	Sep 3, 2012 1:57 PM
70	The other singles, and just getting on being sociable with each other	Sep 3, 2012 7:57 AM
71	Housegroups. Young singles encpuraged to take part in young peoples activites	Sep 2, 2012 2:58 PM
72	I can't really answer that. The older you get, the harder it gets as most people are married already. My church is quite small so there's no opportunity to meet other singles there.	Sep 2, 2012 12:03 PM

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73	The Anglican church is not.	Sep 2, 2012 10:42 AM
74	I would say i am treated sort of equal in the sense that i do things like being involved in the children's church, perhaps its because i am single with kids i dont know?	Sep 2, 2012 7:47 AM
75	Good 20's and 30's social group	Sep 1, 2012 3:19 PM
76	There are some nice social occasions, about once a month. However, I do feel that there should be more of those, and that more should be done to help singles to meet and get together.	Sep 1, 2012 3:07 PM
77	As mentioned, my church welcomes everyone with open arms, and there are single members of the congregation, but they are mostly older. There is a lot of support for the older single people in the community, such as community teas and a café in the shopping centre. However, a lot of these happen/are open when I am at work.	Sep 1, 2012 12:52 PM
78	The church is good at looking for the gifts and skills of everyone, single or not, and encouraging them to use these. This may be partly due to it being a small church so everyone needs to take part for it to function!	Sep 1, 2012 7:32 AM
79	Church aims to be a family like no other. There are families within the church who have welcomed me into their homes as an extended family member. There are several other single women of a similar age, but no single men.	Sep 1, 2012 3:30 AM
80	some good talks on the subject a larger single population than most Aware of issue pastor	Sep 1, 2012 2:02 AM
81	It doesn't specifically orientate towards single Christians they teach me God loves me as I am so it doesn't matter whether I am accepted as a single Christian or not!	Aug 30, 2012 2:13 PM
82	My church is a great place for singles, as they deal with relationships and you are assessed on your ability, love of God and not because you are single!	Aug 30, 2012 11:49 AM
83	Everyone is welcomed into the church family as they are. I think sometimes it's me as a single that feels awkward as my church is very family orientated. It can make me feel sad that I don't have what they have and I would like to.	Aug 29, 2012 12:07 PM
84	I am having a hard time finding something here. Coffee after church. It is starting a mentoring programme and all are encouraged to train to become mentees and / or mentors. I am encouraged to volunteer in children's work.	Aug 29, 2012 11:43 AM
85	All are accepted.	Aug 29, 2012 11:35 AM
86	I think it is hard for singles particularly single men as there is so much suspiscion	Aug 29, 2012 8:43 AM
87	I have only recently started attending my current church but I have been welcomed and included from the start. I have never seen my singleness as a problem in the church, and I am sure once I really get to know people they will love having someone who is always available for babysitting duties!!!	Aug 29, 2012 8:38 AM
88	My church is a very varied community, for example there are families with a	Aug 29, 2012 7:30 AM

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	mum and dad, single parent families, families who have access to children but not custody, single people with learning difficulties, single people who use wheelchairs, married people who use wheelchairs, and a good mix of men and women, at most age groups but mine -- (26-34). I do have a prayer ministry and there is also lunch after church every week where we eat as a church family. I do also feel part of a couple of families who invite me round for meals.	
89	Not sure i can, support is rubbish. Leaders do not have a clue how to deal with divorce	Aug 29, 2012 7:25 AM
90	THE CONGREGATION IN OUR CHURCH ARE SPIRIT FILLED, ANYBODY IS WELCOME, THERE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH LOVE PASSED ON TO MEMBERS AND VISITORS.	Aug 29, 2012 5:37 AM
91	the church as a fellowship group for single people for Bible study and outings	Aug 29, 2012 4:01 AM
92	There are other single young people to talk to but the older members feel that marriage is a must so any conversation between two singles is perceived as dating even if they are not interested in each other romantically.	Aug 29, 2012 2:11 AM
93	they just accept you for who you are and not your status	Aug 28, 2012 10:58 PM
94	It definitely feels like, in my church, nobody cares if you are or aren't single. Yes, we definitely celebrate marriages and births but I've never felt left out or inadequate or pressured by my church because I've never been in a relationship especially as there are several, older members of the congregation who are also single including a prominent member of the prayer ministry team who is absolutely my role model as she is an amazing woman of God.	Aug 28, 2012 4:41 PM
95	A church that provides good social events. Single christians are often not available at weekends - they might be visiting friends or family so midweek events would be very valuable, perhaps a service midweek or a cappuccino and prayer type meeting.	Aug 28, 2012 12:46 PM
96	There are plenty of home groups across different ages, something for everyone. As a 40+ single mum, I have been invited to the 20s-30s group, the mum's group and the Serious Bible study group - nobody is excluded. We have a +50yrs woman with severe learning difficulties who goes to the Young Mums group!! There are sporty groups - the church has a football team etc, so there are activities for all but I never think of the 'single' issue and I don't think anyone else feels excluded. However, I think there are a few single men who struggle to feel accepted - but more as a result of their personality than the fact that they're single. As with any group of people, the ones desperate for a relationship are way too intense and self-absorbed!!	Aug 28, 2012 9:49 AM
97	It can help them make new friends and they might be able to get their own partner.	Aug 28, 2012 8:11 AM
98	wish i could but it isn't. i am looked at as someone who can do more stuff for the church as i am single -	Aug 28, 2012 4:02 AM
99	One's single status is by and large irrelevant. Mine is a very warm and welcoming church that values everyone's contribution whatever it is, and that is regularly confirmed by secret worshippers reports.	Aug 28, 2012 3:51 AM

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100	plenty of other singles. Lots of societies	Aug 27, 2012 1:37 PM
101	The church is accepting of all, not just traditional married couples.	Aug 27, 2012 1:32 PM
102	We're a community church that is very loving and caring of all people	Aug 26, 2012 6:07 PM
103	My church is very good for younger single christians but feel that the needs of older i.e. over 40 singles are somewhat ignored, although it is difficult to see how the church could resolve this.	Aug 26, 2012 3:56 PM
104	I wouldn't say my church is particularly good or bad for single Christians. Relationship status is not an issue in my church there is more focus on spiritual gifts and ministries.	Aug 26, 2012 10:26 AM
105	It doesn't. Sorry I have suggested that a small group/ house group for young singles (21-40) be set up but this has been brushed under the carpet.	Aug 26, 2012 1:51 AM
106	it is a whole family of Christ	Aug 25, 2012 2:43 PM
107	No discrimination to single parent families and no specific singles ministry making us out as 'lepers'!	Aug 25, 2012 1:55 PM
108	My church is inclusive of all who come in through the doors, accepting all, but I do find myself a little awkward at times being youngish and single in my church with no one to really relate to. I'm not a teen and even though I'm of the age of young marrieds with children, I'm not that either. I'm never left out of anything happening there, I just feel a little 'lost' at times.	Aug 25, 2012 10:50 AM
109	I don't feel my Church is a good place for singles. There are NO single males. and very few single females. It is a very family and couple aimed Church.	Aug 25, 2012 9:11 AM
110	I feel in my church there is a lot of activity and variety. They cater for a lot of different people and individuals are encouraged to pursue what God has called them to. One of our pastors is single so I feel that she helps ensure their needs are recognised. Also there is good teaching in the church both directed at married couples and those who are single in practical application. There is no requirement to be married for any ministry leading and many single people lead a lot in our church.	Aug 24, 2012 5:01 PM
111	when I say my church is a good place for singles I mean as in they accept me and I don't feel odd out- but it's a hopeless place to meet potential partners!	Aug 24, 2012 8:21 AM
112	My church or any other genuine Christian church is a good place to meet people because you'll have a better chance of meeting like-minded people in terms of my faith in Jesus and my values.	Aug 24, 2012 5:02 AM
113	I don't feel that my Church is a good place for single Christians, there is no support, no teaching, nothing to help single parents support each other, or for single Christians locally to meet each other.	Aug 24, 2012 4:48 AM
114	People are accepted regardless of their marital status, and not excluded from participating in leadership or ministry because they are single.	Aug 24, 2012 3:44 AM
115	The married couples around me make a conscious effort to involve me in their lives and families, e.g. I babysit and teach their children in Sunday	Aug 23, 2012 9:43 PM

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	School. Some of them make a point of coming to the evening service which is the one with more singles. There are at least 10, probably 20, single Christian women in their 20s and 30s and only a couple of men, and I know that the leadership feels for us and do their best to attract more men in.	
116	There are some strong single role models in my church. We have had some positive teaching about singleness and personal anecdotes about how mutually beneficial it is for a family and a single person to be friends (I can think of several good examples). There's an awareness that there are people who are single at church because their partner does not come to church.	Aug 23, 2012 4:04 PM
117	Various meetings provided that encourage singles to mingle with families and couples. In general no one is afraid to include others regardless of marital status	Aug 23, 2012 11:23 AM
118	There are people especially senior leadership who connect well and show hospitality to singles i feel personally welcomed in their family and feel loved and part of their family.	Aug 22, 2012 3:39 PM
119	I feel that people are accepted in their own right. Some people who attend church regularly are married but their partner never comes so in a way they're "singletons" within the church. Such people can sometimes face opposition from their non-church-going partner who resents them spending time on church activities.	Aug 22, 2012 3:03 PM
120	There are quite a few single women and all are accepted. The church is small and very friendly and everyone is welcome.	Aug 22, 2012 11:22 AM
121	There are lots of other singles!!	Aug 21, 2012 9:17 AM
122	Our congregation is a mix of different people - I have never felt like a second class citizen there for being single, but I do find it difficult to join in the main family worship service (10.45am) unless I have a specific reason for being there, ie. I'm helping out with the children's work.	Aug 21, 2012 9:17 AM
123	The old priest would never discriminate against singles	Aug 21, 2012 5:53 AM
124	they are all GODLY people	Aug 21, 2012 5:05 AM
125	There is a real keenness to encourage people into serving in ways that can work for them. There are a lot of young families who make time to talk to you and get to know you even if you don't have children.	Aug 20, 2012 11:29 AM
126	Lots of other singles there so you don't feel so alone.	Aug 19, 2012 10:21 AM
127	None	Aug 19, 2012 4:53 AM
128	Church is for praising God it's not a pick up joint!!!	Aug 18, 2012 3:28 PM
129	My church isn't a particular good place for singles	Aug 18, 2012 1:00 PM
130	People love God and therefore love those around them, whoever they are (relationship status doesn't affect that)	Aug 17, 2012 5:37 PM
131	Following the God given principles for acceptance, which include mixing across age groups, cultures and marital status	Aug 17, 2012 5:17 AM

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132	I find that there are many times when I can be useful to the marred ones as I have a freedom that they don't have, One of the areas I pray most for is the protection of the relationship's of the married ones this i feel is a great privilege, I do have a daughter and grandchildren and they are a blessing to me, I found the lord as a result of going to see my child in the church nativity play and believe that God made so much good come out of a bad thing. I believe in the family and thank God that we are seeing hole families coming into the church as well as singles and we all get on well together as we respect each others gifts and failings working together for the good of Gods church.	Aug 17, 2012 12:39 AM
133	personally i think that the church pushes the younger generation together too quickly as soon as they get a hint that a couple like each other they are talking wedding bells	Aug 16, 2012 6:59 PM
134	The fact that I am single has never be4en an issue - there is no diferentiation. I am not treated any differently than say a widow,widower or evenn a married ladt. One reason could be that there are many more women in Church than men anyway.	Aug 16, 2012 1:54 AM
135	a good social group, preferably networking amongst a group of churches and of course social activities that are not necessarily spiritual so that ( and I hate to use the term) 'non- christians' can be included in the social mix ( purely for social reasons not for evangelistic events)	Aug 15, 2012 1:39 PM
136	It is a large church so I'm not the only single/single parent there.	Aug 15, 2012 6:57 AM
137	homegroups, hospitality of some families	Aug 14, 2012 7:38 AM
138	Sadly, I have not one positive thing to say here about my Church. I am hopeful that I will meet someone through this site who will take me with him to his Church which will hopefully have more Christian values than mine currently does. If certain Churches do not start moving with the times and realise that there are loads of divorced people out there, and embrace them, mistakes and all, they are not going to exist in another 10/20 years time.	Aug 13, 2012 6:49 PM
139	Everyone is made to feel welcomed and of value	Aug 13, 2012 2:19 PM
140	feel at home	Aug 13, 2012 1:18 PM
141	A good balance between couples and singles and mixed events that don't exclude singles	Aug 13, 2012 12:04 PM
142	sorry i cant find one that does	Aug 13, 2012 10:38 AM
143	family church - doesn't matter what your marital status	Aug 13, 2012 10:12 AM
144	There are opportunities for singles, but more opportunities are given to married couples	Aug 12, 2012 1:37 PM
145	Despite these problems, I feel that we are accepted as individuals, and people aren't rude in the sense of asking 'why aren't you married?' or trying to restrict our participation in any way. There are lots of different things on and groups, etc.	Aug 12, 2012 10:29 AM
146	No particular stories. I just don't feel like there's anything special about it, just that I am not constantly asked about being single, which is what makes it	Aug 10, 2012 2:07 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	good. I don't feel any different to other people in the church	
147	It would be good if there were more men in the church of all ages.	Aug 10, 2012 1:27 PM
148	I look forward in church .I feel more strong and straight.I feel I m good person.I was bad person.	Aug 10, 2012 10:49 AM
149	there are some trips and holidays u can go on, but its not easy to mingle when it can be pricey and clicky, and also as a mum my priority is to my daughter and so im not able to get to things so well and mix appropriately just with other adults	Aug 9, 2012 6:56 PM
150	Lots of other single Christians. Older Christians who have been single all of their lives. Singles tend to group together as the majority of people are couples,families and older couples who's children have grown up.	Aug 9, 2012 12:17 PM
151	my church are generally "real"	Aug 9, 2012 6:59 AM
152	When u r single in our church. It gives u the opportunity to become more involved in church activities . And they embraces that in our church .	Aug 8, 2012 4:44 PM
153	we are known as being a very friendly caring church for all ages	Aug 8, 2012 12:21 PM
154	Not appy with my church for many reasons, but from a single point of view, I feel there are no chances there for me to meet anyone for a potential relationship and there are no events ever organised to encourage singles from other churches or my own to come along and get together	Aug 8, 2012 11:00 AM
155	We are welcoming to all who come to any of our services. When we were interregnum a lady came to main Eucharistic service and one of the congregation asked her if she wanted any help finding her way around the service book. Later we found out that it was one of the clergy who had applied for the post of Priest in Charge of our parish and had come "incognito" to see what we were like. Her impressions were obviously good as she got the post and has been with us for 18 months	Aug 8, 2012 9:35 AM
156	my church is very small so accepts and includes everyone who comes.	Aug 7, 2012 8:33 PM
157	In my last Church, it was a lot more restrictive if you were single. All the elders worked with their wives and many ministries were led as couples. There were big cliques of married/engaged couples that I felt excluded from. Often, preaches would make many references to 'doing this with your husband' which made me feel like less of a person. Now I am back at my home Church, I am freely able to participate in all ministries without pressure, but know that my pastor is hoping my husband will come along soon. That is easier to deal with because it is banter & I know it's because it's what I want to happen too. I was hurt by my last Church and knew I couldn't stay there much longer and feel comfortable.	Aug 7, 2012 5:30 PM
158	My church recognises that involuntary singleness - particularly among women - is a problem, and it seeks to support singles to develop healthy relationships.	Aug 7, 2012 5:12 PM
159	It's not great to be honest. People are not judgemental against singles, mainly I think because there is so many of us!	Aug 7, 2012 4:36 PM
160	More teaching on how to live life to the fullest as a single person, put more	Aug 7, 2012 2:52 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	emphasis on single status is not the main component of self worth, particularly for women.	
161	we have meetings and get togethers , and singles are never excluded	Aug 7, 2012 9:01 AM
162	We have a wide range of family situations in church, also students. All are accepted. A single mum I wouldn't feel comfortable in a main leadership role such as deacon, as I don't think that is Biblical, but am happy leading a woman's Bible study group. We have a small group for different types such as the 20s and 30s which contain many singles but the older singles are just accepted within the other small groups. I really don't see it as an issue with our church, but obviously, there are singles within our church who are desperate for relationships, but they are still valued members with much to offer!	Aug 6, 2012 4:04 PM
163	I'm accepted, though actually I must be the only divorced single mum..... can't think of another one.	Aug 6, 2012 11:56 AM
164	I feel like a sister within my Church family, and do have good interaction with both men and women.	Aug 6, 2012 9:40 AM
165	A lively 20s group. Plenty of social action to get involved with - if you have the time	Aug 6, 2012 1:59 AM
166	Our church accepts anybody whether single or not. We also accept people who have issues with drug misuse, alcoholism or any type of issue. Two couples have met in church and have recently got married within the last few weeks of each other.	Aug 6, 2012 1:11 AM
167	The church treats everyone with love and friendship for who they are, not what they are.	Aug 5, 2012 7:08 PM
168	You are accepted as you are.	Aug 5, 2012 3:53 PM
169	We have men's events a few times a year, where lots of guys from the church just go out for a meal or similar. It's simple and relaxed, and is a good way to bond a little better with some of the guys I don't normally get to talk to much.	Aug 5, 2012 2:52 PM
170	Our vicar is very aware of the lack of men in the church and one of the churches visions is to bring more men in, so there has been a big drive with this which has been encouraging and successful.	Aug 5, 2012 1:56 PM
171	nothing	Aug 5, 2012 1:07 PM
172	inclusion, acceptance and support spiritually, emotionally, practically. My church family help me in many ways - babysitting, to access opportunities that otherwise I wouldn't be able to, with practical support - DIY etc. Home group meets at mine to enable me to attend.	Aug 5, 2012 12:27 PM
173	Our women's group is good because it organises social events for women only where it does not matter whether or not you have a partner as we are all there as ourselves. I would like more of these events to take place on a regular basis.	Aug 4, 2012 3:12 PM
174	Just support and social events for single Christians to support and befriend each other. It's comforting to know there are others like you. But also being	Aug 4, 2012 2:53 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	loved by married couples and families is also a blessing so a good mixture of integration too.	
175	the church allows my faith to strengthen as an individual	Aug 4, 2012 2:23 PM
176	I cannot give an example.	Aug 4, 2012 12:14 PM
177	need to be welcomed, talked too, doesn't mean you mind time on your own but good if people contact you and ask how you are	Aug 4, 2012 11:54 AM
178	Despite the above, my church has always been very friendly and very welcoming to visitors. As far as I know, no new visitors have ever been ignored and the Officer always tries to speak to them after the meeting.	Aug 4, 2012 11:52 AM
179	Church is not to be summoned up like a niteclub if one is meant to meet one potential partner through the church then i see it as God's will.	Aug 3, 2012 4:16 PM
180	its an inclusive church, where everyone has a part to play . we do have leaders but we are all able to participate and encouraged to do so.	Aug 3, 2012 2:31 PM
181	I ONLY PASS THROUGH FROM TIME TO TIME IF I COULD SPEAK TO YOU FACE TO FACE IM SHURE YOU WOULD COME AWAY WITH A MORE INDEPTH REPORT IM SORRRY.MORE OVER PRAY FOR ME THAT I MAY FIND MY SELF A LADY FRIEND PEACE BE WITH YOU AMEN. DAVID CALLUM BEGG.	Aug 3, 2012 9:10 AM
182	We are like a family who all support and except each other	Aug 3, 2012 3:14 AM
183	Nothing at all	Aug 2, 2012 11:37 PM
184	They have been massively supportive to me through my marriage break down.	Aug 2, 2012 10:50 AM
185	There are lots of social events - although these tend to be started by congregation members - I think the church should take more responsibility for this - they would never consider hosting a singles night for example, perhaps feeling that people do not want this attention on them - but if we are not meeting people in our social circles - and I am talking about very attractive, lovely christian women who have a strong desire to serve God, then how else are we supposed to meet people who are looking for a mate?	Aug 1, 2012 4:00 PM
186	Not being defined as 'single' and for it not to be a label.	Aug 1, 2012 2:15 PM
187	There are lots of young people in the evening congregation, lots of ministries to get involved in.	Aug 1, 2012 1:16 PM
188	welcoming of all people, try to get everyone involved in houegroups and prayer triplets	Aug 1, 2012 1:11 PM
189	my local church does not really have any other single my age or close to my age. Unfortunatley because of this there isnt seen as a need to provide for anything for those people who are single. I dont think the church as a whole is involved in helping single christians meet.	Jul 31, 2012 2:57 PM
190	It is a good mixture of people, our Pastor is 29, younger than myself so that is great!	Jul 31, 2012 9:54 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

191	Had a good singles group at one stage - leader got married! However, difficult to cope with differing ages and backgrounds. At URC, just as many singles if not more as marrieds but older than me by 20 yrs mostly	Jul 31, 2012 4:13 AM
192	Unlike previous churches, singles are taught and treated in the same way. I find it mildly frustrating when churches think that all singles want is a talk about relationships and reminding us to remain pure; yes it's important, but surely there is more to me than 'checking up on me'.	Jul 31, 2012 3:22 AM
193	we have a 20 to 40 groups where the majority are single	Jul 30, 2012 4:31 PM
194	other singles	Jul 30, 2012 3:47 PM
195	some people do look out for me as im alone and i have always found that if i make an effort people make an effort too and pray with and for me.	Jul 30, 2012 1:58 PM
196	There are very few single young people in our church but, most of these are dating unchurched people.	Jul 30, 2012 12:48 PM
197	It is very accepting of anyone who wants to join church whether your single or not	Jul 30, 2012 10:36 AM
198	The churches I am connected with [a village traditional church and city lunchtime services] are both best when people 'grow up' among the congregation and community. Start young, and there are explicit activities for youth and the younger generations as they move up. Activities run out when one reaches 40, and coming into such a community later in life, means one has missed out on the growing stages. Emphasise that I'm not saying there is rejection of older singles, just the statistical reality that there are fewer peers and fewer provisions for people who may by implication may find it harder to become part of groups and social activities.	Jul 30, 2012 6:18 AM
199	It is welcoming, like coming home to my family. There are lots of other single people of all ages but lots of couples and families also. I wouldn't expect to meet someone and start dating a my church. I don't think I would feel comfortable doing that in any event because it is a like a large family and as a relative newcomer I would feel pressured within that relationship.	Jul 30, 2012 3:36 AM
200	My church is great for students so single christians are around but they tend to be 20s and then by 30s you're expected to be married or getting there!	Jul 29, 2012 2:57 PM
201	An active singles ministry, however it is dominated by women, very few single men in the church.	Jul 29, 2012 1:49 PM
202	They are open minded. We have a young girl who fell pregnant and the father left her outside of wedlock and they have been accepting and kind hearted, another lady is married and her husband went to jail and she is filing for a divorce due to his convictions and again have supported her etc.	Jul 29, 2012 1:21 PM
203	In my church whether you are single or married everyone is loved and accepted alike. Everyone is also encouraged and given the opportunity to use their gifts, talents and abilities to glorify God.	Jul 29, 2012 1:12 PM
204	I found my husband in church, through music.	Jul 29, 2012 12:54 PM
205	There are lots of groups for single women, lots of support and it is family based....singles included. Because of the university close by there are lots of	Jul 29, 2012 11:58 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	singles in the church	
206	I guess the possibility to meet another single christian of different gender in christ,,,,, however i find it even more difficult to find a believer in church than online or in everyday life. Especially being a single parent it is like you have been soiled,,,,, not good enough, or well so i feel coming from a big congregation believers.	Jul 29, 2012 9:46 AM
207	Would never be turned away	Jul 29, 2012 8:12 AM
208	There is a singles group for the over 30's (which I don't attend) run by one of the single people in the church, but there's nothing else that the church does for single people. Most Christian single leave for university and never come back to the church, or if they do they're hooked up.	Jul 28, 2012 11:09 AM
209	they do not necessarily talk about being single everybody is embraced as part of the congregation	Jul 28, 2012 10:48 AM
210	Not sure really	Jul 27, 2012 5:26 PM
211	My church practices what it preaches which is good and it's so full of love that although I'm single, I don't feel alone.	Jul 27, 2012 12:47 PM
212	There are many people the same age, some people even meet through the Alpha course	Jul 27, 2012 12:04 PM
213	There has been an attempt to start a singles club for christians, but on the times I have visited I have been the only female!	Jul 26, 2012 1:43 PM
214	i feel if you go to church regularly your faith become more strong and you stay away from sins as much as you can and you become more spiritual and heart become a temple of God.being a single in church it does not matter but also is very nice if you go to church with your partner and prayer together.my church is working on singles but personally i do not know about any couples.	Jul 26, 2012 12:07 PM
215	Churches are generally very poor at relationships and more need to be done with proper theaching and guidance.	Jul 26, 2012 7:32 AM
216	It is very welcoming. New members of the congregation can dive into service teams almost at once. A generation of people who got married in the church are now having babies.	Jul 26, 2012 2:08 AM
217	Nothing! I don't feel my church was that great for singles. And there was definitely no other way for me to meet a single male within this church as it was a) isolated, b) the Salvation Army is an 'acquired taste' and not many young, single males want to join these days and c) those that do join are usually uni goers who have their own Salvation Army church to attend back home, wherever that may be.	Jul 26, 2012 1:14 AM
218	There are other people in the same situation	Jul 25, 2012 4:51 PM
219	Everyone made to feel welcome wether you have attended you have been a church member for years or a new face. As soon as you walk through the door someone will shake your and introduce themselves to you	Jul 25, 2012 5:37 AM
220	We have a LOT of socials relevant to different age groups. We always have after parties, we always hang out after the service, we have evenings such	Jul 25, 2012 3:15 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	as come dine with me where we go to random persons house and enjoy food with other guests we've never met before! There's a lot to do - people just need to get involved!	
221	It is great if you are 25 and under. There is so much activities for young adults and they have a great family being created at the moment. It is very multi-cultural and everyone is very friendly.	Jul 24, 2012 1:17 PM
222	Churches are meant to make people feel accepted and embraced no matter what one's marital status is	Jul 24, 2012 10:57 AM
223	My church is primarily made up of single women. There are few men in the church. This is one area that is lacking and that the pastor is working on. Over the past four or five years we've been having an annual love and relationships summit, which has explored relationships. The main focus has been on couples and marital relationships, which has been interesting but it wasn't really until this year that more substantial attention was paid to singles issues in a more frank and interactive way. There was a forum in which people could discuss, which was hosted by younger single people. This gave lively debate and interaction. We do still need to build on this, though. More recently there has been an emphasis on couples ministry and men's ministry, but no ministry for single people. I'm of an age in which I do feel it's too late for that kind of 'singles' events, but I'm getting plugged into the church in different ways, such as a business network, which I'm hoping will help me build contacts and healthy relationships with men on a professional (and personal) level. I do understand, though, that younger single women and men may feel excluded and that something is needed. I must say that our pastors are conscious of this too and are looking for different non-traditional ways of bringing singles together, or even encouraging them to bring their non-Christian friends to church.	Jul 24, 2012 4:47 AM
224	There are a lot of students who come from elsewhere in the country who don't know anyone else - just walking in to a church on your in your home town is bad enough when you don't normally go there, but to be awau from friends and family is worse. Therefore many people because of this feel the same way that my church is a welcoming place.	Jul 24, 2012 3:47 AM
225	They have welcomed me since day one. They have never seen my singleness as an issue.	Jul 24, 2012 1:44 AM
226	Everyone is accepted, however some will try to matchmake!	Jul 23, 2012 2:38 PM
227	They have connect groups where people can choose to attend anyone they feel comfortable in. Not restricted to their own parish. cafe after the service where we can have lunch and socialize. We also have various Seminars (including Single topics) with group discussions and recommendations from singles.	Jul 23, 2012 5:44 AM
228	Our church is not proactive for singles, but then isn't it up to us, as adults, to get on and be proactive for ourselves?	Jul 22, 2012 2:25 AM
229	everyone is treated the same	Jul 21, 2012 4:00 PM
230	ON teh leadership team there is a good mix of all ages, stages and singles/marrieds. Some of the strongest most full on christians in our church are singles who are comfortable in thier own skin, accepted, secure and are generally brilliant role models	Jul 21, 2012 2:15 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

231	IN MY CHURCH FAMILY, WE ARE ALL EQUAL. WE CARE FOR EACH OTHER VERY MUCH AND DON'T CONSIDER ANY ONE TO BE LESSER OR GREATER BECAUSE OF THEIR MARITAL STATUS	Jul 21, 2012 5:50 AM
232	Unfortunately, there aren't many singles in my church. However, many wives attend alone.	Jul 21, 2012 4:20 AM
233	I am in a community that cares and is better than most in building genuine relationship. its not perfect but its come a long way in seing people released and accepted. It still can be hard for individuals to walk into church on their own and to feel known - especially in bad times - culturally we are not so good at just calling round.	Jul 21, 2012 4:18 AM
234	We really do function as a family and as I've said, are encouraged to minister to each other . We do have an age gap between about 15 and 35 but we're praying about that! As we are a "gathered" church we have different people in and out as well as the core congregation so we are used to people we don't know coming through the door and try to make them feel welcome without overwhelming them. Our worship is radical and lively (which I accept may put some people off) but no-one is expected/exhorted to do anything they don't feel comfortable doing. When my husband was called home I spent one meeting just crying. I was not ushered out, but a dear lady came and held my hand and supplied me with tissues whilst I'm sure praying for me. We LOVE each other through good and bad.	Jul 20, 2012 3:12 PM
235	There are large numbers of single people within the church.	Jul 20, 2012 2:51 PM
236	Being involved with Sunday School has meant that there is a generation of children who have grown up with me as an 'uncle'. Most of the parents encourage this relationship and I find that I am part of many families. I am lucky that way, shy singles may find it harder to fit in.	Jul 20, 2012 1:59 PM
237	People just meet and chat and hang out and 'enjoy' the single life for ever and ever. No one cares (it seems) that people aren't getting married.	Jul 20, 2012 7:54 AM
238	It doesn't matter if you're single, married, divorced my Church accepts everyone as made in the image of God and doesn't treat people differently because of their relationship status and I don't know of any Church that does - it seems to me to be some single people who don't like being single who are hyper sensitive about it rather than what actually happens.	Jul 20, 2012 3:27 AM
239	I have never been made to feel different. We have singles,divorced,married and gay couples who are all treated equally.	Jul 19, 2012 2:26 PM
240	The church I have attended for 20 years is not a good place for a single Christian. I have joined a second church as it has an evening service which attracts Christian adults from a wide range of ages and backgrounds. I also organises ceilidh's, quiz nights and monthly country walks which I attend.	Jul 19, 2012 1:25 PM
241	We are accepted for who we are and we are part of the church family but preference is still given to married couples even though singles are loved and catered for which is better than a lot of other churches.	Jul 19, 2012 10:40 AM
242	our church has a very warm welcome,all are included, many blessings of friendship, for all, its a special place to be,has a great strong feeling,@atmosphere,every time you go,no matter when,its fantastic in my eyes? we all helpone another constantly.	Jul 19, 2012 10:39 AM

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243	I found a book by Doug Murren where he recounts the journey he went through as a married pastor in understanding singles, listening to them and including them in church life. He has a church in America. About ten years ago I sent a copy of the excellent chapter about singles to Spring Harvest and suggested that he should be invited to preach there on this subject. When I was at Christian City Church Sydney, I articulated specific issues relating to the neglect of the church towards singles. I was very impressed when the reaction of the pastor I spoke to was not evasive but she said 'I hear you and I will pray'. Next thing I knew, the leadership apologized to the singles in front of the church in a service for neglecting them, and immediately organized a singles conference, using as many older singles to teach as possible, and they resumed the singles social ministry which had dwindled to nothing. I was very impressed with this response. In England all I know is excuses.	Jul 19, 2012 5:46 AM
244	I never feel single at my Church I am valued, respected, included, listened to. encouraged to contribute, loved and included often in hospitality	Jul 18, 2012 2:03 PM
245	nothing comes to mind. My church has never organised an event specifically for single people.	Jul 18, 2012 9:30 AM
246	All are encouraged to contribute. Internal Ministry positions do not discriminate, externally advertised ones are filled by married couples.	Jul 17, 2012 3:47 PM
247	We strive to be an accepting community taking people as we find them and being inclusive. I feel part of a family at Inspire more than I have anywhere else. Each person is valued for who they are and given time and space to use their gifts and talents. That how church should be.	Jul 17, 2012 1:45 PM
248	A safe environment	Jul 17, 2012 12:47 PM
249	Please see the above. I would add that there are at least 10 single, separated or divorced women and two men and I don't think any one of them would feel isolated or unloved. We support each other. I would say our church is a good place for singles to worship because there is a lot of empathy, love and practical help.	Jul 17, 2012 12:44 PM
250	Singles are not particularly focused on and need to feel comfortable the presence of married people. This may be easier if you have had children and become single as I have. Many of our activities, groups, meetings are not gender or status orientated and those do not necessarily inhibit participation by single.	Jul 17, 2012 10:01 AM
251	I always content in my church have been so for years but it's more than just a place of worship it's a unity of fellowship also the singing the union of love and the aspirations of knowing Jesus in a more intimate way prayer alone is also a special part of being intimate with God as he said I hear those who pray in secret	Jul 17, 2012 5:43 AM
252	It is very welcoming and accepting, saying this I am one of the only young single people there	Jul 17, 2012 5:05 AM
253	for me church is very important not only for single person but for everyone especially to those who want to give up, lose their hope, have problems and obstacles, church helps us to be strong to believe in God, that God gives us strength power to endure it.	Jul 16, 2012 10:53 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

254	Activities that involve all members	Jul 16, 2012 9:33 PM
255	There are lots of events, courses and social activities. However, although it should be a minefield for finding partners, that hasn't proven to be the case, and there still is a problem with singleness. This isn't because of the church's attitude toward single people per se (they are valued and respected just as much as couples) but rather because among Christian men it has almost become impossible sometimes to ask women out for fear of rejection, exclusion etc, while women complain of not being asked out enough (but then only want to be asked out by the people they want to ask them out).	Jul 16, 2012 5:37 PM
256	Honestly my church, St Thomas' Philadelphia in Sheffield has many great qualities as a lively and passionate worshipping spiritual community, but I could not describe it as a good place for single Christians. In spite of the sheer number of younger (40 or under) single Christians in this church...it is an exceptionally lonely place to be single within....There are very few low-key genuine opportunities for single to mix and just gently get to know each other better with a view to maybe dating as friendships develop.	Jul 16, 2012 4:51 PM
257	After some bible study evenings within the church about relationships (one of which was singleness) some singles in the church revealed that they felt left out by couples for example they were not invited to meals or felt awkward when invited alone to meals etc. Now couples generally take this into consideration and invite two singles (but not with the purpose of matchmaking!!)	Jul 16, 2012 4:21 PM
258	tries to support single young adults - has young adult cell group - but it does seperate it from young adults who are married which is bad. not many singles so difficult to meet people through church	Jul 16, 2012 2:21 PM
259	Can't think of anything, although I am sure there is.	Jul 16, 2012 12:38 PM
260	If single membership from being young opportunities are made for involvement in numerous activities, the Scout and Guide sections being an example. Numerous branches with which I am familiar continue to absorb newcomers into the total programme, both male and female. Newcomers are 'befriended' from the start and are given every opportunity to share in fellowship and worship at all levels. The accent on youth leadership bridges the gap between young and older members.. There is also ample opportunities for meeting with members of adjacent branches of the church and attempts to strengthen membership of smaller branches.	Jul 16, 2012 12:27 PM
261	our church has been running an outreach community project for the last 4 years reaching out to the sick, poor, addicts...everyone. over the last 2 years we have opened our doors first for a free cafe twice a week and now are open most days for food bank, clothing sale, debt advice, credit union, job search etc,prayer nights, healing service, kids clubs it has become a haven were everyone is welcomed warmly without judgement and over time some people have started to come to church on a sunday.	Jul 16, 2012 10:57 AM
262	In Corinthians Paul talks about how it is BEST to be single, and equally good to be married. Our church really get this, and given that most of the congregation are single students its a good job they do!	Jul 16, 2012 6:59 AM
263	I live my life a a unique human being and do not consider myself as "single"there are so many other aspects to my being.	Jul 16, 2012 1:11 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

264	i wouldnt say it makes a great place for singles it makes an awesome place for all!!	Jul 15, 2012 12:47 PM
265	Can't think of anything in particular, but to be involved you do need to have some confidence.	Jul 15, 2012 12:01 PM
266	I find my church doesn't make a difference to people. It is quite a large church but I think everyone is treated equally. Whitewell metropolitan tabernacle Belfast.	Jul 15, 2012 9:07 AM
267	Even couples and families present themselves as individuals	Jul 14, 2012 3:06 PM
268	Not sure; I was at my church with my ex-husband when we were married and since our split and divorce. As I already had good supportive friends they have stuck by me, so while I now attend as single, I feel well supported and part of the church family as a whole. Coming in new to our church as a single may be different, but as it's not been my experience, I am unable to comment.	Jul 14, 2012 1:39 PM
269	My church has prayed for single people to come into the church, especially Christian singles, so that people can connect and possible marry.	Jul 14, 2012 12:23 PM
270	The church takes people through deliverance processes, and some members receive their breakthroughs through deliverance.	Jul 14, 2012 8:41 AM
271	My church is very small (9 members) and everyone knows everyone else. We all support each other whatever our status. If one were cynical, you could say "beggars can't be choosers" but I think small churches are able to look more openly at what individuals have to offer - thus singles can very much feel part of the church.	Jul 14, 2012 7:54 AM
272	We have men only or women only social events that are fine for a single person to attend without any problem. I attended a Singles Day event at St Saviour's Church, Sunbury. The author Julia Morgan spoke - I was keen to attend as such events are a rearity. It was worthwhile.	Jul 14, 2012 4:10 AM
273	I DO NOT CURRENTLY ATTEND CHURCH.	Jul 14, 2012 3:54 AM
274	We are all treated as individuals whether married or single	Jul 13, 2012 2:40 PM
275	I cannot say I have found it to be a good place for single Christians as there are not many of them but lots of older widows though. but realistically, because single people are single because of different circumstances and ages, you cannot lump us together as our needs would be different.	Jul 13, 2012 12:32 PM
276	My church has been very accepting of those from broken marriages.	Jul 13, 2012 11:37 AM
277	My church is very much a Family and we tend to care for one another, however, even in my good church I sometimes feel a bit isolated. This is probably more my fault as I am rather shy.	Jul 13, 2012 7:38 AM
278	There is a social group for people in their thirties or over.	Jul 13, 2012 7:07 AM
279	My church is a very welcoming place and our worship times together are great. It is the social side where I feel I am on the outside.	Jul 13, 2012 5:58 AM
280	A lot of old widows and widows in my church so people look out for each	Jul 13, 2012 12:21 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	other. Trouble is, I'm just too young compared to the others .	
281	No comment.	Jul 12, 2012 9:19 PM
282	i'm not in a church...yet you keep asking the questions....why do you do this? whatever the reason is the church does the same thing	Jul 12, 2012 1:46 PM
283	The church is friendly and some people don't see being single as a negative thing	Jul 12, 2012 1:31 PM
284	Sometimes it is awkward being a single in church, but not as bad in secular life, where you can be considered plain weird. Church is a loving environment, no matter if you are single, married, gay, widowed, divorced. However, I do think there are big issues for divorcees. They could be considered as failures in the church...	Jul 12, 2012 1:21 PM
285	I can't think of any	Jul 12, 2012 12:04 PM
286	We had a singles seminar we ae encouraged to meet up as a group or church family and to serve	Jul 12, 2012 9:00 AM
287	there are quite a few single Christians in the church - people are accepted for what they are irrespective of their relationship status	Jul 12, 2012 8:57 AM
288	my church accepts everybody regardless of colour, race, sex, status in life, etc. all the congregations were represented w/ a flag that's hanging on the ceiling of the church and there are connect groups for everybody	Jul 12, 2012 3:45 AM
289	It doesn't	Jul 11, 2012 3:13 PM
290	The church is what has got me through my marriage break up,I have felt loved and cared for by everyone.Its like an extension of my family and I could not live without them.	Jul 11, 2012 2:05 PM
291	My vicar was brilliant and he noticed things eg if I was upset. Once, just after I was recently widowed I was about to break down after the service and he noticed, as I was rooted to the spot. He literally ran from the altar and took me in his arms whilst I broke. He also reassured everyone around because he realised what was happening. After that he and his wife had me for lunch every Friday for over a year until I was back on my feet.	Jul 11, 2012 11:13 AM
292	ite ok	Jul 11, 2012 7:03 AM
293	All members are made to feel they are valued members of the Body of Christ and each has a special gift from God to use to the benefit and growth of the Church	Jul 10, 2012 5:52 PM
294	it would be good if at events it didnt split so families sit together, couples sit together and singles sit together. It would be nice to see a mix	Jul 10, 2012 1:52 PM
295	As an active member of my Church which is Roman Catholic I feel part of the church and accepted by the congretation	Jul 10, 2012 1:49 PM
296	it's great if you are under 30 but not so good if your divorced and in your 40s. We all tend to sit together watching the door for any single men...which, as yet, we are still watching for!	Jul 10, 2012 11:31 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

297	There are some other single people, so I suppose this helps	Jul 10, 2012 9:21 AM
298	we feel good in the presence of our God who is not a respecter of person	Jul 10, 2012 9:15 AM
299	I don't think a singles group in one Church is a good idea, I suggest it would be much better, if several Churches joined together to organise an event for singles. My current knowledge is that singles join in with everybody else with whatever is happening	Jul 10, 2012 4:34 AM
300	I've been part of my church since I moved t a new city (as a single person) 13 years ago, so I am very 'at home' there. People sometimes ask if I am married or have children, but I don't think the answer to those questions have in any way changed whether I am accepted and to what degree I can participate.	Jul 10, 2012 3:57 AM
301	Several attempts have been made to start a singles group (by singles) but they have never really got off the ground due to lack of interest/support. Individual couples/families tend to "adopt" a single inviting them to become part of their family. We also have monthly age to age games evenings for which no partner is needed, these are usually well attended by both singles and couples.	Jul 10, 2012 3:09 AM
302	i belong to a very welcoming church, but also as a single you need to be sociable to.	Jul 10, 2012 1:32 AM
303	My church is better than most, but because it has a fair share of older singles, divorcees and widows - not because the marrieds are more sensitive :-). Churches will change if they have to... invite more single mums, divorcees, retired folk, after-school clubs - the more variety the better..	Jul 9, 2012 2:24 PM
304	It provides activities for youth and community projectsfor the older individuals.	Jul 9, 2012 3:22 AM
305	There is a fairly thriving youth work going on, involving those singles in their early 20s, who've come up through the young peoples' groups, as leaders.	Jul 9, 2012 3:17 AM
306	An awareness of the leadership of the church of the diversity of living situations of the congregation	Jul 8, 2012 12:42 PM
307	I think my Church accepts individuals as they are. It's important to get to know individuals and not to see their status but to see them as a child of God. As children of God, we are all equal. There is a good mix of young singles, young and older married people as well as older people who have either never married, or who have loss their partners. This makes us a family. We are all different and it takes God's grace for us to be able to get along with each other and love one another. By the Spirit of God we shall do this.	Jul 8, 2012 9:34 AM
308	SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IS A GOOD PLACE FOR SINGLE CHRISTIANS BECAUSE WE HAVE A LOT OF PROGRAMES FOR SINGLES BEFORE THEY GET INTO MARRIAGE	Jul 8, 2012 5:47 AM
309	My chuch is neither a good or bad place for single christians. It is a growing church with new families joining. There are a number of singles and we mix with our married friends who are also starting to have families. I don't consider single people to be a 'special breed' that require 'special treatment' from the church oversight.	Jul 8, 2012 3:48 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

310	there is quite a few singles young women	Jul 7, 2012 12:25 PM
311	Nothing is restricted to me as a Single except marriage courses. I can participate in all aspects of my church and grow independently of any partner.	Jul 7, 2012 10:18 AM
312	They provide an Fifty Plus group that meets once a fortnight. My church has a group for twenties to thirties group. they embrace singles.	Jul 7, 2012 9:52 AM
313	Only good thing is that there are women only events so dont always feel like everything is for couples	Jul 7, 2012 8:25 AM
314	Single people will find the best person to fall in love in my Church: Jesus! He is more than enough for everything, if we get married is just a good extra from God.	Jul 7, 2012 7:19 AM
315	There is prayer and worship. Fellowship with fellow christians helps me.	Jul 7, 2012 7:04 AM
316	My church is good for singles under the age of 30years as there is a very active young adults ministry. (It is not so good for older singles. There are a lot of single ladies over the age of 40. THE EXPECTATION IS THAT all Christians should be active in church but although I am a worker in the church I socialise with friends I have grown up with who don't attend my church and with friends I have met through work. These are mainly female and most are christians. - sorry probably in the wrong section and not inspirational!)	Jul 7, 2012 6:43 AM
317	There is no good or bad church for single Christians. We are the ones what we make of our environments. Church is house of God open to all including and even more to sinners as well. For all people of this earth. If we would decide how to respond or act just assuming what other people are thinking about us then we are lacking in faith and trust. We know none of us is perfect and no perfect place for any of us in this earth. Jesus is perfect and went to prepare a place for us in His Father's house for us then everything will be perfect. we are not here to be pleased but to serve.	Jul 7, 2012 6:14 AM
318	nothing to say	Jul 7, 2012 5:05 AM
319	Accepting and inclusive	Jul 7, 2012 3:04 AM
320	In my Church we all care and look out for one another no matter our relationship status - Just as Jesus would I believe.	Jul 6, 2012 4:46 PM
321	I have no idea. I haven't been going long enough to even think about it. I see it as Church. A place for me to be connected with God. i haven't really given my love life much thought whilst at Church yet!!	Jul 6, 2012 4:35 PM
322	Our church accepts everyone from all sorts of backgrounds and focuses on God and to help bring people to Jesus. It is a community based church so we have a lot of out reaches, so families, singles etc	Jul 6, 2012 4:14 PM
323	we have a mixed 30+ group some are married but most are single and we socialise at different time together as well	Jul 6, 2012 3:52 PM
324	Small congregation (about 20) means each person is obvious and being similar age feels part of the family and treated so - I feel accepted.	Jul 6, 2012 3:21 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

325	I can only speak as a single-parent after my ex-husband left me with 4 children aged 1 to 10 years old (having been married for 16 years) Our Pastor prays for us single parents & remembers to include us He has also, when things have been tough helped out with grocery vouchers He has treated my children to a take-away meal on occasion When my ex kept breaking into the house & stealing things (normally while we were at church) my pastor paid for a burglar alarm to be fitted to the house which helped us to feel a lot safer...	Jul 6, 2012 2:51 PM
326	It is not particularly good but personally I just get on with it and try not to think of my status but more about what I can do for others within my church- ie it's not about me. I do try to be grateful for the way God looks after me rather than what the church can do for me.	Jul 6, 2012 12:43 PM
327	I can't give an example from my home church but I can think of events such as organising a social event for single Christians from their church and neighbouring churches or churches of the same denomination. That would help single Christians to meet new people and find new friends and widen a circle of people they know. Also heard about men stop going to church because they felt isolated or didn't fit the church being single. In that case I wonder if they gave up on looking for a Christian wife which is their decision and responsibility.	Jul 6, 2012 2:29 AM
328	as I said above young/widowed is fine and a divorced/single older woman is accepted, but a man of my age is certainly not treated the same as the aforementioned.	Jul 6, 2012 12:36 AM
329	It doesn't. Yet to find a church that is a good place for single Christians.	Jul 5, 2012 3:42 PM
330	Widows and Widowers Bereavement annual service. Very caring. Quiz nights. Coffee and cakes etc., after the service. The love and care that people give you, knowing your grieving situation,	Jul 5, 2012 2:52 PM
331	We are all serving one god so i think that it makes a good place to be.	Jul 5, 2012 1:48 PM
332	Fellowship group largely composed of single people	Jul 5, 2012 1:29 PM
333	It is neither good nor bad.....In my opinion it is down to the singleton to find their own way in Church and should stop relying on the Church for their every waking moment.	Jul 5, 2012 3:38 AM
334	There aren't many single people, particularly under the age of 60. So probably not the best place to find a new partner.	Jul 4, 2012 1:44 PM
335	1) We have church outings 2) There is a lot teaching during the service which focus on singles	Jul 4, 2012 12:00 PM
336	30-50s group who meet for lunch once/month. Community groups and small groups give each person a place to belong if they want it.	Jul 4, 2012 9:12 AM
337	not applicable	Jul 4, 2012 6:56 AM
338	A change in attitude towards those who are divorced or living ontheir own.	Jul 4, 2012 3:09 AM
339	My pastor is interested in helping singles. He doesn't know what to do, like many others who married in early 20's	Jul 4, 2012 12:48 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

340	singles are encouraged to participate, and there is teaching aimed at singles regularly	Jul 4, 2012 12:47 AM
341	There is a large amount of single Christians at my church and as such there is always a lot of social activities going on outside of Sunday services that are very singles-friendly	Jul 4, 2012 12:00 AM
342	There is no implication that singleness is something that needs to be fixed, that we need to be helped out of. There are opportunities for single people to get together, but these are not 'date' or 'connect' events - we are valued and encouraged in this stage or state of life.	Jul 3, 2012 11:03 PM
343	In my church one can be real with the leaders and most of the congregation about one's feelings. That is a God send.	Jul 3, 2012 4:09 PM
344	There are lots of encouragements for all memebtrs to become involved in activities and services linked with their gifting rather than their status	Jul 3, 2012 3:22 PM
345	lots of activities for singles, albeit age limit 35 years. But as everyone can join in everything else, age or singleness is not an issue as wives don't necessarily join in the same things as their husband. She may do flowers, he may be a sidesperson and so everyone is an individual. If 3 women and 3 men are helping at church at the welcome desk, nobody ever thinks that they might 3 couples, or thinks about who is part of a couple but is alone, and who might be single...there are 6 people helping out.	Jul 3, 2012 3:13 PM
346	there is a twenties and thirties group at the church. good for younger singles, not so good for those of us who are older	Jul 3, 2012 3:06 PM
347	I know of Christian singles who have spent their time devoted to Church life, such as my friend who leads a youth group, and has a calling to this, and focuses on this, rather than merely only being concerned with finding a wife.	Jul 3, 2012 2:40 PM
348	20s-30s group. Plenty of other things to do that don't involve being married/having children.	Jul 3, 2012 12:44 PM
349	People are accepted as individuals on the whole.	Jul 3, 2012 11:56 AM
350	3 day annual singles weekend (bank holiday) where all the churches in the <denomination> come together. pastor involvement and variety of activities that allow ppl to meet others, showing that not everybody moves to the same drum (ie; some will be comfortable in party/dance atmosphere, some more with one on one). we have website for singles. general preaching from pulpit refers to singles as well as other grps such as widows, single parents and diff ages.	Jul 3, 2012 10:27 AM
351	There is an active 20's & 30's group who are mainly single (if you fit in that category!)	Jul 3, 2012 10:18 AM
352	I'm the only single Christian above the age of 30 in the church. There is nothing that makes it a good place for single Christians.	Jul 3, 2012 10:13 AM
353	A group of us single people went out for a meal together on Valentines Day	Jul 3, 2012 10:06 AM
354	the church i attend is multicultural and community based, we have a fair number of singles, all men, but they are involved and integrated,	Jul 3, 2012 9:59 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

355	The church I go to is large probably 700 enrolled members 18plus. If you are aged 30 or below social life is great in my church, lots of young families, teenagers etc, after that you have to learn to be very pro-active and self-sufficient and if you are not that way inclined its very difficult.	Jul 3, 2012 9:04 AM
356	Not any immediate thoughts	Jul 3, 2012 8:37 AM
357	At my church, EVERYONE is welcomed, EVERYONE is valued, EVERYONE can contribute to church life in the way they feel most comfortable, eg discussions, activities, ideas.. We have outreach groups for children, all types of families, single parents, dads, older persons, we have a womens' group and a mens' group who socialise regularly, as well as monthly Life groups, and church activities, eg last Sunday we had a church day out, we opened it to the wider community and 75 people attended... I gave a lift to a single mum and her 15 year old son and they had a fabulous time!!! We are constantly being reminded that we are all special, we are all part fo this great big church family, and we all know there is someone we could go to for help when we need it...	Jul 3, 2012 8:06 AM
358	I was a member of the same church before I was widowed and do not feel that I have been treated any differently in the ten years since. I take part in several areas in the church and think that all members are treated as valued members whatever their position.	Jul 3, 2012 5:39 AM
359	It is a small welcoming church, and I feel accepted there, but we only have a few singles, mostly a few teenagers. Would like to see more of my age, but I do feel part of the family and have married friends who are fun and suppotive so can't complain! Doing this survey makes me more likely to consider joining christian connections...	Jul 3, 2012 4:01 AM
360	Depends on the age range - there is plenty for single Christians up to the mid-30's age. For those of us 50+ it is not so easy.	Jul 3, 2012 3:48 AM
361	My church is one in which everyone can feel at home with a wide range of groups available for all ages. For instance there is an 18-25 group; that does not restrict itself to those ages and is willing to include those older than 25 and those a few months shy of 18. The group meets for Bible study around topical issues that affect daily life; food and drink are also provided. In the last year a devoted young couple have started Christianity Explored courses and these are going very well. In conjunction with this as a church we have gone through an 8 part course called Discipleship Explored ; this looked at what it really means to be a Disciple of Jesus in today's post-modern world.	Jul 3, 2012 3:28 AM
362	I spent many years looking for a chuch that treated me as an individual. I do not think my last anglican church realised that i found it hard to fit in but my vicar gave me his blessing when i told him and why i was moving on. i was accepted immediatly in Myton church in Leaminton warwickshire and i feel realy at home. there are about 400 members and they are of all ages and marrital status	Jul 3, 2012 3:22 AM
363	Has activities and a dedicated group leader who organises social events for single people.	Jul 3, 2012 3:15 AM
364	Basically, the congregation members are welcoming people, and so my church would be reasonable for anyone, but I would not specifically recommend it to single people, and I attend for other reasons than that it is a good place for the single.	Jul 3, 2012 3:05 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

365	Generally quite welcoming to all. I don't find it an inspiring place. We have a lot of old folks who are quite conservative and I see the warmth and genuineness of my own (married) generation brothers and sisters as the hope for the future. I think one has to be quite brave and just get involved.	Jul 3, 2012 3:02 AM
366	You are not treated as 'different' in an undervaluing way.	Jul 3, 2012 2:25 AM
367	Accepted and valued for the gifts I can bring to the fellowship	Jul 3, 2012 1:22 AM
368	Our church is a good place for Christians whether single or not. We have a wide cross section of ages and abilities in church. All activities are inclusive and one inspirational single person has Downs Syndrome and could not be more inspirational. Her love of the Lord and ability to share and break down barriers is second to none.	Jul 3, 2012 1:19 AM
369	My church to my knowledge see single Christianity as an issue. I suspect this is because overwhelmingly the pastoral and elder leadership are inevitably all married.	Jul 3, 2012 1:17 AM
370	Can't think of anything at all in any church I've ever been to and there's been quite a few.	Jul 3, 2012 1:16 AM
371	LOVE & Acceptance	Jul 2, 2012 11:21 PM
372	I think everyone is accepted for who they are, as a member of the body of Christ with their own gifts/contributions to the body. I feel this non-judgemental approach creates a conducive environment for relationships to flourish which can lead to marriage (the last wedding in the church was between 2 members of the congregation, a mature widow & a 60yr old gentleman who had never been married!). With at least 2 more engaged couples (& we're not a huge congregation), I think where singles are encouraged to focus on becoming true disciples of Christ rather than on their marital status, areas in their lives (which may well have been the barrier preventing them from meeting or successfully dating leading to marriage), can be dealt with/healing take place & a relationship/marriage follow if it is God's will.	Jul 2, 2012 6:00 PM
373	Genuinely welcoming and inclusive	Jul 2, 2012 5:48 PM
374	There are many single women but not many men in my church.	Jul 2, 2012 3:18 PM
375	Mine is a large city-wide church in which I've been a member for the last 20 years. It's very international body of people, vibrant, active in mission, with a wide age range from the very elderly down to babies and a genuine care for the church community. People on the whole are valued for who they are, not their marital status and women are active in leadership roles on an equal footing with men (except for eldership). I feel I am respected as a single woman more than in any other church in which I've been a member and other members would take me seriously - I suppose this is something which grows with age (I'm 60)!	Jul 2, 2012 3:05 PM
376	Singles are equally valued as leaders.	Jul 2, 2012 2:58 PM
377	It is informal and I did not feel that I stood out. The worship is inclusive with a meaningful exchange of the Peace. Use of an OHP so not looking down, therefore plenty of eye contact. Extensive activities, including home and encounter groups, lots of families and older people. Lively music. We have	Jul 2, 2012 2:53 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	free coffee after the service and everyone has helped me through the difficult times and they care in practical ways as well as welcoming and listening.	
378	I don't think it is	Jul 2, 2012 2:46 PM
379	I think because it is small all types of people mix together because there is not enough of any one group - families, singles, elderly, teens to "take over". For me too one particular couple who are my age with their children having moved away are very close friends and include me often in their home.	Jul 2, 2012 2:38 PM
380	I have recently moved churches as I had become the only single person in my age group. I am now in a church where there are a number of single Christians in my age group.	Jul 2, 2012 2:18 PM
381	If the church is a good place it would be a good place for all people, the same thing that makes it a good place for married couples would have first been a good place for single people. The church should care for and minister to all the needs of the a person. Understanding of biological and life stages should reflect the services that are there to meet those needs. Current updates and training of secular advances should be incorporated bringing the love and will of God into all things.	Jul 2, 2012 2:14 PM
382	My large evangelical church attracts a lot of students and older singles.	Jul 2, 2012 2:06 PM
383	its good bc there are at least 12 singles, but not good for romance as we all know each other so well!	Jul 2, 2012 1:58 PM
384	There's an active 20s & 30s group which is suitable for those aged 20 - 35.	Jul 2, 2012 1:51 PM
385	not sure sometimes I do feel like an outsider	Jul 2, 2012 1:41 PM
386	it doesn't	Jul 2, 2012 1:21 PM
387	events, single focused events ... just a place to serve and meet people, but nothing "seedy" as a "single's club"	Jul 2, 2012 1:07 PM
388	Prayer ministry- always makes me feel welcome when I go up for prayer.	Jul 2, 2012 1:03 PM
389	I have only just begun visiting the assembly I attend so I cannot yet give an honest answer to this question.	Jul 2, 2012 12:46 PM
390	My vicar has been married for over 20 years so not experienced singleness. When I approached him last year about bringing a single day event at church, he totally stepped out of his comfort zone and we worked together in leading a single day called "One Single Day" which was named by us as a church and we had Singles speaker Julia Morgan lead us in an amazing day.	Jul 2, 2012 12:44 PM
391	There are more singles in my church than married couples or families. There are never-married 20/30+, divorced 50/60's, widowed 70/80's. We had a wedding last year of a divorced lady in her 50's to a never-married man in his 50's. My church leaders take a very firm line on divorce, but are also very understanding when it is outside a person's control. We have regular fellowship meals together on Sundays after the service. There are times I feel 'left out', but they are few and far between, and generally it is my perception rather than reality. We are a small, close knit fellowship.	Jul 2, 2012 12:33 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

392	A church is about the people and relationships, so good experiences as a single for me revolve around the experiences where I have developed good relationships - in some ways being single is irrelevant to this, in others it has a big bearing on your needs how other people view you. Single people have more of a need for the church to be family and an opportunity to spend time with people and develop strong friendships. When churches/individuals recognise this and make the time is when a church is at its best for singles. Very family focused churches full of people in their 30s=40s with young children really struggle with this as life is very different. I find myself more often forming friendships with older women whose children have recently left home as they are in a more similar situation. Finding a church with a well functioning 20-30s group, or a local network is the best thing but rare in my experience. Also people being open to make the effort with new people rather than just maintaining their current circles and cliques is of huge importance as singles tend to be more mobile and therefore likely to move locations and churches.	Jul 2, 2012 12:32 PM
393	It doesn't....	Jul 2, 2012 12:28 PM
394	Where publicity for events is worded so obviously includes single people. More groups for singles to do things together.	Jul 2, 2012 12:10 PM
395	We are encouraged to be part of the church and serve in various capacities. We have singles' conferences and events where we can meet other singles and socialise that way.	Jul 2, 2012 12:02 PM
396	We have Parish social activities which are easy to attend as a single person - it's a caring and 'safe' environment. I have helped to start a Singles social group in our church - I would not consider doing this outside the church. It's a good way to socialise with like-minded people.	Jul 2, 2012 11:52 AM
397	Awareness of the needs of single people. Home groups which provide a church family.	Jul 2, 2012 11:50 AM
398	SOCIAL GROUPS IN THE CHURCH, WHERE ALL SINGLES CAN SOCIALISE WHATEVER YOUR AGE HOUSE GROUPS, WHERE SMALL COMMUNITIES OF PEOPLE JOIN TOGETHER.	Jul 2, 2012 11:40 AM
399	I am in a minority at my church, as most singles are a lot older and widowed. We also have increasing numbers of young families in the congregation. However, it's a welcoming church and I don't feel overly excluded from things.	Jul 2, 2012 11:38 AM
400	My present church is much better than a previous one (of another denomination) that I belonged to for some years, as my present church has less strict views of life generally, is less judgmental, and more in touch with current culture - it might be surprising to say this, as the previous church I went to had modern, charismatic worship. My present church isn't as strongly directive about how people live their personal lives - it aims to encourage and help rather than to pressurize conformity	Jul 2, 2012 11:37 AM
401	I've never felt any different in church since becoming single again	Jul 2, 2012 11:33 AM
402	I have only been on my own for 18 mts, [ was married for 33 yrs and my husband was not a christian, so I was always in church on my own.	Jul 2, 2012 11:23 AM
403	There is a monthly SWD group (Single, Widowed & Divorced) which meets	Jul 2, 2012 11:15 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	in homes once a month on Sunday lunchtimes and all bring food to share. However, although it is not exclusively for females, no males attend - 'not their thing' !	
404	I feel encouraged to use my ministry as a musician regardless of my relationship status.	Jul 2, 2012 10:45 AM
405	It can provide family for those who have none. I know one older single lady who regards all the church as her family and one young single Mum whose family are not supportive, who is looking much to the Church as family.	Jul 2, 2012 10:44 AM
406	My church welcomes everyone, whatever their status.	Jul 2, 2012 10:31 AM
407	I go to Bless Community Church in West London... we have singles of all ages are accepted for who they are... the church does not make them feel awkward because they are single. That is NOT the church's place to judge. Being single is not always a choice - a lot of people dont realise that. Bless is a wonderful community orientated church. Who ever you are, you feel accepted and welcomed into the loving community without being judged.	Jul 2, 2012 9:54 AM
408	The weekly church meetings are focused on peoples passions, and this is used to feed and encourage mission based activities in the community. This often involves mixing with other churches which provides a great opportunity to befriend other Christian singles.	Jul 2, 2012 9:42 AM
409	We have different groups that involve single or married people, it is just that when it comes to socialising, you feel left out when you are single, you need to be quite self assured at times	Jul 1, 2012 1:28 PM
410	There is a young catholic singles group, which includes divorced singles, widow/er etc. There is support for those finding themselves single.	Jul 1, 2012 10:28 AM
411	There are quite a few of us singles in the church, and the roles people have are not dependent upon whether they're married or single but more to do with the level of individuals' engagement, and interest.	Jul 1, 2012 9:16 AM
412	After my husband died (5 years ago) 2 couples invited me and my son for tea/a meal. I was too much in shock at the time to reciprocate; they didn't pursue it and so I have felt quite isolated ever since. In a small village, it is very difficult to make contact if you are working full-time and are not involved in village activity. In my case I had a close relative alive for a few years but the situation regarding contact from church has not changed. In the end, I offered to host a housegroup at my home, so that I could stay in (for my son) and not miss bible study. In worship, prayer and meetings, single people's gifts are welcomed as part of the church family, so we don't feel excluded in that way.	Jul 1, 2012 9:13 AM
413	Because I can get involved in anything and my church are my spiritual family. I am invited for dinner, social engagement and people are praying I will find a husband and be able to have a family.	Jul 1, 2012 5:44 AM
414	N/A	Jul 1, 2012 4:44 AM
415	MY CHURCH ARE QUITE SUPPORTIVE IN BEING SINGLE, BUT I DO FEEL THAT THEY HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS ON IT.. I UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE TO SEEK HIM FIRST (GOD) AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED, OUR CHURCH HAS NO SINGLE MEN THERE AT ALL	Jun 30, 2012 3:03 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	AND HASN'T DONE SINCE I HAVE BEEN ATTENDING IN THE LAST 8 YEARS.. ITS HARD TO TRUST THAT GOD CAN STILL BRING THE RIGHT MAN IN TO THAT CHURCH IF IT BE HIS WILL, WHEN WE AREN'T EVEN ON THE MAP..	
416	Quite simply my church accepts individuals for who they are and they do try to cater for them. The only issue I would say is that sometimes in traditional churches its hard for the 'elders' to accept that the world and it's people evolve to embrace the 'new world'	Jun 30, 2012 2:29 PM
417	Everyone is accepted in the Salvation Army in my church.	Jun 30, 2012 2:02 PM
418	Is good for students and younger singles.	Jun 30, 2012 1:59 PM
419	nothing	Jun 29, 2012 4:36 PM
420	I think that the church is a good place to learn about being a disciple which is important and there are many single men and women in the congregation. There are prayer breakfast groups for men and Q&A sessions in a local pub. At one time there was a cricket team. For the ladies there are Pamper evenings and I belong to a women's home group.	Jun 29, 2012 12:17 PM
421	It has lots of organized events, that all people are encouraged to get involved in.	Jun 29, 2012 3:13 AM
422	as Im separated the congregation knee me as married before I was single.	Jun 28, 2012 3:35 PM
423	I now attend a church that is inclusive and friendly where everyone is accepted for who he or she is regardless of age or marital status and where the gifts of the Spirit are encouraged and practiced by all. Being single within this environment has not been a major issue for me however I believe finding a church where singles feel they belong can at times be a problem particularly if a church focuses only on the traditional family or students or older people etc or where the focus does not allow for the freedom of the Spirit to be exercised.	Jun 28, 2012 2:34 PM
424	we are a family	Jun 28, 2012 12:58 PM
425	Its great in that it doesn't 'single me out'. I'm just someone saved by grace like everyone else, and they make it easy for me to get involved and feel part of the family by throwing a fellowship lunch after many sunday services-we all bring something and its nice not having to go home alone for sunday lunch.	Jun 28, 2012 9:42 AM
426	It's a small interactive church: coffee and chat before the service, able to voice ideas and questions during the service and time to mix and chat afterwards. Everyone - men and women are happy to talk with me.	Jun 28, 2012 7:51 AM
427	1. Singles ministry 2. Men's and women's ministries where singleness and marriage is discussed and understood (many Christians have an incorrect view of headship and submission) 3. People making friends regardless of marital status 4. Promoting sites like Christian Connection My church does 2 and 3. The others would be good to do too.	Jun 27, 2012 5:47 PM
428	The church I curenly attend doesn't do any activities or clubs for singles. St mary's in Byronston square central london did many things ie the one course and date my mate. Where i am now there are no single people on the	Jun 27, 2012 2:44 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	<p>leadership team or as an elder and I think this is why nothing is addressed when it comes to the single of the congregation which is one third or one quarter of the congregation. The people are lovely and very understanding but unless I lead and organise a thing for the singles at our church I can't see it ever changing. but I am too busy as a teacher to organise anything. Plus I already help with the kids club and the welcoming team.</p>	
429	<p>IDONT GO REGULAR, BUT MOST OF THE MEMBERS ARE FRIENDLY AND CHATTY. tHEY DO HAVE FAMILY BREAKFAST MORNING, WHICH I FIND TI QUITE AMASING!! THEY DO LOTS FOR THE COMMUNITY.</p>	Jun 27, 2012 2:35 PM
430	<p>It is a true mix of men/women, young and old, rich and poor single and married. There are no "cool" clicks!!</p>	Jun 27, 2012 11:12 AM
431	<p>As a single church leader I make a point of speaking about and explaining singleness to families, and making connections with other single church members.</p>	Jun 27, 2012 8:07 AM
432	<p>It is almost entirely singles. It's a small group of individuals with no kids and only a couple of married couples.</p>	Jun 27, 2012 2:59 AM
433	<p>The Pastors of our church are spiritual parents to all the single folk. Everyone is made to feel like part of their family. They look out for each one of us. I have grown so much as a Christian under their nurturing and leadership.</p>	Jun 26, 2012 3:01 PM
434	<p>not sure</p>	Jun 26, 2012 2:39 PM
435	<p>If you're 25-30 then it's ok because you still fall in the 'student' age group for which there is space / social activities. After 30 there's nothing because most people are married by then. There's some social interaction for single mothers who don't work by way of children's groups / mom's and toddlers - but nothing for single dad's AT ALL. Even the men's ministry (for single or married men) is full of 25-30's and very few older men. This is not at all a good church for singles - and even new people who are married because social interaction / fellowship is not actively promoted and/or encouraged - aside from on Sunday where lunch is served afterwards (westminster chapel). Great church for teaching/preaching.</p>	Jun 26, 2012 1:14 PM
436	<p>A lot of the women in particular who attend my church are single, of varying ages and often have been in relationships/married etc that have not worked out because their partner has left/they've separated/been widowed. I am the youngest single woman in my church and I feel as though I fit it as although there are families, they're also older female singletons too which has been great for discipleship etc. There aren't any single men my age which in some ways is good as it's less distracting and allows me to become more involved in the church family. But because of the latter. it's also why I choose to use this site :).</p>	Jun 26, 2012 12:32 PM
437	<p>These are about generic churches, not necessarily just mine - Other single people of the same age - to build community and go out for an evening - lots of Christian marrieds my age have kids now, so there are fewer and fewer people to go out with in the evening, which is why you need single people of your age. Married couples of the same age who invest in single people and invite them round for dinner parties, inviting others who are not also exclusively married. Other married couples of the same age having some empathy - that they could be in my position too. The male leadership of the</p>	Jun 26, 2012 11:59 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	church actively investing in twenty-something Christian men and in discipling them. Clear vision - so that men who come have something to 'buy into'	
438	I wouldn't say that the church is a good place for singles per se, however, being a member of the church has made me rethink my attitude to sex and relationships. It does mean that I am less likely to embark on a relationship if I meet someone who I know I would not want to marry. Being a church member means that I get less opportunities to meet single men. Sorry no inspiration.	Jun 26, 2012 3:17 AM
439	As a big town centre church it attracts large numbers of singles, who are pretty lively and often outgoing. As an outgoing person, I find it easy to integrate, but do appreciate that there are some who might feel overwhelmed.	Jun 25, 2012 3:24 PM
440	Singles and couples are treated as equals in my church community.	Jun 25, 2012 1:28 PM
441	My church is not a great place for singles. There are not a lot of options or choice, the elders choose not to acknowledge that singles are unhappy being single, some go as far as saying if any single person is unhappy about their single hood, it is because they are not fully formed in their relationship with Christ. In their view Christ is enough and they emphasised on St Paul's teaching on been single. The annoying thing is that the people that take this view are all married. A lady in my church married a non Christian man and the pastor was very quick to punish her by suspending her church membership. But nothing done about the why she might have chosen to marry outside the church.	Jun 25, 2012 1:22 PM
442	Week end can be not good for single people. Having church on Sundays good to see people have a chat. Also facilities during the week also is beneficial. Also being single there are opportunities to being more involved without the constraints that a married person might have	Jun 25, 2012 9:50 AM
443	well i dont have a great amount to add but i do have a great priest and a great church whom welcomes everyone no matter who and we provide a safe haven.	Jun 25, 2012 3:15 AM
444	EVERYONE CARES FOR EVERYONE	Jun 25, 2012 1:59 AM
445	i have recently had dates with single christian ladies. i discovered the following - they have exactly the same motivation as single non christian women. they want a man that looks like george clooney - drives a motor vehicle (if its a scooter - forget it!) has a nice square jaw and a nice square butt to match - and has a nice big fat - wallet. if the good lord can prove me wrong and give me a christian woman that just wants - LOVE - from a hard working guy - not that great looking but doesnt frighten the horses - with a skinny butt and a pedal bike for transport - i will write back in to you. we can declare this a miracle - contact the Vatican and have me sainthooded (or whatever they do !) and enshrined in Lourdes - forever and ever - amen.	Jun 24, 2012 3:58 PM
446	Just the fact it is very welcoming and all of the members are very close, so those married or in a relationship will try and set you up if you can be!	Jun 24, 2012 3:02 PM
447	St Mary's is a lovely parish church and I have found friendship and peace in the 6-8 months I have been there, the minister Clive is a wonderful priest and will give of his time whenever asked	Jun 24, 2012 2:53 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

448	Being single has never been an issue in the church I attend. All are made more than welcome and accepted.	Jun 24, 2012 1:55 PM
449	The church i am in at the moment is a church plant with mainly those in their 20's and 30's. There are lots of fantastic couples who really love me for who i am. I don't think they care that i am single and treat me the same as anyone else. I think they would like me to be married because they think i should be, not because i am less of a person for not being married.	Jun 24, 2012 1:31 PM
450	lots of ativities	Jun 24, 2012 10:53 AM
451	As a member of a very small fellowship which mostly comprises couples, I am very aware that I don't often get included in couples' social events. In church matters and on a one to one I am not discriminated against but on a social level I am.	Jun 24, 2012 9:16 AM
452	When you know who you are in Christ everything falls into place .	Jun 24, 2012 5:59 AM
453	It is a welcoming community, no matter who you are.	Jun 24, 2012 4:27 AM
454	As a single woman it can often be lonely from time to time, but the Church is so open and welcoming that it can make me feel as though I am part of a community which does not discern my worth by my relationship status	Jun 23, 2012 4:11 PM
455	I think the Anglo-Catholic Tradition is a part of the church where some single men and women feel secure and welcome because of the Catholic respect for the single life. That said, I don't think anyone expects me to stay single forever - but you certainly find yourself in good company of people who haven't yet found someone or are just happier in the single life. I think perhaps, people like me with perhaps more conservative views on sexual morality, can feel threatened by a very sexualised society and media and see Church as a break from those pressures. That can however make you quite reticent to go out looking!	Jun 23, 2012 1:30 PM
456	My church accepts people regardless of their personal status and embraces everyone equally. I think single men find it more difficult because women reach out to one another and make friendship groups but men in general don't. The vast majority of adult people in my church are couples.	Jun 23, 2012 10:28 AM
457	My church accepts PEOPLE and doesn't catigorise them. - I personally wouldn't want to be singled out for special treatment because I was single or married or anything else. I am part of a housegroup and may be hosting one full time soon, I am part of a ministry team etc but that is because of the gifts God has given me and that would be the same single or otherwise.	Jun 23, 2012 7:36 AM
458	When i first started going to my church and became a Christian almost 5 years ago my answers would have been different but myself and a few other singles have raised awareness and our church has become much more open and loving and supportive. I started a Singles social group and more recently changed it to a Friends social group to include a wider group of people. We invite non-christian friends along too and show them Jesus's love.Thorough this the leadership in the church has grown more supportive and are asking for ways in which the church can help and do more for singles/vulnerable people.	Jun 23, 2012 6:07 AM
459	My church leaders really try to accept everyone and that is very rare in many churches. We have a real community and everyone can find friends in the	Jun 23, 2012 3:17 AM

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	church through house groups or social groups. We have a surprising high number of weddings although there is not much emphasis on marriage or status as married people. We have a large community church and accept everyone for who they are because our leaders are such good examples. That makes a real difference to us how we interact with each other.	
460	I am a young person and most people at church are already married or in a relationship.	Jun 23, 2012 2:58 AM
461	I have been made to feel welcome. I have found people will come up to me to say hello because they can see I am on my own. My church were keen for me to join a midweek home / house group so that I could get to know people better.	Jun 23, 2012 12:23 AM
462	i ACTUALLY DO A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES THOUGH IT IS FOCUSED ON WOMEN .THOSE WHO HAVE CAUGHT THE VISION HAVE FELT MORE OF A SENSE OF BELONGING THAN IN CHURCH	Jun 22, 2012 5:05 PM
463	other single Christians of similar age(s) - and married folk who have *time* for singles! Good when they hold house lunches, or Bible study sessions where the "outsider" is now barred from tagging along! Some of my past churches create schisms between members and non-members that really doesn't help that! Ad others have no ministries that meet the social/romantic needs as such...	Jun 22, 2012 3:59 PM
464	Oh dear, perhaps a good place for younger singles but now in my 40's it is now a family church- great as this is through outreach but I feel less a part and am now struggling to find positive anecdotes	Jun 22, 2012 3:40 PM
465	At a recent 20s-30s group, we had a talk on relationships by a married couple. In some ways it was a bit too much geared towards "marriage prep" but in principle it was a good forum. One of us singles is going to run a subsequent session on "the reality of being single" which will be promising (and honest)! Personally, I find it difficult to be approaching 40 and single; having become a christian later in life and wanting to marry a christian is a challenge! My single and married friends at church are an important source of support, and fun, for me.	Jun 22, 2012 3:31 PM
466	About 5 years ago, an initiative by a single person resulted in a one-off social event for all the known older single people in the church. From that has come a structure in which supportive friendships have been made, a smaller group meets regularly for a meal while others join up for theatre trips etc. Some acknowledged, at that first meeting, that they did not realise certain individuals were single from the brief encounters on Sundays and at church meetings. Only another single will know and understand what the needs and feelings of a single person are.	Jun 22, 2012 2:58 PM
467	Firstly, the adherence to the Word of God showing the all inclusiveness of God's love and grace and his heart for the lonely and disadvantaged and that they have a full and equal place in the family of God. Secondly, the culture of the church in practising all inclusiveness through reaching out to singles and ensuring they are not "invisible".	Jun 22, 2012 2:43 PM
468	Our church is welcoming to singles now because about 5 years ago there was an initiative to bring all the older single Christians together at a one-off social event, in an attempt to provide us with our own community. From that has grown supportive friendships, a smaller group that meets regularly for a	Jun 22, 2012 2:38 PM

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	meal and other individuals enjoying theatre trips etc together. At that first meeting individuals acknowledged that they did not realise who was single, from previous brief encounters on Sundays & church meetings; we needed a structure within which we could begin to address the issues facing a single person - which only another single person knows.	
469	The church i attend is good if you are single as they host many events to encourage community spirit and fellowship, so there are plenty of chances to meet others, unfortunately for me there are not many single men in the community that attend church or the events we hold.	Jun 22, 2012 2:38 PM
470	Everyone is accepted and valued. I recently moved to the town where I currently live and people at the church I attend have gone out of their way to be welcoming, but I don't think this is related to me being single.	Jun 22, 2012 12:51 PM
471	Such an unusual mix of people = age/ethnic/status/etc - that there isn't really a 'norm'	Jun 22, 2012 12:26 PM
472	You are part of a family - mix with married, single, old and young and can see problems and benefits of all different experiences therefore less pressure to be something you are not.	Jun 22, 2012 11:23 AM
473	Nothing!	Jun 22, 2012 10:32 AM
474	They are very friendly and acceptable of singleness but as in life you are more acceptable in a marriage/relationship	Jun 22, 2012 9:56 AM
475	- Relaxed atmosphere particularly at the 'family' service - lots of roles people can contribute that give a sense of purpose in being there aside from worship - valued as an individual for who I am - relaxed teas alongside every service where can chat to people - House Group and friendship groups, even if they do contain couples - Things like Alpha, where people tend to attend as individuals rather than couples, so the singleton does not stand out like a sore thumb!	Jun 22, 2012 9:31 AM
476	Many of the couples are not exclusive and make the effort to be individually friendly to people	Jun 22, 2012 9:25 AM
477	Families don't retreat into their homes and abandon you, good attempts to make their homes open. Single people have a lot more time to serve in the church, which gives you a lot of people to mix with.	Jun 22, 2012 8:46 AM
478	at the churches I have recently visited i have been approached and made to feel welcome by other singles but also by members of the congregation in general which is good	Jun 22, 2012 8:19 AM
479	There is a new young single male youth pastor age 24 and now they are involving / including / accepting singles at the front with testimonies. Previously they only had married couples with testimonies and acted like only married couples qualified to give testimony! but it was really boring having the same old married couples all the time and now they have singles much more relevant and interesting.	Jun 22, 2012 7:00 AM
480	They can develop their gifts un hindered by family pressures	Jun 22, 2012 6:08 AM
481	unfortunately not a good place for singles	Jun 22, 2012 3:35 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

482	j	Jun 21, 2012 6:10 PM
483	Church is a difficult place to be single. People no longer play matchmaker. It really helps just to be introduced to people.	Jun 21, 2012 4:10 PM
484	My current church is fairly accepting of singles but I don't think they are aware necessarily of the loneliness that some of us feel. However the good thing about my church is they are welcoming to new people.	Jun 21, 2012 3:42 PM
485	I have only been married for the last 6 months and have only been attending my new church for this amount of time, so don't have any stories - sorry.	Jun 21, 2012 3:26 PM
486	As a church of about 500 people we have a good few singles. I'd say the people are welcoming and friendly generally, and people spend time socialising together outside of church. People are also open to newcomers - this is also helped by a good church welcome team system. We have a wide age range within the singles, but it isn't an issue - some of my good friends are half my age! On the friendship front, I'd say we do well, though less so with dating.	Jun 21, 2012 3:17 PM
487	It's a good mixture of cultures, backgrounds and ages.	Jun 21, 2012 2:04 PM
488	Cause we help. speak to and console and encouraged the single ladies that maybe a bit fed up we have girls night in we go out	Jun 21, 2012 1:01 PM
489	Whilst i am valued and accepted , it is not a good place to be single..... 2.5 children families, all married , does not help. It is fab to have a good marriage, but painful if you are not part of that community.	Jun 21, 2012 11:55 AM
490	There is to cliquiness at all in my Church- everyone is equally accepted regardless of their status.	Jun 21, 2012 11:51 AM
491	There are many different ministries which everyone is invited to participate in (serving, welcome team, children's teams, worship, prayer/intercession) and will involve people if they are willing to be involved.	Jun 21, 2012 9:42 AM
492	There are plenty of us and we are accepted loved and made feel as welcome as everyone else. In fact we all go out one Friday in the month whether married or single as we all need company.	Jun 21, 2012 9:19 AM
493	Our church is very strong on welcoming people in regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, social standing, marital status. "Singleness" is not a particular issue over and above any other cultural boundary markers.	Jun 21, 2012 6:42 AM
494	Made to feel warm and welcomed, but some still ask, why are you not married yet?	Jun 21, 2012 6:21 AM
495	No preaching that "God hates divorce". People are welcomed whatever their status.	Jun 21, 2012 6:20 AM
496	Everyone is treated equally & encouraged to take part in all things	Jun 21, 2012 6:01 AM
497	Single people are included in ministry, taking part in meetings, etc. Don't judge but welcome people. As a result lots of singles in the church. No preaching from the pulpit that 'God hates divorce'.	Jun 21, 2012 5:56 AM
498	I think it could be a great place for singles but there are not enough of us in	Jun 21, 2012 5:41 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	our 40's to make "critical mass" so to speak. There is this couples world and they don't invite us anywhere. Where do pentecostal, single christians go in their 40's because there are plenty of us on the CC site but don't seem to be in church	
499	Student - helps them move in and unpack and lots of events. church welcoming to newcomers	Jun 21, 2012 4:52 AM
500	acceptance of all	Jun 21, 2012 4:19 AM
501	Always been accepted in the church..... Best place for someone on their own	Jun 21, 2012 2:34 AM
502	There are a good number of single people between 25 and 50 and we support each other and socialise with each other.	Jun 20, 2012 3:30 PM
503	It is possible to be accepted and celebrated as an individual! It is very open re anyone contributing to ministry!	Jun 20, 2012 3:12 PM
504	I dont make it a big deal to be honest. the church is very family orientated so there are young families and teens in the church mostly. so there arent really any opportunities to meet other singles the same age!	Jun 20, 2012 2:44 PM
505	my pastorate leader and his wife pray regularly for a husband for me Sermons dont talk only of life as a married one but make reference to singles and their struggles, or just that not everyone is.	Jun 20, 2012 2:20 PM
506	My church is a very welcoming church. They have always made me feel loved and part of the family. I have grown up in the church and have had support in times of difficulty. My church is good at welcoming the people whom society find difficult to deal with e.g. homeless, the mentally ill and alcohol/drug addicts	Jun 20, 2012 1:30 PM
507	I think our Church recognises the valuable resource single people are and are excited to get them involved in church life.	Jun 20, 2012 1:29 PM
508	Actually speaking about the issue and the challenges...endless talks on children, youth, marriage, relationships, sex, dedications, engagements....the church is set up for a 'normal' life progression.....if you don't 'go' the normal route you can feel an oddity	Jun 20, 2012 12:54 PM
509	it's not at the moment... however, we have just arranged for Julia Morgan to come to our church and do a Singles Seminar.	Jun 20, 2012 12:54 PM
510	everyone is equal-but more importantly in the eyes of God	Jun 20, 2012 11:52 AM
511	I will not necessarily say my church is a good place for single Christians. It has tried a ministry to singles in the past but has not demonstrated the empathy and compassion that necessarily needs to underpin such a ministry in order for it to succeed. It is still on a journey...	Jun 20, 2012 11:31 AM
512	My previous church but one was All Souls Langham Place - and there were lots of opportunities for couples and singles to serve and socialise together - that was the key to a successful church during my time there! Also, a previous church in Wimbledon, - Emmanuel - back in the late nineties, had a twenties and thirties group - which was really good!	Jun 20, 2012 10:32 AM
513	Because it teaches both the benefits of singleness and marriage, and	Jun 20, 2012 10:09 AM

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	reminds us that we will only be married for a time, and that there will be no marriage in heaven.	
514	n/a	Jun 20, 2012 9:49 AM
515	It's great for singles of a certain age. 40 plus singles I feel are not as comfortable.	Jun 20, 2012 9:14 AM
516	They have an 18 plus group that gets the full support of the pastor and they also have some sort of representative in the leadership of the church.	Jun 20, 2012 8:49 AM
517	Nothing! Well, to be fair, the older people in the church (55+) are welcoming. But those of the age with young children tend to ignore you, and overall it's not a good place to be alone.	Jun 20, 2012 8:21 AM
518	Families or couples make sure I'm not alone for Christmas	Jun 20, 2012 8:17 AM
519	At my church singles are generally valued for what they can contribute to the life of the church. Single people have preached, run the Alpha course, run mid week groups and helped with the church administration and web site, because they are gifted, talented or skilled in these areas. The senior pastor, a married man, tries to encourage everyone in the church without regard to social status, marital status, ethnic identity or gender to contribute in whatever way they can that will benefit the whole church. Perhaps this comes about because this is the church that I have regularly attended with the most diverse congregation. We have those who can hardly speak English and those with PhDs in theology, those of various Asian, various African and various European ethnicities.	Jun 20, 2012 8:16 AM
520	Our vicar is one of the few vicars I've come across who recognises the lack of men in church is an issue that needs to be tackled.	Jun 20, 2012 7:57 AM
521	Good as it includes people in all and no relationships.	Jun 20, 2012 7:44 AM
522	The chance for being involved in a range of Christian value activities.	Jun 20, 2012 7:02 AM
523	Its a place where they can express themselves. They might have more time on their hand than married people	Jun 20, 2012 6:41 AM
524	there a quite a few single people in our church so it is easy to fellowship. we had a sermon in our church using personal experiences from people who have been single for a long time. this really helped me become more accepting of the fact im single. however it doesnt stop me feeling marginalised.	Jun 20, 2012 6:08 AM
525	Opportunities where the church supports social groups or young adult home groups is good. However these groups don't always have longevity due to people moving away/getting married.	Jun 20, 2012 5:24 AM
526	It doesn't. It's only good if you are under 25 and want to meet other single Christians in a noisy, sweaty, smelly, dark nightclub. If you are trying to connect with people it's nice to be able to see and hear them!! There is NOTHING for people over 30 or 40. CC you are guilty of this too! I went to a Valentines event a few years ago and it was horrible. The club was too dark and the music too loud. In the end my friends and I walked out after an hour. Keep the music sound levels down!	Jun 20, 2012 4:35 AM

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527	In the smaller group setting (communities in our case) can be more accepting and embrace individuals whatever their status.	Jun 20, 2012 4:31 AM
528	Hospitality is reasonably good. And single women socialise. Single men find it a lot harder.	Jun 20, 2012 4:16 AM
529	Good place to make friends.	Jun 20, 2012 4:06 AM
530	ourchurch does very little outside of 'normal' church meetings due to its small size so being single is fairly irrelevant as there is little for couples as well	Jun 20, 2012 3:56 AM
531	For starters, I am not the only single woman there (thank goodness!) So I don't feel alone. Also my Church members make an active effort to include any single members as well as couples in Church and non Church activities. Married couples are happy to take on their individual roles in Church, like to look after students etc. We have also had events put on specifically for females and males which covers areas of married and single life!	Jun 20, 2012 3:10 AM
532	Fairly non judgemental	Jun 20, 2012 3:05 AM
533	I think there is a lot you can get involved with at our Church as it massive there is always a place for someone to serve on a team which is a really great way of connecting into church.	Jun 20, 2012 2:23 AM
534	There's a large number of single Christians at our church which lessens the stigma attached to being single. The teaching never states that marriage or singleness is better than the other.	Jun 19, 2012 3:20 PM
535	What makes my church a good place for single Christians is that you are accepted and not treated less favourably because you are a single. you are made aware that its ok to be single because this gives you the opportunity to focus on buliding your relationship with the Lord and to carry out any assignments that he have for you, without the restrictions of marriage.	Jun 19, 2012 2:53 PM
536	I don't feel my Church is a particularly good place for single Christians.	Jun 19, 2012 2:31 PM
537	My Church is a good place for single men, as there are so many good women looking for good men.	Jun 19, 2012 2:04 PM
538	There are quite a lot of single Christians, so I'm not alone. It's not massively cliquy compared to another church in my town, and being married is less of a 'big deal' so there isn't too much of a divide between married and single people. The focus is largely on outreach and community action, which means it's not really too much of an issue. I think churches where 'families' is the big obsession have much more of a problem.	Jun 19, 2012 1:50 PM
539	There's a really prayerful central core of leadership that really care about the local community. If things are tried and go stale people aren't afraid to say so and let them go. I have been part of this team in the past and have been inspired by the vision and aims of part of the leadership group. Now I am finding my place and seeing how this vision works out in reality, trying to hold on to things I learnt and carry them forward in everyday relationships. I was trusted and financed to spend two years attending "Worship Accademy" (chris Bowater) and then to lead worship and become fuuly involved in various groups.	Jun 19, 2012 1:18 PM
540	My church is quite small (emerging, open to the Holy Spirit, with sound bible	Jun 19, 2012 12:57 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	teaching), so it doesn't have anything specifically for singles.	
541	My church does not really offer anything to help singles	Jun 19, 2012 12:52 PM
542	I think that the title 'single Christian' could easily apply to those whose partners are non-christian and because there are a few of those people in church, I don't feel quite as abnormal as I might if I was the only one. With my church having a wide range of ages and nationalities, I don't feel conspicuous as a single.	Jun 19, 2012 12:41 PM
543	They want to be inclusive. They could improve by doing more social events.	Jun 19, 2012 12:37 PM
544	You will be well looked after, there's always someone to go to for dinner, which is really nice and you can be involved in the bank holiday church walks, which is nice. We also have regular bring and share lunches and there's always someone to talk to. We have men's curry night and ladies curry nights, so you will never feel left out in a group of smug married couples. They are the most lovely genuine people :)	Jun 19, 2012 12:28 PM
545	I went to a church lately where i was so warmly welcomed over the first three weeks i was trully shocked. In 25 years of going to church i have never felt so welcomed. People talked to me and did not ignore me.	Jun 19, 2012 9:58 AM
546	One family from Church has been great to me in that they have regularly had me round for meals and included me in their family - they have made a real difference over the years, but often other families seem oblivious to the singles and the struggles they face at times.	Jun 18, 2012 1:50 PM
547	Because there are a number of single people there and we are encouraged to be involved in all areas of ministry and leadership. There are a lot of young families and a number of friends in that situation have been great at continuing to involve me in their family lives (and I in my single life).	Jun 18, 2012 8:28 AM
548	It doesn't treat people as single or married but as people. We don't distinguish. There is a real mix of families, older people and younger people who all treat each other as church family.	Jun 18, 2012 3:11 AM
549	Friends for support. Singles discussions have helped	Jun 17, 2012 2:33 PM
550	to be honest I don't go to Church to find someone, I think for me personally that would be a distraction whilst at Church. We should trust in God to provide for us in every sense, I think when Churches start matchmaking that can't always be a good thing. As if the relationship doesn't work out will the individual blame the church?	Jun 17, 2012 1:12 PM
551	It's a great church and they are very welcoming and friendly whether you are single or married. They are eager for people to find true love, but at the same time, they look out for you spiritually.	Jun 17, 2012 6:37 AM
552	Our leaders don't overemphasise nuclear family so in that respect singleness is acceptable but there is a tendency for couples to only mix with other couples which automatically can make singles feel excluded. That is not the leaders' fault.	Jun 16, 2012 12:22 PM
553	I try not go concentrate on being single in church too much as it would get me down, unfortunately the singles who who attend our church moan that they're not catered for, and when they are catered for they do not support, so	Jun 16, 2012 11:39 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	how can we move forward. No words of inspiration, please inspire me	
554	A place where you are not made to feel like there is something wrong with you just because you would like a partner.	Jun 16, 2012 9:44 AM
555	young families, single people of similar ages all just wanting to worship God	Jun 16, 2012 8:21 AM
556	I wouldn't say it a good place for singles. I guess it depends on what you're looking for by attending the church? I think married people forget too easily what it's like being single and are so caught up in family life, that they can side-line you without realizing it.	Jun 16, 2012 7:22 AM
557	The church has a fantastic group for people up to the age of 30 to meet each other but over that age there is nothing. I am 34 so I often don't get to meet friends or build relationships with people my own age as it tends to be the older people who initiate conversation or lead groups.	Jun 16, 2012 2:16 AM
558	Great Christian single girlfriends	Jun 15, 2012 1:49 PM
559	Because there are a lot of singles, the Single Adult Ministry is established, so enabling like-minded people to get together and have fun. Enjoying singleness, as it were	Jun 15, 2012 1:30 PM
560	Being single doesn't hinder/restrict you from participating in a particular ministry in my church,	Jun 15, 2012 1:11 PM
561	There are lots of single people - especially in the 18-30 age range Singles aren't excluded from leadership/ministry roles	Jun 15, 2012 12:51 PM
562	Discuss singleness (although don't preach on it very often), they do pray for us, particularly those who are struggling with unwanted singleness.	Jun 15, 2012 10:31 AM
563	We as singles are proactive and make a social life with each other without any church structure to do so. Birthdays we plan theatre trips and meals out or just for the sake of meeting and going for a pamper and so on.	Jun 15, 2012 8:47 AM
564	We are all embrace and well everyone no matter their race or status	Jun 15, 2012 5:57 AM
565	MY CHURCH IS A GOOD PLACE FOR THE MAJORITY OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH WHO ARE SINGLE WOMEN BECAUSE WE CAN SHARE EXPERIENCES OF LIFE.	Jun 15, 2012 3:33 AM
566	We have an emerging singles adults ministry though the issue is there is a stigma attached to it and does not attract many men.	Jun 15, 2012 3:02 AM
567	There are many singles in our church and they all participate in various activities with married folks alike. There does not appear to be any discrimination of singles. A group who minister in singing in the community is led by a divorced single mother	Jun 15, 2012 2:25 AM
568	We have a singles ministry and although most singles don't access it, it's hard to complain about things too much if we are not accessing the ministry provided.	Jun 15, 2012 2:14 AM
569	My church doesn't really think about it. I am one of the only younger people in the church along with my sister and the youth worker who is male. When he first arrived it was a well known fact people thought we would end up	Jun 13, 2012 4:32 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	together which hasn't happen as we are friends but that is the only thoughts i have heard on my relationship status.	
570	Sometimes people notice and have you over and are very kind. Some families have had me stay over or go on holiday, I think they have been very generous to share family time with me. People in my church are very loving and welcoming, there are loads of families and little kids so its nice to have that contact. My church is hugely accepting and my minister understanding.	Jun 13, 2012 2:34 PM
571	it's not so much the church.its my vicar and the people in my church that makes it so good .I've lived in my Vilage 10 years this year .and only been going to my church just 18 months and in that time i've become a Christian and been baptised and love being a Christian and its all down to my now friend .simon the Vicar and the people that go to my church. there is a church in my Vilage wich is 2 minits from my door but its dead just like most of the people that go to it	Jun 13, 2012 3:40 AM
572	My church is not a good place for singles.	Jun 12, 2012 5:35 PM
573	There have been some marriages that have occurred through church members meeting people elsewhere who have since joined our church but havent actually witnessed any that happen through church.	Jun 12, 2012 2:09 PM
574	Contemporary evening service suits young adult singles, less out of place than in a morning traditonal (and more typically 'adult'/elderly) or morning family service. Home groups loosely age related. 'Greeters' not just at the door with leaflets but come round before the service and chat to you.	Jun 12, 2012 1:56 PM
575	My church is a good place for singles because the church leaders do pray for God to provide a good partner for the singles and there are about 5 singles that found their life partners last year.They've been married,praise God.	Jun 12, 2012 12:27 PM
576	Family feel - we are valued for who we are not for what we do or don't do.	Jun 12, 2012 11:54 AM
577	anyone is welcome and singleness is not an issue	Jun 12, 2012 6:54 AM
578	There are a lot of undergraduate university students so for that age it's well catered for. On valentines night they have a party and suggest ways for unmarried people how to find a partner.	Jun 12, 2012 2:40 AM
579	My church is good place for single christians as it does not discrimminate against whether you are single or not. Treats everyone equally.	Jun 11, 2012 7:23 PM
580	In my church, there is more single women to men, there is a good women's ministry but not individually based on singles	Jun 11, 2012 3:42 PM
581	It doesn't....am currently considering finding another church	Jun 11, 2012 3:39 PM
582	I find that my church treats us all as individuals.	Jun 11, 2012 2:53 PM
583	There are lots of them! However, i tend to feel that the majority of my church is made up of students meaning it is hard to meet someone my own age is is single and looking to meet a potential spouse.	Jun 11, 2012 2:11 PM
584	It is very friendly and easy to get to know people, but there is a very specific type of person who attends the church and if you don't fit into the mould then you are unlikely to find someone there.	Jun 11, 2012 1:26 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

585	I left my last church because it wasn't a good place for single Christians. They really didn't know what to do with me. My pastor told me, "You'll probably never get married, so I want you to look after the younger women." I found that very difficult to hear and to live up to. My present church is mixed ages and full of people from all walks of life and situations so I don't feel quite so isolated and 'odd one out'. The pastor's wife cooked me a meal recently - incredibly kind! The issues around singleness are more my issues than the churches. Marriage is promoted, as it should be. Children are baptised and prayed for, as they should be. Engagements are celebrated, as they should be. But I find it incredibly hard, as if God has blessed them, not me. That is my issue though, I think. I'm not sure what the church could do about that. I need to get on with things!	Jun 11, 2012 1:05 PM
586	I personally have a very good network of friends. My close friends, even though they are all married, include me in every activity and never make me feel like the odd one out.	Jun 11, 2012 5:40 AM
587	All the people in the church are involved in different works. It is all based on ability. Because it is a small church, we are all good friends and have a good social life together. There are no specific events for single people. Everything that goes on involves the whole church.	Jun 10, 2012 2:18 PM
588	I am close to God!	Jun 10, 2012 1:49 PM
589	One church I was in went out for dinner every Sunday after the evening service, they sent out an email each week to say where the meal would be, and often in the service they announced this so any visitors could join in, this created a great sense of community. All were welcome but it tended to be the single people who went along.	Jun 10, 2012 1:39 PM
590	Married couples embracing single people.	Jun 10, 2012 1:00 PM
591	They provide definitive teaching on singlehood and have a ministry dedicated to single members.	Jun 10, 2012 9:51 AM
592	There are a few of us... but we're all women.	Jun 9, 2012 4:28 PM
593	Everyone is accepted for who they are and in fact singleness is seen as a positive in terms of the time a single person can devote to serving, as they don't have the same demands on their time as people with families do.	Jun 9, 2012 3:40 PM
594	It's better to be single in church than in society as a whole because church values you as an child of God, fully loved and fully functional. Society doesn't.	Jun 9, 2012 1:41 PM
595	As the body of Christ, we are regularly feed with the word of God, which itself is enough to save, instruct and transform our thinking and souls with the power of love. I have not particularly seen any single christian left out at any meeting. The confidence in the love of Christ gives us the confidence to be part of the Church with freedom, we have many families and we are about 10 singles between 30-50 years old, and each of us have a role to play, each of us knows perfectly that our lives are guided in Jesus.	Jun 9, 2012 12:50 PM
596	Not a good palce for singles	Jun 9, 2012 7:31 AM
597	My regular church is unusual (and the pastor agrees) by having almost no singles (about 5% of congregation at most).	Jun 9, 2012 5:59 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

598	I am not sure that there is a place for singles to connect at my church to be honest.	Jun 9, 2012 5:25 AM
599	I don't feel in the least bit judged about my single (and divorced) status; I am respected for who I am. There are quite a few single women at my church, of all ages, so we tend to support each other. There aren't any single specific groups or activities we are just included in with everybody else. Our vicar is a single woman, so I suppose that gives out a positive message.	Jun 9, 2012 4:46 AM
600	It is a church that is very welcoming to everyone - no matter your relationship status and no matter what your background is.	Jun 9, 2012 2:30 AM
601	I am part of the family.	Jun 9, 2012 2:15 AM
602	There are loads of single Christians at my church (htb). We are all very much accepted and active members of the church community. It doesn't make it any easier to be single.	Jun 8, 2012 8:35 PM
603	My church does advertise some organisations for singles. Whilst probably outside the scope of this survey, arguably singles have a greater prominence in the Catholic church, because this is a requirement in order to become a priest, monk or nun.	Jun 8, 2012 3:27 PM
604	There are singles of both sexes and all ages as involved, sometimes more so, than marrieds.	Jun 8, 2012 11:59 AM
605	My church is primarily young and dynamic 20 and 30 year olds. We are a mixture of married and single Christians and relationships are not limited to married to marrieds and singles to singles. However, we do not have any single guys - all singles are women. There are very few families with children. The Church is very relaxed and dynamic and fun to be a part of.	Jun 8, 2012 10:36 AM
606	I'm not sure that is a place where single people generally might want to go. Although there are many (mainly female) single worshippers. I do feel in the minority as most of the congregation are retired and therefore have lost their spouses usually by bereavement	Jun 8, 2012 5:26 AM
607	i am not good about writing esasy	Jun 8, 2012 4:16 AM
608	My church is not a good place to be single. There is complete focus on Youth and students, and singles are ignored. The UK needs to look at being single like the church's in the USA look at it. British christian singles need help, they are leaving the church and finding secular partners. Neglecting Christian Singles, is a christian crisis in the UK.	Jun 8, 2012 3:53 AM
609	The Rector is a good man and tries his best. It is just so big and easy to feel lost. Not sure it is great as a single.	Jun 8, 2012 2:00 AM
610	There are many single people too in our church	Jun 8, 2012 12:54 AM
611	It's a good place for single Christians if you are under 30 and over 70!	Jun 7, 2012 10:53 PM
612	It's very friendly, and non-clicky.	Jun 7, 2012 7:36 PM
613	Social events and meetings Prayer support	Jun 7, 2012 4:45 PM
614	accepting of anyone that comes in...although asi live in a town most people	Jun 7, 2012 3:44 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	are local families so i'm not sure if they have understood that i may not be there every weekend, as i want to meet up with my friends/significant others, who are dotted around the country and city i used to live in....whereas for the local church families, most of their significant others are based locally.	
615	It is a friendly and loving Church that over the past few years has made a big effort to attract younger adults and singles. I started going to the Church because a leader from my previous Church became assistant pastor at my present Church and invited me as it was closer to me than the other Church. The church have been actively encouraging me to become a member and I am in the process of becoming a member. The Church has a healthy mix of people of different age ranges as well as families, couples and singles. Whilst marriage is encouraged the Church recognises that some people are meant to be single and that it is ultimately in God's control when and if people meet partners	Jun 7, 2012 2:50 PM
616	Half an hour before the beginning of the service we serve tea and coffee and that enables people to be introduced to other people straight away and is a major way in which people are made to feel welcome. They are met at the door first and then directed to where we meet for drinks or someone goes with them.	Jun 7, 2012 2:34 PM
617	I do not think that my church is a particularly good place for single Christians but that maybe just my experience. There are some singles who seem to be particularly well supported as they have come out of very problematic relationships.	Jun 7, 2012 2:12 PM
618	The good part has been when some of us who are single women get together to go to an event e.g. the annual ball. But when we are there we have to dance with each other and it still feels odd.	Jun 7, 2012 1:50 PM
619	Total acceptance, inclusion regardless.	Jun 7, 2012 12:50 PM
620	strong 18-25s and 25+ groups that encourage social gatherings outside of the church service.	Jun 7, 2012 12:46 PM
621	My Church holds quite a lot of social events which are for young people but not for older single people so much. Overall it is quite social and includes everyone but predominantly it is young couples with young children.	Jun 7, 2012 10:22 AM
622	There aren't any to be honest, because, it really makes no difference in my church whether you are in a couple/a mum/dad or single, as to whether you fit in or can get involved - it is simply who you are that they love, value and can use.	Jun 7, 2012 6:10 AM
623	Inclusivity of singles has been a bit of a problem in our church for all of the reasons described in the 'additional comments' box above. However, we as a church have recognised that we need to be more inclusive of those who do not fit into the traditional social categories. So a committee is being set up for the purpose of building up the social side ... watch this space.	Jun 7, 2012 4:54 AM
624	We accept people for who they are.	Jun 7, 2012 4:01 AM
625	Sermon re singleness included the recommendation of offering hugs to single people?! However, they did recognise it as an issue.	Jun 6, 2012 5:03 PM
626	I have been a part of quite a few churches, some that have been very	Jun 6, 2012 2:55 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	affirming to single people.	
627	OK, What's good about it is it's just v diverse in proper ways - economically, culturally, ethnically. Granted this, it's just fine to be who you are. And all churches that aren't diverse in those ways ought to make sure they shift in that direction. After all, there are fewer and fewer parts of Britain that aren't increasingly diverse ethnically and don't have people across a wide socio-economic spectrum in them. To speculate, perhaps the underlying problem in some churches re single people is that those churches are too culturally monochrome in general - in which case it wouldn't be just the single people who'd struggle to be seen as full members.	Jun 6, 2012 2:46 PM
628	Very simply IT IS NOT!!!	Jun 6, 2012 2:16 PM
629	Acknowledgement of the issues faced by single people. A very down to earth teaching session last year was very helpful for single and married people. Recognition that most single people want to get married one day. Church gatherings where younger single people can get to know each other.	Jun 6, 2012 12:32 PM
630	My church is a small church and therefore it is not so easy to get lost and left out. I feel that the single Christian needs to try and get involve in housegroups and socials as well which helps to get to know other people and being in a smaller church helps that. I'm involved in worship, housegroup, sorting out and running the creche rota and I talk to people! This all helps. There is a group of 5 of us who are not all single but who meet together regularly and we are always open to others joining us.	Jun 6, 2012 12:25 PM
631	There were lots of singles but in the last few months a lot of these have got engaged and therefore moving on so not many of us left now	Jun 6, 2012 11:56 AM
632	My church is made up of lots of different people - the majority of whom are single. This is mainly because of broken relationships - there are lots of single mums for example. As a result it is very welcoming to all sorts of people. I feel accepted there for who I am.	Jun 6, 2012 11:48 AM
633	My marital status has little to do with it. I feel more accepted by my church for my white middle class background, despite my church being modern and evangelical. I feel I was accepted quicker than a single black unmarried mother I know.	Jun 6, 2012 10:39 AM
634	Can't say it is a good place not really any women my age there.	Jun 6, 2012 9:36 AM
635	To be very honest i wouldnt say my church is a good place for singles! there is a big family focus, homeless focus, student focus and internationals focus but once again as i have experienced many times...singles are left on the edge!	Jun 6, 2012 9:26 AM
636	The good thing about my church is that,they do pray for the singles to find their life partner. There are lots of examples about more than 5 singles that have found their partner since last year,so i do strongly believe,according to God's time,i will deffinatly find my life partner,in Jesus name "Amen"	Jun 6, 2012 9:01 AM
637	There is a very loving ethos that accepts me as a single parent and is really warm and supportive of my difficult situation, and loves my nearly 13yr old daughter even though she hasn't come to church for over a year-they include her in invitations and think she is great even though she is rebelling against Christianity strongly at the moment. There are single men evident in the	Jun 6, 2012 8:15 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	services. There have been two church marriages recently of now very committed Christians who had quite difficult histories dealing with singleness and single parenting. There were no judgements made on them, the weddings were both very Spirit filled, special, joyful occasions. For both the above women who got married, house groups had prayed very specifically for the (Christian) men of their dreams to appear, (to the last detail) and they absolutely did!	
638	actividad for pleaple	Jun 6, 2012 6:55 AM
639	An equal attitude to singles or married people Having appropriate activities for singles of different ages (i.e. including all ages) to meet up and get to know both other single people and families/married people Recognising the specific needs of single people Where possible, finding sensitive ways of maximising people's opportunities for mixing and meeting other single people from within and outside a particular church	Jun 6, 2012 5:11 AM
640	There was some attempt to netwrok with other churches in the area and put on events for singles. However, as soon as the organisers found partners for themselves, then they lost interest and it folded	Jun 6, 2012 5:07 AM
641	It is family orientated so can help to become more family minded for the future.	Jun 6, 2012 5:03 AM
642	I am very fortunate in one way because the church I belong to is where I went when I was a child. I moved back to the area a couple of years ago and have been well and truly accepted. On the other hand, there are rarely any single men there.The congregation is the same most weeks, with people sitting in the same seats week in week out! We do lots of Social events during the year, but generally the congregation remains the same.	Jun 6, 2012 5:00 AM
643	For older single ladies the church would offer a lot of support.	Jun 6, 2012 4:31 AM
644	In some ways it is, particularly when I lost my sister the church really gathered round.	Jun 6, 2012 3:19 AM
645	The vicar is extremely supportive and encouraging to me as a single person.	Jun 6, 2012 1:59 AM
646	From my past experience, a church is a better place for single people when there is a critical mass of people who can support each other. This can happen with younger singles. But as singles get older, more of their friends marry, and they start to feel more excluded. Unfortunately, the older singles that remain can be difficult to relax with socially, so it's difficult to form an older single group that will work. Additionally, as an older single person, younger singles want to engage with each other, and tend to exclude the older singles. Sadly, I'm not sure I can think of a straightforward solution to this. Unless, of course, it's that churches help promote CC!	Jun 6, 2012 1:38 AM
647	There is a small group of single Christians.	Jun 6, 2012 1:34 AM
648	There are plenty of opportunities to be involved - a traditional choir, festival choir which is informal, worship group. Helping with sound, IT, Street Pastors, Drop In. A variety of services. Youth groups or a member of pastoral team ie baptism preparation. Guys or Gals evenings.	Jun 6, 2012 1:01 AM
649	Because as a church they accept you for who you and valued as a member of the family of Jesus Christ , Loved and worthy .Andvery welcomed.	Jun 6, 2012 12:18 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

650	Mothers day and fathers day all the women or men get given something. Makes me feel more accepted. I have the potential to be a mother.	Jun 5, 2012 11:16 PM
651	Most people welcoming regardless of my status.	Jun 5, 2012 10:51 PM
652	there is a large group of single Christians in my church, they are all very important members and play a huge role in many areas such as on the mission field at home and abroad. We also have time to lend to different support groups within the church and in the community, I would say our Baptist church involves every one and embraces our differences to the better of the church family, no one is left out and each member has a gift from God to use for the growth of the body of Christ ,	Jun 5, 2012 5:00 PM
653	none	Jun 5, 2012 4:54 PM
654	There are a couple of single female Christians of marriageable age there, who are not unattractive. Prime dating material for suitable male Christians. Also, it is lacking in leadership, and single Christians with great motivation (must be robust motivation there, I have found, as there isn't an awful lot of encouragement going when you need it) could find that they are very much needed there. Sorry not to be inspiring - it's not a very inspiring place under the current vicar. The organ's amazing, though.	Jun 5, 2012 4:51 PM
655	I tend to home in on those who are single and try to make them feel welcome. Being single means I have more time to serve others. its a priviledged place to be for now.	Jun 5, 2012 4:47 PM
656	Individuals are cared for, accepted & encouraged despite irregular church atendance due to shift work or family commitments. Individuals are valued for their individual contribution. There is no particular distinction between those who are single & those who aren't. Admittedly, I find socialising fairly easy & get on with people easily. Less confident personalities may find it harder but I don't think that singleness as such is an issue. There is a church family focus.	Jun 5, 2012 4:46 PM
657	The church does seminars and sometimes this can be on singleness, relationships and marriage. It accepts you for who you are no matter your relationship status.	Jun 5, 2012 4:19 PM
658	I don't feel there's any issue to the church as a whole with singles - singles are not distinguished on the whole from couples, but in a good way!	Jun 5, 2012 4:14 PM
659	Sorry, I'm very new in my Church, but I feel accepted.	Jun 5, 2012 3:51 PM
660	You can attend cell groups or some social events but the family is more favoured.	Jun 5, 2012 3:33 PM
661	There are a few of us in our 18-30s group who are single so I feel less conspicuous however I think divorcees find it more difficult.	Jun 5, 2012 3:05 PM
662	As per comments above regarding the New Beginnings course for newly separated and divorced people. This course originated from Trinity Brompton but I think it has been slightly modified and is advertised to both Christians and non-Christians. The Church is very focussed on young single adults and runs several activities for this age group. I haven;t found support outside of NB for my age group however if I were retired I could go to some activities 3 days mid-week.	Jun 5, 2012 3:02 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

663	Community groups are designed to include everyone. Being single is a bonus because you don't have to arrange babysitters so you can get there every week and build up regular friendships within the group.	Jun 5, 2012 2:56 PM
664	People who don't mind inviting you to party on your own. People who ask you to join thier table such as for quiz night. People who talk to you about family stuff like bringing up Kids (its harder on your own). People who understand that you are normal to want a partner.	Jun 5, 2012 2:35 PM
665	Large numbers of other singles	Jun 5, 2012 2:31 PM
666	I went to a Vineyard Regional Conference where the speaker encouraged any single ladies to be much more assertive if they dont want to be single, and she was the first person ive ever heard encourage christian dating websites. Because she brought it up and said from the front that it was a good thing, i chatted to a few of the married ladies in church who were also there, and they all encouraged me to give it a go. i would never have had the confidence otherwise. when done sensitively, christian leaders can have a positive impact and just getting people talking about the issue is helpful.	Jun 5, 2012 2:29 PM
667	Not especially good for singles but it's my church!	Jun 5, 2012 2:23 PM
668	Lots of singles and no pressure felt to get married, great single role models who are older	Jun 5, 2012 2:02 PM
669	Going for a while to a church run by monks helped to cancel out the bad feelings left over from a church which treated singles badly.	Jun 5, 2012 1:53 PM
670	No great distinction is made of singles and married couples. All are involved in the work of the church.	Jun 5, 2012 1:49 PM
671	we are a bible beliving church and we believe that for people to be sleeping together they should be marrige.	Jun 5, 2012 1:35 PM
672	The pub after the 7pm gathering on a Sunday night. Anyone can go, but in reality it's mostly single people.	Jun 5, 2012 1:32 PM
673	Our leadership team are willing to listen to singles about being single and are willing to grow in their understanding. They are prepared to change their view and are currently supporting single events designed for those older singles. It's a new dimension and I'm grateful for and encouraged by the leadership's positive view/support. There are also many ways in which singles can serve. It's not that they get asked to specifically but they are not excluded from anything that anyone else is apart from church leadership (but then many married people would be 'excluded' from this who do not have the qualifications).	Jun 5, 2012 1:30 PM
674	Some families in our church often treat some of the singles part of their family. As required, the family supports the single, and the single supports the family, which makes it more like a family, other than getting involved with the family	Jun 5, 2012 1:29 PM
675	'Family feel / atmosphere' but no particular reason that it is good for singles.	Jun 5, 2012 1:24 PM
676	There is a lot of camaraderie especially among the students in the congregation, which is often extended to other younger people attending.	Jun 5, 2012 1:14 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

677	I am not sure that my church is a good place for single Christians in that the demographic does not include many of us. It is a family orientated church, everyone is welcome but the majority of members are married and most single people are widowed.	Jun 5, 2012 12:53 PM
678	I think that a churches are not good place for singles ..	Jun 5, 2012 12:45 PM
679	Nothing	Jun 5, 2012 12:38 PM
680	Many people at my church are single due to widowhood so it's quite normal.	Jun 5, 2012 12:35 PM
681	It is no better or less than any other Church. I believe that this stigma about Churches not knowing how to tyreat singles. Is a figament of the individuals imagination. Most people go to Church to pray and participate in the service, They should not be eyeing up the opposite sex as prospective future mates. Also singles, lack of confidence has a huge part to play on their ability to fit into the social aspects of Christianity and has very lttle to do with the Church looking down on them as single status for any given reason.	Jun 5, 2012 12:15 PM
682	My church is just like a big family. Everyone is accepted regardless of relationship status	Jun 5, 2012 12:04 PM
683	well there are more single girls in my church that makes the guys feel out numbered. it is hard for us girls to be just friends with the guys without them thinking we are desperate for a relationship. this results in guys being distant and aloof and not making efforts to get to know us for who we are and just on a friendship level. the girl also get too excited when a certain guy pays too much attention to her but does not have any intentions or is not open with his intentions. I think we need to resolve that we just all need to be friends and not have any expectations in each other but expect and trust in God to send the right person.	Jun 5, 2012 12:00 PM
684	Dispite being single i feel part of the church community.	Jun 5, 2012 11:53 AM
685	There is already a significant number of singles of all ages. Although 'marriage courses' are promoted, marriage is not presented as a necessary part of a persons's life.	Jun 5, 2012 11:43 AM
686	MY CHURCH IS A LOING FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH THIS IS SO HELPFUL TO ANYONE THAT WALK THROUGH OUR CHURCH FRONT DOOK MY PASTOR IS A VERY LOVING LADY AND HER HUSBAND AND ALL THE MEMBERS ARE VERY VERY HEART WARMING TOWARDS .... EVERYONE THAT WALK THROUGH OUR FRONT DOOR (AMEN) WE ARE ALL FRIENDLY PEOPLE WITH A LOVING AND WARM HEART .... CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHOCY DUKE STREET CHRISTIAN CENTER SHEFFIELD SOUTH YORKSHIRE	Jun 5, 2012 11:31 AM
687	Church is not particularly good or bad for singles - same for everyone. Only problem is when church talks about grace and love and how God's love is manifested to us through love ... which is horrible if we don't have anyone to love.	Jun 5, 2012 11:16 AM
688	It is not a good place for single Christians, particularly older ones. One reason is, there are far more single women in the church than single men and we tend to be typecast.	Jun 5, 2012 11:09 AM
689	There is a family in my church that has just accepted me as part of the family	Jun 5, 2012 11:05 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	I can turn up when i like and just do normal family things with them I have been accepted as part of the leadership team	
690	loving kind lookes after the poor and needy treats human beings kike pepole	Jun 5, 2012 10:55 AM
691	Sorry I don't agree that the Church is good place for Christian singles in the sense that you would be likely to meet a potential partner, in fact rather the reverse. I love my church but I go there knowing that it is family focused and if were not for many kind and thoughtful members that I would be made to feel like a social prirah for being unwilling/unable to get myself married. Many of the social occasions are family based and I won't go to them because the event will make me feel lonely, however I believe that the Church is there to meet my spiritual needs and that it does.	Jun 5, 2012 10:53 AM
692	You are accepted if you are married as being worthy and not part of the 'in' group if single.	Jun 5, 2012 10:46 AM
693	My church sees both beign single and married as blessings from God. As a single person you are more available to God but equally as a married couple you also have a great role to play in nuturing children and other chirstians.	Jun 5, 2012 10:44 AM
694	Focus on Holy Spirit - single or married	Jun 5, 2012 10:41 AM
695	tolerance and welcome of difference. Edge experience of leaders. Very small church !	Jun 5, 2012 10:33 AM
696	people are accepted for what they are	Jun 5, 2012 10:32 AM
697	It's about leadership, as with most 'establishments'. My church tries hard to actively break down the 'couples' thing, for example when communion is being served they try and make sure that married couples don't serve on the same day so that if you are single you don't stand out. Same with tea and coffee rota. This kind of mixing things up really helps to enable single people to join in without it being obvious that they aren't 'with' anyone. Also helps people who's partners don't attend church.	Jun 5, 2012 10:25 AM
698	I don't particularly think my church is a good place for young single Christians (who are looking to meet others their age). We have a small student group and quite a few kids/teens in the youth groups. However the 22-35 age group is pretty small. The church friends I have their that are my age are all married couples! However I attend because it is a down-to-earth spirit filled church, the leadership team are truly seeking God's direction and presence.	Jun 5, 2012 10:22 AM
699	I had to change my church to feel at home with the congregation but it was all part of Gods plan for my development so it turned out to be a good thing.	Jun 5, 2012 10:16 AM
700	I meet other Christians and I am very much part of the church	Jun 5, 2012 10:12 AM
701	We have a welcoming aura around the si.gles thatake th er m feel part of the family.	Jun 5, 2012 10:11 AM
702	Its not!	Jun 5, 2012 9:58 AM
703	It's just a church, not a club for married people. I've not seen anything that makes the church less attractive for single folk.	Jun 5, 2012 9:57 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

704	sorry it isn't	Jun 5, 2012 9:57 AM
705	One of our ministers is a single woman and we have many other single people in positions of leadership so single people can see that they are free to exercise ministry. We occasionally run events for single people to give teaching on particular issues or provide a forum for discussion.	Jun 5, 2012 9:55 AM
706	Umm well if you want to find a christian girl it pays not to find one in church as people gossip and get annoying. So i opted for the long distance thing so people do not annoy me.	Jun 5, 2012 9:53 AM
707	It is not a bad place for singles but it could be a bit more proactive in organising social events and dating initiatives	Jun 5, 2012 7:41 AM
708	I think it is more orientated to those single who are students or twenties.	Jun 5, 2012 5:21 AM
709	I think these questions are suggestive encouraging people taking this survey - especially if they are feeling low about themselves and their singleness and the vulnerable - to think negatively towards the church due to their circumstances putting the idea in their heads that they are somehow neglected, overlooked and that it is possibly the churches fault. I appreciate that there will be a lot of churches out there where there is definite neglect but as I say I think the way this is worded is very suggestive to those that quite clearly are in some kind of 'need' - i.e. singleness, loneliness and in need of love - already or they wouldn't have a 'need' for your services and you would go out of business!	Jun 4, 2012 5:31 PM
710	My church is Elim community church and I can't stress how friendly and welcoming the whole church has been towards me. Due to the remote location I reside, I do feel a little isolated, but the pastor and the members have been really welcoming and given me one to one support along my path to being saved.	Jun 4, 2012 4:11 PM
711	have other single friends and we meet and pray together. There is teaching there is no supremacy of marriage over being single	Jun 4, 2012 3:43 PM
712	I am not sure that it is - a lot based on family ..... gets compounded when illustrations used focus on the family	Jun 4, 2012 2:29 PM
713	it isn't.....	Jun 4, 2012 1:53 PM
714	i go to church to a wedding i go to a christening plus a funeral so why dont i go when its not an occasion because the doors are always open when the church wardens can be found to unlock the doors to let you inside thats a reason why people walk away as they cant go in only on a sunday or as stated a wedding funeral or christening or if there is a free easter egg or a free look at nativity at christmas thats only times we get a full church.	Jun 4, 2012 12:06 PM
715	I belong to a small church with 10 members - I don't think this is a suitable context to discuss whether the church is a good place for single people as the congregation is too small.	Jun 4, 2012 11:34 AM
716	There is little concept of 'normality' in Quaker meetings, so people are generally accepted whoever they are.	Jun 4, 2012 10:38 AM
717	I don't feel that it is a good place for single Christians who have support structures like family (parents) close by.	Jun 4, 2012 6:34 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

718	Support of my church leadership.	Jun 4, 2012 6:28 AM
719	Church Leadership are very keen to make everyone feel included. They have ministry initiatives for all to be involved in, and are looking at setting up something for singles. they have a group for 18-30s, but they also want to do something for those that have been long-term single, or who are single again. I lead a cell group on my own, so being single hasnt stopped me stepping into my leadership calling.	Jun 4, 2012 4:20 AM
720	My current church (a small estate church, approx 40 people) is a good place for singles because it is a good place for anyone! It is very accepting of everyone, regardless of their lifestyle, it includes people with (for example) former and current addiction problems, transvestites, people of a variety of ages (but mostly over 45s), so as a single person there I don't feel like the odd one out (as I do in some other churches), people are seen as people, rather than part of an accepted family unit. A church that accepts everyone and doesn't treat people differently because of their lifestyle is far nearer the vision of the body of Christ, than a church with compartmentalised programming (for example, for families or singles) in my opinion.	Jun 4, 2012 2:11 AM
721	Because there are loads of other single christian women in the church	Jun 3, 2012 2:02 PM
722	There are several widowed men who have been able to offer support to one another.	Jun 3, 2012 1:04 PM
723	Friendship. Help and support from other members. One friend takes me to hospital and stays with me when it is something for which I can't drive or go by bus. The same friend invites me to Sunday lunch periodically.	Jun 3, 2012 12:49 PM
724	I don't believe that you can single out who my church is a good place for. I feel it handles single Christians and Christians in a relationship in the same way.	Jun 3, 2012 10:26 AM
725	Young congregation - might not be single for long!!!	Jun 3, 2012 9:43 AM
726	I'm afraid I can't the sentence that reads "they don't know what to do with me" rings very true! Thankfully the under 5's and youth know what to do with me	Jun 3, 2012 7:39 AM
727	Welcoming so you aren't standing on your own at coffee afterwards. Very hard on your own when everyone else is involved in conversations and doesn't know how or what to say to you	Jun 3, 2012 7:36 AM
728	Everyone at the church is encouraged to serve, so most people feel they have a role and make a valuable contribution to the life of the church. Also, because the opportunities there are for Christian service invariably involve serving with others it provides a way of making friends.	Jun 3, 2012 7:00 AM
729	It is helpful that the priest is celibate as he understands what it is like to be single.	Jun 3, 2012 6:37 AM
730	Things that I have found have made churches good places for single people are: eating together - and being flexible about what is expected of people in terms of bringing things culture of dropping in/ inviting people round valuing family and singleness - in a previous role I found being invited round by a community of Catholic priests very freeing as while as a staff team we usually had socials with everyone's families which was good, they invited just	Jun 3, 2012 6:27 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	the staff team which provided a different feel.	
731	I have found it easier when in a congregation with lots of 'professionals', whether single or married, whether with or without children - because then people tend to be seen as comprising a combination of elements, including work persona, hobbies, skills, experiences - and not merely defining people in terms of their non-working life, ie in terms of their familial status. ALSO, where there are more professionals, sermons are also likely to be more relevant to one's working life (whether or not single!) and not tend so much towards illustrations and focus on domestic relationships. Being in a very young-family-obsessed church can be hugely, hugely alienating.	Jun 3, 2012 6:00 AM
732	I'm not sure we're good at singles per se, but there are lots of people in the congregation who are on their own (widowed etc) and find a supportive environment.	Jun 3, 2012 5:59 AM
733	.	Jun 3, 2012 5:39 AM
734	I have had to take the initiative myself, but have been encouraged to do this - with what we call the "Sad Dads" group, of separated/divorced fathers currently not in a relationship. The church as a whole doesn't know what to do with those of us that are members and certainly not how to handle those who are not Christians. But we have film nights, curry nights, discussion groups and a bible & coffee get-together at a local coffee shop.	Jun 3, 2012 5:05 AM
735	My church has enough single people over 30 that it isn't seen as unusual and people aren't trying to marry us off. We are accepted for who we are. As a newly divorced - and separated for 6 months before that - this has been really helpful.	Jun 2, 2012 5:46 PM
736	We have quite a few single people in the church. Some are from a "half-way house" and are recovering from some sort of substance abuse and/or prison. These people are catered for quite well. Others are what are best described as professionals, and at time have felt a bit left out, especially at the "all-age" service where things are geared up more for those in a family.	Jun 2, 2012 4:16 PM
737	We have a group for 20s and 30s with quite a few single members, but dont really cater for the older single person :(	Jun 2, 2012 3:52 PM
738	Singles events and both Men's and Ladies Nights.	Jun 2, 2012 2:08 PM
739	There are other single people at the church who are very welcoming, accepting and open, about their experiences and support each other very well.	Jun 2, 2012 1:16 PM
740	I have families that include me and make me feel part of them. I am given opportunities to speak and lead meetings.	Jun 2, 2012 12:02 PM
741	It is not nothing is done for single people	Jun 2, 2012 11:56 AM
742	there are more people in my church who come on their own than there are married couples. these might be single never married but equally divorced, separated, widowed, ppl with non-Christian spouses, ppl with spouses who go to other churches/denominations.	Jun 2, 2012 10:45 AM
743	see above	Jun 2, 2012 3:40 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

744	I think my church has recognised that there is a problem but doesn't know what to do about it!	Jun 2, 2012 2:18 AM
745	very warm and friendly atmosphere and open approach to the community	Jun 2, 2012 1:32 AM
746	Aforemenntioned there is a large number of singles and the evening service seems to be where most sinlges go. We have weekly socials after church so opportunities for people to meet and socialise.	Jun 2, 2012 12:32 AM
747	There are lots of other single people in my church including me but most of them are elderly. People don't generally make any reference to each other's marital status.	Jun 1, 2012 2:35 PM
748	My previous church encouraged me not to consider myself as "different " because I was single and always taught and encouraged that God was soverign and to trust Him with this whole area and towalk on faithfully with Him.I was however really looked afre and EVERY sunday was invited somewhere for lunch and fellowship.This was a tremendous provision and did much to encourage my faith and walk with the Lord	Jun 1, 2012 2:11 PM
749	i have friends who are married couples of various ages. social events are for everyone ther's not asome sort of dichotmy between single and married.	Jun 1, 2012 12:41 PM
750	My church is very small so everyone is easily included.	Jun 1, 2012 10:53 AM
751	My church is very welcoming particularly as I have come from an awkward back ground before coming a christian, having previous convictions. The church the pther christians have been equally as loving and understanding to my situation personally and being a single guy.	Jun 1, 2012 9:50 AM
752	My church is very welcoming and friendly, though there is no particular acknowledgement of singles as far as I'm aware. I'm not sure whether some support or encouragement for singles to meet would be helpful or patronising and potentially awkward... still wondering about this	Jun 1, 2012 1:14 AM
753	My housechurch friend has been through a lot of relationship problems and so has been able to give me a lot of help with being recently separated. This has helped me grow my relationship with God greatly,	May 31, 2012 2:16 PM
754	I believe they dont realize it... is it up to us to do something? our pastor is young and all the leders are young too and married... i honestly think i would be knocking my head against the wall I dont think they are listening	May 31, 2012 1:52 PM
755	Everyone is accepted especially by the leadership	May 31, 2012 12:06 PM
756	We have a female pastor who married late in life and who remembers what it was like to be single. The Church I attend is inclusive and has many single people. I have t osay that after being a christian for 19 yrs and having been a member of 3 churches, I have only ever heard one sermon re singleness!	May 31, 2012 10:11 AM
757	there is not on single in my church	May 30, 2012 2:08 PM
758	Where there are lots of social activities for all ages.. married or single... where singleness is not actually a 'category'. but where social interaction happens between PEOPLE... not marrieds or singles.	May 30, 2012 1:16 PM
759	I do feel we should cater more for singles--maybe I should start a group!	May 30, 2012 3:21 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

760	There are quite a few single people in my church, for a variety of reasons, and I think that makes it easier to be single there.	May 29, 2012 10:48 PM
761	A place for meeting other like-minded people, including Christian singles.	May 29, 2012 2:34 PM
762	There are quite a few single women in my church. Many of them are inspirational, holy and wise women of all ages. I've recently moved to a church where there are no single men and it has helped me to focus on God rather than a good looking bloke. Often being single means that you are free to help out at church as you don't have sleep deprivation or need to find baby sitters. My church family include me in everything as an ordinary member of the family, they don't distinguish between me and someone who is attached or married. I even help out on the marriage prep course by baby sitting and doing admin for the leaders!	May 29, 2012 12:48 PM
763	I have nothing	May 29, 2012 10:30 AM
764	there are many opportunities of young people to get to know each other through programmes like visitings of members homes for lunch that is done every sunday.	May 29, 2012 9:24 AM
765	I am accepted for who I am not based on any marital status	May 29, 2012 7:21 AM
766	SINGLES GIRLS WITH CHILDREN ARE WELCOMED THERE AND SEPERATED DIVORCED PEOPLE ALSO AND EX PRISON IN MATES AND COLEGE STUDENTS ALSO	May 29, 2012 3:15 AM
767	not attended church for some years now	May 28, 2012 7:48 PM
768	Because singles are about 50% of the church it is very easy and common to be a single christian throughout your twenties. Admittedly I think it gets more difficult after 30 and very hard for those over 40.	May 28, 2012 4:34 PM
769	Few people there judge.	May 28, 2012 2:10 PM
770	they value people not their status.	May 28, 2012 1:37 PM
771	There are lots of singles in my church, and I as the Pastor, am one of them. I think that we try to help each other out and often go out as a group.	May 28, 2012 6:09 AM
772	because you are able to be involved in the church regadlesso f whether married or single bee na long teterm meber of the church I anm accepted as I am and not as bee na single man	May 28, 2012 4:24 AM
773	There are many single Christians there. Many marrieds and singles are reasonably sensitive to the needs of singles and view them with equality to marrieds. Bible teaching on this area is sound.	May 28, 2012 3:03 AM
774	lots of social events going on	May 28, 2012 2:32 AM
775	My church accepts all regardless of status of relationships and I am very aware that being single has its problems as has being married - neither is better or worse - both have challenges.	May 27, 2012 3:28 PM
776	Only have 20's bible study - so people in their 20s could meet	May 27, 2012 3:22 PM
777	My church accepts and respects me as lam.	May 27, 2012 2:41 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

778	It's very inclusive and healing for those coming out of difficult relationships / widows/ widowers or divorcees.	May 27, 2012 2:21 PM
779	My Church is a good place for single Christians because of its focus on people coming 'just as they are' into the fellowship and the community of the Church. I'm a single parent (never married) and the Church I previously attended (as a child) struggled with my being a parent, and I felt awkward. My current church (which my neighbours invited me to) welcomed me with open arms and utter acceptance... it feels like coming home to an embrace ... which I didn't realise quite how much I needed until I found it!	May 27, 2012 12:22 PM
780	Good 20s and 30s group. Prayers are readily made for single people. Preaching acknowledges the temptations and issues surrounded by singleness.	May 26, 2012 3:11 PM
781	Everyone is greeted and welcomed at the door and made to feel wanted and at home. We, the church, are one big happy family. A number of our ladies are Sunday service singles! However they help with the work of the church and feel part of our 'one big family'.	May 26, 2012 1:41 PM
782	single ladies group	May 26, 2012 1:00 PM
783	The friends I have made have been single -2 divorcees and one widow. They feel accepted in the church. As I said above, I am new to being single and church(after 10 years of not attending) so I still do feel very new and uninvolved with church matters (largely by choice)	May 26, 2012 7:58 AM
784	I find it difficult to answer some of these questions as when I go to church I am only looking for God,.	May 26, 2012 7:13 AM
785	They attempt to promote the idea that being single enables one to serve the Lord more effectively, as a result of being free from the various stresses, anxieties, responsibilities and burdens that are carried by those poor desirable married people.	May 26, 2012 5:49 AM
786	I enjoy a wide range of deep & significant friendships with lots of people in my church, my pastor & his wife, lots of married friends with kids, (I love it when they invite me into their families & kids lives), older, younger & same age couples & singles.	May 26, 2012 3:17 AM
787	my church is not a place for finding a date. it is a place of worship.	May 25, 2012 8:51 PM
788	20s 30s group for all - social, good groups dynamic - lots going on	May 25, 2012 2:13 PM
789	The student vibe means that there are lots of single people	May 25, 2012 2:05 PM
790	In my housegroup I am as valued as any other member	May 25, 2012 1:49 PM
791	There's nothing particularly good about it in this respect, it's just OK.	May 25, 2012 1:18 PM
792	Our church is warm, loving, friendly & accepting of all people regardless of age, race or singleness or not, however - I do feel as a single 40+ divorced woman that there are less ministry opportunities open to me & I don't feel I am paid as fairly as a married man would be despite the fact that I am now the bread winner for my daughter and I. There are activities for single under 40's but nothing for me & sadly good Christian men of my age are usually happily (thankfully) married. Those who are single at my age tend to be so	May 25, 2012 10:41 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	because they're not really the marrying type! I feel lonely and misunderstood frequently & wonder if I will ever meet someone who will not see the big 'Divorced' next to my name, but see me!	
793	We love one another as God has instructed us too	May 25, 2012 10:25 AM
794	Warrenton of God	May 25, 2012 10:06 AM
795	It acknowledges that there are singles and tries to have some optional seminar for us every now and again. At least some of the leadership feel we need to do something to care for the single Christians in the church - I've been invited to people's houses for lunch (including theirs) at their prompting to help include me in the life of people in the church.	May 25, 2012 8:37 AM
796	My church is still small enough for me to be known as an individual and accepted as such.	May 25, 2012 8:31 AM
797	Just normal. We don't focus on single/married all the time - main focus on the gospel, people growing with Jesus etc. In fact, probably pretty limited engagement with marriage / singleness... People come from such a wide variety of backgrounds that people would feel accepted (hopefully) regardless of age / gender / marital status / race etc.	May 25, 2012 7:02 AM
798	There are lots of other single Christians around, and even as people are starting to get married, the culture is still one of groups hanging out together, not everyone expecting to do things in pairs. We're involved in social action ministries and all kinds of other things, so actually it's the marrieds who tend to feel left out from time to time as they can't always get to all the evening events.	May 25, 2012 6:42 AM
799	It is isn't a good place for christian singles because it is very small	May 25, 2012 6:22 AM
800	In the last 20 years or so in my church more than 30 marriages have happened. I'm single because I choose to be. But if I need someone to help me decide if someone is right for me then my church family is always there for me. These marriages are from a wide range of ages.	May 25, 2012 5:02 AM
801	Nothing. No support or teaching for those of us singles who long to live Godly lives, date in a God honoring way and develop the base for a godly marriage. When I raised issue with Vicars wife was just told "Don't open that can of worms"!	May 25, 2012 4:39 AM
802	we dont have a population of "singles" male or female. There is a handful of women aged 24-37 that are single and we have womens groups that run social activities and studies as well as house groups. There really is not anything for single men and women because the need is not there.	May 25, 2012 4:12 AM
803	nothing from my past experiences. I found it very lonely.	May 25, 2012 4:01 AM
804	No comment	May 25, 2012 3:41 AM
805	Its not a great place for "Singles" but its certainly not a bad place!	May 24, 2012 3:10 PM
806	For me what makes my church a good place for single Christians is that my singleness is not an issue. I am accepted for who I am and it is a place that I can belong. Being part of a small group which is mixed gender, mixed age and mixed marital status helps because you are not put into a box or	May 24, 2012 2:16 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	segregated. It also means that you see the benefits as well as difficulties of both married and single life rather than feeling that the married state is so much better. My opportunities to participate in ministry are based on my gifts, not my marital status, so my singleness is not an issue.	
807	There are lots of 'things' you can get involved in but it's false. You aren't necessarily making friends, just people you do welcoming, coffees, bookshop with. I'm from a mid 40's divorced perspective (churches don't 'do' divorced women well!). It might be different for 20-30's but I know a few who haven't slotted in well to the cliques. It makes homegroups a great idea - but they should be mixed marrieds and singles by design.	May 24, 2012 11:23 AM
808	There's is singles fellowship	May 24, 2012 8:39 AM
809	I don't find my current church is really the best place for single Christians, I choose to go there because there are not so many other churches in the area that I would feel comfortable in either.	May 24, 2012 3:25 AM
810	Encourage you to be you. Promotes single people who achieve something that impacts people's lives. Social services where people are welcomed and encouraged to say hello to one another. There are roles to lead regardless of marital status. There are single people speaking from the front.	May 23, 2012 3:32 PM
811	I am in a HTB church and sometimes it still feels very lonely and find it hard to fit in.	May 23, 2012 11:18 AM
812	Not looking at people as part of a couple but as individuals. Yes it's good to support couples, being in a relationship is hard and rewarding. Have a young adult group that is not just a singles group, but also where couples can be. Don't single us out by saying this is a singles' thing rather be inclusive. If you say it's a singles' event you can pretty much guarantee most people there would be well turned out women hopping to snare a man. Instead, why not empower men and women to take risks on each other, and risk showing some of our hearts and sharing our hearts with each other, who knows what will happen!	May 22, 2012 11:34 PM
813	There are a number of widowed men who say they have benefitted from mutual support and advice.	May 22, 2012 1:51 PM
814	House groups with single and married couples	May 22, 2012 12:18 PM
815	My Church is not a good place for singles	May 22, 2012 11:54 AM
816	Recognising that older singles aren't necessarily going to enjoy the same type of activities that younger singles enjoy.	May 22, 2012 9:12 AM
817	I sing in the choir so I have a specific 'role' within my church. I have sung with them since I was 14. We have coffee after the service which is good for chatting with people, but I rarely get to meet other singles there, in fact most of the young people who come to our church for the first time are either engaged or getting their child Christened!	May 22, 2012 8:03 AM
818	There are so many different classes and courses, at the moment we have just started an Alpha course..We have them at different times throughout the year and the current one has 48 people coming. A single man came in recently and decided to take the Alpha course cos he liked the look of our building!!0	May 22, 2012 2:16 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

819	Am accepted for who I am	May 21, 2012 3:21 PM
820	It's a small and friendly church with a congregation of around 40. People are welcoming and you are never left sitting on your own in the church hall after the service. I have had offers to help me decorate my home and move furniture from church members.	May 21, 2012 3:07 PM
821	I can only speak for myself but I have been welcomed and made to feel a part of the church community since I moved here, maybe because I am widowed rather than single in other respects but I do not believe that is so	May 21, 2012 2:09 PM
822	There is a large student number at the church I go to and they are single and well catered for. The elderly are catered for too but not specifically for singles mostly those who have given up hope of ever finding a partner there are quite a lot of married couples in the group, I have only just started going to it!!.	May 21, 2012 1:52 PM
823	Young singles do a lot together but older singles do nothing	May 21, 2012 12:57 PM
824	Non judgemental people Activities that are good for adults specifically	May 21, 2012 10:34 AM
825	encourage them to pray more	May 21, 2012 8:32 AM
826	don't know	May 21, 2012 6:33 AM
827	Not much really - my church has recently stated that they intend to concentrate on youth and families in their vision for the future. I thought I was being listened to as a single providing ideas and assistance towards the church vision, but once the vision was stated, it was obvious that my input and offer of assistance has been ignored. My previous church was the largest in the area and I helped set up and run a group for 30/40's (which was mostly attended by singles altho it was open to anyone) and the church ordered us to shut down and stop meeting. The only reason that they would state was that we needed to stop concentrating on our singleness and get involved in the body of the church! They refused to acknowledge that singles might be able to gain encouragement from being able to share fellowship with others in similar situations; so that they could feel part of some sort of "family" or community; to feel like they could actually belong somewhere, which would encourage them to give back into the life of the church - we were all actively involved in many areas in the main body of the church (outside of our 30/40 group) - most members are now either at other churches or not attending church anywhere any more. Many have effectively lost their faith over the lack of love shown by this close-down and reinforced by other churches in the area similarly ignoring and/or marginalizing singles. I am running events from time to time where I have singles from all over England coming together for times that are very encouraging - all recount similar stories of being ignored & left out. Singles are one of the main groups that have enthusiasm, motivation, organisational skills, time & disposable income as well as being one of the biggest unreached groups outside of the church and yet we continue to be ignored in favour of families. In general, family members will have an inherent level of love, community and belonging - it is singles that need the focus to be brought into community! As I see it, a large part of the way that the old testament church was set up, was to look after the singles (widows and orphans are specifically mentioned, but in that culture, they were the singles) - the church is shirking one of its main responsibilities by ignoring singles, yet they all seem to be doing it!	May 20, 2012 6:40 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

828	We have a singles group so friends can go out socially without stigma and enjoy company without worrying about being single and different	May 20, 2012 3:32 PM
829	There is a wide mix of people within the church, of all ages, both single and married. I have never felt that I have been treated differently because I am single, but perhaps this is because there are a lot of single people there.	May 20, 2012 2:25 PM
830	single, married, there's no difference	May 20, 2012 12:30 PM
831	there are a large % of older single people in the church (through loss), and I think they are very happy to accept me as a 'younger' single persn.	May 20, 2012 12:03 PM
832	There are lots of other single people there so we have a good support network of friends.	May 20, 2012 12:02 PM
833	All are welcome, regardless. Singles have the same opportunity to head up outreaches etc as married folk.	May 20, 2012 11:34 AM
834	My situation is slightly different as I have a young child. We participate in activities suitable for children/families. There is a caring supportive ethos amongst members.	May 20, 2012 10:07 AM
835	See above comments...I cant say it is.	May 20, 2012 9:30 AM
836	Being single does not affect anyone's role in our church at all. Under our roof, you come as you are and are accepted that way. Simple as.	May 20, 2012 8:30 AM
837	my church and any others i have visited are not a good place for single christians. Cannot provide any inspirational stories.	May 20, 2012 8:25 AM
838	My church promotes singles. This is fine if you never want to get married, but not fine at all if you desperately want to find a partner.	May 20, 2012 8:17 AM
839	My church has a good mix of singles and married people. it is very accepting of who you are now	May 20, 2012 8:14 AM
840	There are socials and plenty of opportunities to get to know people from the small group as we do activities together. For example, playing badminton, going to a quiz night, dancing, parties, movie nights, going on trips outside of England.	May 19, 2012 5:27 PM
841	I have heard of churches having singles ministry - series of dinners/socials outside of church time for fellowship and friendship regardless of age, and different events to suit all interests	May 19, 2012 2:49 PM
842	A single incumbent provides a great role model for being single and social! There are single females in leadership in both my churches- I see less single men taking a lead (except the vicar). I think it takes a confident single person in leadership to create the 'norm' for others. On a youth camp I lead, we strategically made me a main leader so there was a single person at the top, alongside 'marrieds'. This made a huge difference to other singles who felt their needs were represented and considered.	May 19, 2012 2:13 PM
843	Lots of people (singles and married couples) in the 20s & 30s age group - good friends/fellowship. Healthy attitude re the blessing and challenges of both singleness and marriage.	May 19, 2012 2:01 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

844	we have informal services once a month where we share breakfast together before the service which give people a chance to speak to each other where may not get a chance on a normal sunday morning.	May 19, 2012 11:26 AM
845	I can't say it is a great place for singles, but it is a great place for family and being part of a family. If you have a church heavily focused on singles then how do they mingles with the babies or the grandparents and this is a better learn	May 18, 2012 11:39 PM
846	I was raised by may religions. But I always learn the basics of right and wrong even in my dark times. No pastor or priest were there to guide, comfort and help me. But God was among the people who carried me, watched and blessed me. In their eyes and the love they share. my family were the ones to bring God's love to keep me save and to remind me of faith.	May 18, 2012 8:35 PM
847	There are a number of singles in their 20s and 30s in my church and there are often social activities to get involved in.	May 18, 2012 9:28 AM
848	As mentioned before 10 of the 15 of the church folks are mature single women. Somtmes we miss the presence of men and can be to feeling orientated. we all do alot within the community, and socialise together.Sometimes my world gets to small,hence on a singles sight. The fellowship is very accepting with gay members, folks with mental heath problems, disabled members, ex hippies like me, an assortment of lovely people.	May 18, 2012 8:24 AM
849	I don't think my church is a great place for single Christians.	May 18, 2012 8:21 AM
850	Nothing in particular - but my church is predominantly made up of young families, yet I've never felt left out or lonely. The attitude is that we are all a spiritual family, and their children are my children, etc. I am one of the youth leaders, and it is an honour to be able to spend so much time with our young people when I don't have any children myself.	May 18, 2012 3:00 AM
851	Not being the only single person there helps.	May 18, 2012 2:17 AM
852	The church is House of God, Fountain of Love, Healing place, all richness available. When it is biblical people who prefers their worldly principles find difficult to settle. Church is not an entertainment place for people, it si a place to serve and worship. People who thinks always about me, me, me cannot fit in unfortunately. Once you start to reach out and serve healing starts and and you start being selfish to say church is nit meeting my needs - yet you understand you are there to serve. I am not so sure these questions are prepared by a Christian Believer? Were they?	May 18, 2012 1:46 AM
853	I wish there were more opportunities to perhaps meet within a singles only setting without it seeming like a 'dating club'.	May 17, 2012 12:55 PM
854	The church is more focussed on good teaching on how to grow in Christlikeness. So the vast majority of teaching is applicable to all, no matter what their status is. If they are teaching on stuff that may cause issues with singles, like teaching relating to marriages and so on... then the applications of teaching are not directed to any one specific group... everyone can get something out of it. I think I'd have more of a problem with church and being single if there was a particular emphasis on issues relating to singleness/marriage/relationships/family and children. They aren't too feminine!! I've been to several churches before and found (mainly with the	May 17, 2012 11:25 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	more "modern"/charismatic ones) that they are so over-emotional and focus way to much on feelings and such. As a single man, this is a massive turn-off (though I'd probably feel the same way even if I was married!). I think churches would do good to remember that Jesus was not all sappy and over-emotional. He was a proper man! (Kicking out the sellers in the temple as a good example)...	
855	My church organises events for christians aged 18-30 (they do not target single christians but many in that age group are single). Activities range from church based to social, sport, travel, volunteering, neighbourhood work, etc. Usually these are inexpensive & typically on evenings and weekends, including weekends away. Church support can be premises/ rooms or a vehicle e.g. bus/coach or sponsorship events or sometimes direct financial support to ensure that members are not excluded on financial grounds.	May 17, 2012 7:26 AM
856	Would struggle on this! Singles without children seem to have more going for them than singles with children.	May 17, 2012 6:52 AM
857	My church is very large and so there is opportunity to meet people. However, I have felt it difficult to feel part of a family there due to the large size. I think it might be easier in a smaller church due to my shy character. Before I would have thrived on that kind of church environment, but as I have experienced difficult time I feel it harder to be open with people.	May 17, 2012 3:54 AM
858	I think being made to feel welcome would help and also pastors encouraging people to be join groups where they can meet new people.	May 16, 2012 7:32 PM
859	its a big church but not enough christian single men	May 16, 2012 2:18 PM
860	The ethos is that all people are welcome and race, relational status, age, ability, disability, etc etc in my Church. We have social and spiritual groups for all ages and some really fun social events (such a beer and curry nights/ comedy/ 10 pin bowlig nights etc) which are all very acceptable for us to invite non Christian friends to and this creates a very happy and sociable fellowship which is why our Church has grown and more people have come to know Christ.	May 16, 2012 10:14 AM
861	Lots of involvement opportunities. Most of the people in our church our single.	May 16, 2012 9:59 AM
862	Nothing!	May 16, 2012 8:05 AM
863	There are not many single people my age in my own church, but that's fine because I receive good teaching there and I see how it's important to have people of all age groups in a church, to encourage each other. I know a Canadian and a South African who met in Mongolia. If God really wants to bring people together, that can happen any time. I'm thinking about marriage but I feel I need to follow my calling as a Christian first and in God's timing marriage may come.	May 16, 2012 8:02 AM
864	as above. I think singleness and gender go together. As a woman, if you are single is it because you are unattractive, you have n`t marketed yourself properly. For males, it`s because they`ve made a choice. This notion of being in control of your status is gender specific. The worst situation I`ve experienced is being in a gender segregated church - albeit accepting the ministry of women, but you almost weren`t allowed to talk to men. Any contact was seen as suspicious. I am a person first and foremost and a	May 16, 2012 1:11 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	woman second. God has shown me the nationality and profession of my future husband and how I will meet him. Without such a vision I would perish. So that is what the church should teach and then there would be freedom to talk to whomever I want without being accused of ulterior motives.	
865	that we have alot of singles and include us in enerything	May 15, 2012 1:55 PM
866	Our pastor has a heart for singles and will encourage us in leadership roles and to get involved. He has been researching how to help single people in the church.	May 15, 2012 12:58 PM
867	My church is full of lovely people who never mock me for my singleness. But i get the strong vibe that I'm expected to be in a relationship and I am looked on as odd because I'm not :( there seems to be no single christian women in my local area. There's even few on this website :-(	May 15, 2012 12:54 PM
868	Our church is a small daughter church and has a minister who is himself single, so homegroups meeting for a meal in the pub happens not infrequently, and a lot of midweek church together meetings are planned round meals together. We have some active, now single again, older people who organise the catering.	May 15, 2012 11:16 AM
869	Plenty of other singles around so no-one thinks it's strange to be single	May 15, 2012 8:36 AM
870	It doesn't. It's geared up mainly for couples and children.	May 15, 2012 5:00 AM
871	I have been accepted as an individual in my own right and I have been invited to get involved with the leading of services / events.	May 15, 2012 1:17 AM
872	Our church is awesome for young people, as we have a youth rock band. We have day trips around the country. We take the youth out every week to Evangelise. We even 'boo' the pastor sometimes (all in good fun). The Pastor has now even started allowing the youth to run some meetings, we put on plays and record 'rap' songs for the church. We always start the service laughing and then come away crying because of the presense of God. It's hard sometimes to explain to a young person just how much of a laugh we have in church.	May 14, 2012 6:26 PM
873	Small groups are a key part of church life & often have a broad range of people.	May 14, 2012 3:10 PM
874	We do a lot of family events so I often go along with my mum/cousins etc instead of a boyfriend/husband.	May 14, 2012 3:02 PM
875	My church is one of a fairly old congregational age so I am the exception as a youngish single female. However, I don't see my attendance at church as being linked to my single status and the community is very open and welcoming to me as an individual. There are also many single older women who have never married. I feel I can talk openly to older married members about their own stories on meeting their spouses which is good.	May 14, 2012 2:58 PM
876	It is not a good place for singles.	May 14, 2012 1:51 PM
877	There are lots of young people so a sense of community	May 14, 2012 1:08 PM
878	As a person of faith rather than religion.Church is a place where all people can relax in the presence of god and have a time of quiet reflection as well	May 14, 2012 12:37 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	as joy filled singing and the reverent sharing in the body and blood sacrament of christ .The priests make themselves available to chat if need be .by appointment.Different social events to include all ages . But I find there is a need to organise bringing single christians together within the church .	
879	One couple of a similar age who have fairly recently married (one for the first time and one having been divorced and had to bring up children on her own) make a special effort to include me - I guess because they know what it feels like. Except for them people are really nice and friendly at church but that's as far as it goes.	May 14, 2012 12:23 PM
880	Members of the staff team are single so are very aware of singleness	May 14, 2012 12:01 PM
881	Many single people are in leadership positions in our church. Probably more than married. We are a very eclectic city church with a huge mix of races, cultures and economic backgrounds. Married or single are treated equally in the mix.	May 14, 2012 11:44 AM
882	There are a growing number of us singles and there is a culture across the churches in the area to meet up.	May 14, 2012 9:58 AM
883	TREAT EVERYONE WITH THE SAME LOVE -	May 14, 2012 9:27 AM
884	my church doesn't cater for single people as such and there are no activities or opportunities for singles to meet and socialise,so I have no anecdotes to share!	May 14, 2012 9:10 AM
885	A very welcoming church and accepts all for who they are.	May 14, 2012 8:38 AM
886	when my partner passed away they were very supportive and still are	May 14, 2012 8:19 AM
887	GREAT small groups, welcoming couples and families, excellent events.	May 14, 2012 6:42 AM
888	Each person can contribute. Everyone can express opinions or doubts without judgement. Each person can share their gifts. There is no spiritual elitism.	May 14, 2012 3:39 AM
889	There are so many singles at my church it kinda seems the norm.	May 14, 2012 3:17 AM
890	It doesn't, I am the only single in my age range of 20 - 25	May 14, 2012 12:41 AM
891	lots of singles met and got married at our church; there are also long standing singles who have a busy social life with other singles and married friends	May 13, 2012 3:27 PM
892	The only good thing is that i have a greater chance of meeting another single christian. The church does not deal with the singleness issue. It doesn't teach how to handle being single in a healthy God pleasing way. It isn't good enough to say either marry or don't have sex... I feel because there is no effective healthy balanced teaching on how good being single can be and also how to handle the emotional, spiritual, physical and or course sexual pressures/tensions that being single can create people are hurting deeply. Church has pre marriage counselling and marriage counselling but no singles counselling it seem at the moment the idea is that marriage is the cure for singleness and keeping busy till then is the only option..	May 13, 2012 3:00 PM
893	They have recently started a young adults group, and they run a singles	May 13, 2012 2:05 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	group called 'living stones'. I have always had lots of opportunities to serve, and feel as much a member of the family as anyone else.	
894	As church leader this is impossible to answer - new in post. Predominantly singles (divorcees) in congregation. We just get on with being church.	May 13, 2012 1:53 PM
895	Single Christians use Facebook to organize social activities	May 13, 2012 1:32 PM
896	There is a welcome desk going into the Church, for anyone new coming into the Church, nobody gets missed and are made to feel very welcome and have chats and tea and coffee after a service. New people are sat with if they don't mind to make them feel at home within the Church.	May 13, 2012 1:30 PM
897	We have a ladies group that meets in the week in the evening which is a good place to make friends, but it is difficult to get to know the (few) single men in our church as many activities are not mixed.	May 13, 2012 1:17 PM
898	It's not! Very rural, not any new single people my age, if there are, they are really dull boring people that i have nothing in common with!	May 13, 2012 12:12 PM
899	Very accepting	May 13, 2012 10:21 AM
900	Only been there for a short while, so not sure	May 13, 2012 10:09 AM
901	There are caring people who take me under their wing if and when they can and that support is amazing.	May 13, 2012 9:22 AM
902	Improving range of activities outside working hours - book club, house groups.	May 13, 2012 9:09 AM
903	n/a	May 13, 2012 5:14 AM
904	My church is not a good place for singles. My church is a great place for the important things like; Jesus is central, spirit led, strong bible teachings, worship etc. Not saying that singleness is not important, but my church doesn't have anything in place for single people.	May 13, 2012 3:28 AM
905	Because it welcomes anyone.	May 12, 2012 11:26 AM
906	My church family is supportive in praying with me for a husband and a family.	May 12, 2012 9:11 AM
907	I think the church is a good opportunity for everyone to network. Finding a partner is like finding a job.	May 12, 2012 9:05 AM
908	I trust and believe that everyone is accepted for who they are. Actually I think it's harder for married people whose spouses are outside the church than singles.	May 12, 2012 9:02 AM
909	There are a fair few younger members...and if the same encouragement to join the choir is still in force...We have more than one choir and they are renowned for excellence...Then hopefully we will survive well...However having said that I will have to consult My lady friend for more info as I have not managed to get there to see for myself since my Mum had cancer removed from her head...she has needed so much more care and errands etc that I do not get to sleep until most are getting up....so have not made it to church...I will eventually! My lady friend ( who I met there a few years ago) and I manage to keep in touch about once a fortnight even if only by phone!	May 12, 2012 8:26 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

so she tells me we still haven,t been assigned our permanent vicar yet!...and fortunately she has others who give her a lift...as I used to...however there are times now that even If I could get up and ready in time...I am too short of sleep to be driving so don,t!...these are things that are hidden////so imagine the many other things singles hide....the mind set is...well I am on my own so I will have to manage! so too is depression hidden, OCD is hidden, arthritis to some extent is hidden, shortage of money is hidden...you name it like abuse much is hidden by many...only by supplying help lines for the quiet hours when people are off guard and may need to reach out...if they had their own church support lines...just may open up...but and a big but....I know because of our own church...there is a shortage of funds.....so it is how? I have noticed nearby as I drove passed one church seems to be addressing this big time...they have a huge sign outside the church inviting any one to get in touch and go to their drop in centre... I intend when time to take more note of what is on offer!..they it seems have extended their support from what at first was for young mothers...so they are trying to encompass all...so I see that as inspirational. I have at this moment had time to write so much as for now My Mum is resting and for now all shopping laundry and needs are met...now I have my own to catch up with...Thankyou for the opportunity to have a say!

910	Unfortunately I don't think my church caters too well for single Christians. As I said it is family (as husband, wife and children) orientated and I do feel alone at times.	May 12, 2012 7:37 AM
911	No-one speaks to you so you don't have to explain you're single. It's good having single Priests	May 12, 2012 5:28 AM
912	None in my case. 2yrs attending, I have never had them talk about singles of organise programmes for them! I wonder if we exist!	May 12, 2012 5:23 AM
913	We have a sunday evening social group for under 40's which is a good facility for singles to attend with no pressure to have a partner or be looking for a partner. However if you're over 40 then there's a problem. There are lots of opportunities for anyone to participate in the ministry of the church, prayer groups, house groups, homeless focus groups, ecofriendly focus group, groups for children that need leaders with hearts and minds in tune with young people, music group, ministry that is prepared to include members of the congregation to participate/lead from time to time, bible reading rota etc.	May 12, 2012 4:40 AM
914	In the past my church has provided social outings for singles, however this is not longer. I think the church is general find it difficult to address 'singles' hence it is not talked about very often.	May 12, 2012 3:30 AM
915	it is better than some simply because there are a few sinhle Christians ie it is not all families	May 12, 2012 12:46 AM
916	Our church is based on communities making up the body. So they include all people whatever the marital status. So in this, it makes you feel less alone and more in a family.	May 11, 2012 1:57 PM
917	I am a single dad in full times ministry. My church goes out of its way to help me with my young children and accepts that sometimes I just will be pulling my hair out trying to stop one of my twin boys from pulling over the candelas! I also dont feel a pressure to be in a relationship from the church, they accept me for where I am.	May 11, 2012 1:40 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

918	My community group is very inclusive and sometimes has events at my house so I can come more easily. My old church house group were very supportive practically, women taking turns staying over at my house when I didn't want to be alone and a family let me stay at their house one night a week for months so my ex could stay at mine with the kids (at the time could not have them where he was living).	May 11, 2012 1:29 PM
919	just treated the same	May 11, 2012 12:23 PM
920	when the singles all get together and spend the whole sunday haveing fun and friendship together its great	May 11, 2012 9:28 AM
921	Bible study groups cater equally for singles & couples (in fact better for those without children). Opportunity to meet and socialise with those in a similar situation (even if not of the opposite sex). Single parents often very well catered for in church, with support - including financial - with childcare, camps, etc.	May 11, 2012 9:12 AM
922	I am relatively new to my current church but there are plenty of events that go on where anyone can attend. I'd say my church is quite welcoming, in contrast to my previous church which was really big and lively but made me feel so lost and ignored that I left. I don't think that would have been the case so much if I were not single.	May 11, 2012 8:52 AM
923	There are a great deal of divorced Christians. I know that at one of my last churches they did a group meeting with divorced people within the community led by a divorced Christian lady and they had about 8 people attend and gained a better understanding about the church.	May 11, 2012 5:25 AM
924	Not sure how to answer, there are small group meetings etc but nothing specifically for singles I think. I've never really though that much about singleness being an issue in church, but I think my church is fairly equally inclusive of everyone single/married	May 10, 2012 2:48 PM
925	It is a place where Christians can serve God. Single people can do this, as can married people.	May 10, 2012 2:17 PM
926	I'm not sure that my church is a good place for single Christians. My anecdotes would probably not provide much inspiration.	May 10, 2012 12:25 PM
927	My church has a very strong community focus - there are a lot of young people in it and people from broken families. Being married with 2.4 children is just not the norm here and so it is not expected. My church leaders have 3 adorable children and i am very much a part of their lives. Because of the relationships in the community/church there is a spirit of openness between us all - yes, there are people who would not be trusted to looking after the kids but that is because it is not their gifting/talent/desire - there are more men than women working with young people in our church community.	May 10, 2012 11:37 AM
928	They accept me the way I am just me I feel sometime that I don,t belong cause I am alone.	May 10, 2012 10:46 AM
929	There are lots of other singles in my church, which is the most positive thing, as at least there is the opportunity to meet someone of my age who is single. However, I do sometimes think that leads to a culture of singleness, i.e. there is too much choice, so its easier not to choose anyone, or not to commit seriously in case one meets someone "better".	May 10, 2012 10:41 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

930	Gods unconditional love and in turn the family love of a church nurtures singletons as well as those in relationships. Church is a great place to meet new people in a normal healthy environment before any thought of relationships come to pass! Those who enter relationships in church and then they dont work out can find being newly single very awkward and in some cases those individuals leave the church.	May 10, 2012 7:09 AM
931	I do not currently attend church, so can't respond to this question.	May 10, 2012 7:05 AM
932	A congregation with a good, natural range of age ranges. In many churches, especially the established ones, the congregation is predominantly 60+ which puts off and demoralises younger church goers. A congregation ages and dwindles when it fails actively to evangelise. A church which actively evangelises will have a lively and church community, with the full age ranges.	May 10, 2012 3:52 AM
933	Probably because there are so many divorced/separated single people in the congregation, it's easier to feel at home than perhaps 20 years ago. There's nothing specifically aimed at singles in the way of events, just members being generally loving and supportive where necessary... We meet in a town hall (rather than use our own building) on Sundays, which possibly makes it easier for 'curious newcomers' to drop in and leave quickly if they wish. When you're single that can be important. Buildings shouldn't make a difference, but...	May 10, 2012 3:12 AM
934	My Church is a good place for single Christians because in his messages, the pastor frequently gives pieces of advice and encouragement to single Christians. There is also an annual Single Mingle event where single Christians are taught things like: how will I know the will of God; what does God say about sex: what is the key to finding the right man or woman; 24 facts about courtship and so on. This summit also gives single Christians the opportunity to mingle with one another in godly way as the name implies. I just wish there is a more regular get together for single Christians. Once in a year just doesn't cut it, in my opinion.	May 10, 2012 1:24 AM
935	a church is a good place to start if you decide you wold like to meet a christian, wife husband or partner	May 9, 2012 11:51 PM
936	my home group has got other single Christian women who are inspiring and encouraging to me. It has been good for me to meet some older women to be role models. I don't feel excluded from any activities because I am single.	May 9, 2012 2:37 PM
937	I've never heard the priest mentioning single people in my church. He probably thinks everyone is married and the fact that the congregation is mainly old people, he doesn't see the need to call upon single people.	May 9, 2012 2:14 PM
938	They are loving, tolerant and most people in it have lived in the real world and know that life can't be simplified to anti-science and fundamentalist doctrine. However, we are strongly Biblically based and follow the way of Jesus as far as we can, both individually and communally. I love my church and feel supported and accepted - we are all treated as individuals of value. I have been a member for more than 30 years and some of my closest friends are church members, but they also accept my many atheist and agnostic friends, and treat members of other faiths with courtesy and respect, including Pagan and Wiccan friends as well as other mainstream faiths. I and the Minister used to arrange an annual party in the church for all faiths and none and it was well supported. We have a big range of social programs.	May 9, 2012 1:57 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

939	People are accepted and valued for who they are not relationship status	May 9, 2012 1:46 PM
940	There are lots of students	May 9, 2012 1:05 PM
941	My church is extremely inclusive and they are many activities and opportunity for single people to mingle, however this has not always been the case in church life in different churches. I think also because there are more women in the church than men, it can be hard to just make friends as men can feel a little intimidated.	May 9, 2012 1:00 PM
942	They have days out for single people up to late 20's	May 9, 2012 12:49 PM
943	Every is accepted	May 9, 2012 12:39 PM
944	There's lots going on and therefore lots of opportunities to get involved and help with things	May 9, 2012 11:07 AM
945	we have a solo section of the womens ministry organising trips for single ladies to make friends etc social events for young people can meet new christian friends	May 9, 2012 7:37 AM
946	I am welcomed and treated the same as everybody else. however I may move church as there are no single women my age for friendship or relationship	May 9, 2012 7:21 AM
947	It would give me the opportunity to be involved, eg on the PA and OHP Display. Even so, there don't seem to be a 'huge' number of vacancies requiring single folks, not even in children's work. Unlike at my previous church. Though there my offer to work with children was sadly never taken up .. possibly as a result of discrimination against 'single men and children'.	May 9, 2012 6:37 AM
948	Absolutely nothing, unless you're late teens early twenties, and willing and able to help out in some capacity.	May 9, 2012 3:35 AM
949	I do go to a 20s&30s group which is good. It's run by people in their 20s & 30s and there's a social side as well as good teaching. We recently had a spring ball and there are walks and weekends away. But soon I'll be outside that age group. There's nothing for 40s plus if you are single as you're expected to be married or maybe divorced with children by then.	May 9, 2012 3:09 AM
950	I think the key is intergration. Making sure that single people are not segregated into a singles group but intergrated with the church family. There is no reason why single people cannot be included socially with couples and families. Single people want to be included not segregated. There is no reason why single people can not lead a homegroup.	May 8, 2012 10:51 PM
951	It is a large congregation and they are trying for us all to become involved in some way in the running of the Church. There are specific groups which cater for older people, young families, men, women, young people and children.	May 8, 2012 3:01 PM
952	There is inclusive culture in our church where all ages and stages are welcomed.	May 8, 2012 2:53 PM
953	As part of counselling after death of my God daughter minister took my views on board and included them in a sermon Whilst ensuring child protection measures are in place does encourage interaction between children and rest	May 8, 2012 2:23 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	of congregation. A few members who ask how I am when I randomly attend.	
954	Lots of activities, lunches, social evening, film club that encourage singles and couples in get involved.	May 8, 2012 1:09 PM
955	1) Good number of other singles attend that are professional in "real" careers 2) It's in a commuter location so naturally you'll have more singles living in the area 3) The church focuses on singles more than 8 others I have tried 4) The church will attract more diverse people given its location which is appealing I specifically targeted my church based on ONE thing only as I was very fed up with going to either ultra boring and dead churches with a stereotypical demographic (children, very old, middle age, 25-35 yr olds that are married on kid #2 or #3) or weird, charismatic churches with shaking/tongues/bad vibes where you wouldn't dare bring a nonChristian because they'd be bound to feel more uncomfortable than me. I chose the location based on the type of people that got on my train at that particular location.....the people looked normal and they were professionals so if I found a church in that same location then statistically I would meet similar and I did! Love my church and God really spoke to me on the first visit so I just knew! My methodology on finding a church was not so much Christian but more practical!	May 8, 2012 12:17 PM
956	Appears to be lively and friendly for young single Christians. A lot of them are pairing off. Moral - as a single Christian, find your mate young or forget it.	May 8, 2012 11:36 AM
957	Although my present Church is relatively small - approx. 50 people - I feel I am not treated any differently from any of the others there. I feel that I belong as a member of the congregation., I used to before moving to Suffolk go to a Baptist Church - 400 in the congregation and attended there for 10 years. I was not treated any different from the rest of the fellowship. In both of these Churches the people have helped me a great deal.	May 8, 2012 9:42 AM
958	My Minister noticed my absence in church and personally emailed me to ask after my well-being, how about that? Some people have been very thoughtful about my single status ( others, unfortunatley , have not..)	May 8, 2012 9:22 AM
959	My Church which goes right back to ...Nicea... is an excellent place for singles because it is non denomonational and we live by the word of the lord .	May 8, 2012 9:14 AM
960	Because of the youth focus of the Church, single people have more time to serve and be part of the activities involved in what we do. so we can have a single vision and focus which connects us together.	May 8, 2012 7:51 AM
961	Minister who has used my views in a sermon. A few members who know I don't find life in the church easy and let me sound off occasionally.	May 8, 2012 6:50 AM
962	The church (mym church) attracts quite a few younger people which is good for younger singles. As there is a large youth element,, lots of singles grow up together and that's good. I think it's harder when you're single and older. definelty not so easy then.	May 8, 2012 4:28 AM
963	In the church I go to the congregation is large with people from all parts of life, I have recently been appointed an area leader even as a single person.	May 8, 2012 3:23 AM
964	The church I attend accepts anyone who attends, regardless of their status,	May 8, 2012 2:55 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	single, unemployed, disabled, the kind of labels that often make someone less desirable to have around as a friend or neighbour. They believe that we are all equal in the eyes of God and not to be judged on status. Jesus was single so there should not be any prejudice against singleness.	
965	I'm accepted for who I am and the skills I possess rather than as a single person. The women's group is also a lovely outlet for the adult females in the church (of whatever age or marital status) to get together and discuss, fund raise and have fun.	May 8, 2012 2:28 AM
966	they carry out youth outreach for get connected with youth in and around the church.	May 8, 2012 2:11 AM
967	The ministry team always seem to consciously address issues in sermons etc from the perspective of both married / people in a relationship and single people. I have never felt at all judged from the ministry team in terms of being single. There is encouragement both 'from the pulpit' and in bulletins etc to seek and live in relationship - stressing that relationship and the text that 'it's not good for Man to live alone' refers just as much to community as it does to the relationship of marriage.	May 8, 2012 1:21 AM
968	Home groups work well, and can provide a basis for doing other things together	May 8, 2012 1:19 AM
969	There aren't any! It's not a good place for single men.	May 7, 2012 5:56 PM
970	My Church isn't good for single people. No chance of meeting anyone there either as there are no single men attending my Church. There is a singles group, but it's just for women!	May 7, 2012 3:15 PM
971	My church runs a marriage course, but invites singles to attend (good foundation lessons to be learned!) We had a series of gatherings to find out what singles want from church and how they feel they are being served As a single parent, with a disabled child i am welcomed, loved encouraged and supported. I am able to give and receive But then my church IS BRILLIANT!!	May 7, 2012 3:14 PM
972	it's not	May 7, 2012 3:11 PM
973	In my church, there are many single women and I get on well with them. I feel accepted and welcomed by everyone. There has never been any suggestion in the 3 years I've been at the church that marriage is a higher calling than singleness, and that helps.	May 7, 2012 2:35 PM
974	My church should have Singel Groops.	May 7, 2012 2:29 PM
975	Support, love, education, hope. My pastor stops to listen if I have a concern.	May 7, 2012 2:23 PM
976	I am in a leadership role in the church; and fully accepted in that role. I find that I do have to remind the organizers frequently that basing everything on families is very alienating to single people. Many single people in our church are never offered hospitality. The twenties age group in our church have their own home group / social group. Single people are welcomed at our church; and in many cases well looked after (particularly if they are part of a home group). There is still more work to be done. Our church also runs a monthly Sunday lunch for the more mature who are on their own.	May 7, 2012 2:12 PM
977	good teaching from the bible and believeing god has a plan for everyone	May 7, 2012 2:00 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

978	I have a very understanding and down to earth Parish Priest. I don't think it so much the Church that does not embrace people being single. The world that we live seems to think there is somethink wrong with you if you are a woman that is single and has never married or had kids or been in a relationship for a long time.	May 7, 2012 1:20 PM
979	I have met other single friends who have been a great support, but in a personal context rather than through church activities. One or two older people counsel younger single people who are struggling with singleness and sometimes pray for them.	May 7, 2012 1:08 PM
980	Our church is a great place for single male Christians. Worship is not too 'girly', they can lead tech teams with all the latest kit, can help out with sports, get whisked into leadership roles within no time at all. Great ratios if you're looking for a girlfriend or marriage. Plenty activities to choose from, whatever your age. Leaders sufficiently masculine and personable as role models, with no women allowed to preach. Theology plays up 'man as head' and other ego boosters. etc. etc. etc. For many single female Christians, especially those over 30, there is growing, deep PAIN. Many don't acknowledge it at first, or try distracting themselves with their careers, 'serving' the church etc. Yes, there's plenty inspiration - serving in so many different ways, which I'll leave other surveys to tell. My single Christian female friends at church are a lifeline in a world and, sadly, a church, that often just doesn't get it.	May 7, 2012 12:32 PM
981	I am accepted as an individual, just not specifically catered for.	May 7, 2012 11:06 AM
982	I'm afraid I can't. It gets worse as the church 'grows' and more couples/families come. The rest of us are ignored. I'm thinking of leaving - but to where?! Most churches are the same! I am too old for Youth Groups! But I do not have a disease! I am young-at-heart, intelligent, attractive, on-fire for God ...and treated as if I'm invisible! I am hurting & 'lonely' & need some of that Christian Love Jesus talks about us giving! (Yes, I give!) So, I don't know the answer...full of joy & also growing sorrow & disappointment. Please let us know if you have a good suggestion!	May 7, 2012 11:02 AM
983	It has an active 20s n 30s group There is a group for all people who join the church that meets once a week to eat together and then study the Bible in smaller groups - a great way to get to know others (both other singles and non-singles.)	May 7, 2012 10:58 AM
984	Well I'm actually currently researching single ministry stuff for my church, so currently it's not great. But it will get better! People think HTB is the place to go to meet people. It is, but you have to be strong willed to get in there, it takes a year to settle in. The up side is that there are tons of volunteering opportunities and ways to meet people. We have also recently been preaching on healthy relationships, dating and sex, so we hope the congregation will be well equipped to make good relationship choices.	May 7, 2012 10:41 AM
985	there are programmes or activities for people if they are single there is a social aspect of church they could be part of. Or even develop programmes for single people which is even better.	May 7, 2012 10:31 AM
986	It is a family and everyone is totally included, whatever their marital status.	May 7, 2012 10:08 AM
987	Just happen to know quite a few other single parents etc so that helps.	May 7, 2012 9:44 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

988	I am accepted but " feel" on occasion that my marriage break down is a whole negative area. I believe in marriage and would welcome more expression to recognise the difficulties in meeting like minded single Christian folk, acknowledgement	May 7, 2012 9:21 AM
989	my house church is too small to be a meeting place but the leaders do pray that the singles will meet people and also give good advice about praying, preparing, etc. The leader often reminds that men that, 'He who finds a wife finds a good thing' and therefore the ownice is on the man to go out and look. For us women, his counsel has been to make ourselves available (in a biblical way!) and pray that we would be seen by any men that God wants us to be seen by.	May 7, 2012 8:28 AM
990	There are a few singles at my main church but they are not very social	May 7, 2012 8:11 AM
991	At my church everyone is accepted of who they are most people in my church get married in there late teens	May 7, 2012 7:25 AM
992	They have been supportive and being an extended family in times of difficulty	May 7, 2012 5:46 AM
993	you can be used by god easily	May 7, 2012 5:14 AM
994	By being made welcome from other members of the church, especially if you are new	May 7, 2012 3:14 AM
995	Having a single person in the leadership team helps	May 7, 2012 2:50 AM
996	It is good that there are at least two other single Christians there.	May 7, 2012 2:09 AM
997	My church accepts everyone young and old it doesn't matter what your status is, where your at with your walk with the Lord. We meet to worship him, hear his word and to fellowship with one another. I truly believe that the Lord will grant you a partner when your ready, we are told to trust in him alone	May 7, 2012 2:07 AM
998	Individuals respected, cherished, helped,nurtured, utilise in serving teams all as appropriate	May 7, 2012 1:32 AM
999	A community based cafe was created in 2007 and has become a very welcoming part of village/church life.	May 7, 2012 12:55 AM
1000	It focusses on bible teaching not social interactions between single people. I think it can be a mistake when the church loses its' focus to satisfy legitimate needs. what is more needful is to be equipped to live for God first and then if a partner comes along, then my priorities will be in the right place.	May 7, 2012 12:40 AM
1001	Welcome atmosphere important, sharing with friends and being involved- we have Little church for youg mums and children, support for East Africa, the Missions and charity supporting Street children.	May 6, 2012 10:57 PM
1002	There are lots of us! My church works hard to create community amongst the 20's & 30's age group as well to integrate everyone into one family. We have lots of social events including a weekly social at a local wine bar where a variety of people from our church perform acoustic music sets. We also have trips for the 20's & 30's people as well as whole family events.	May 6, 2012 7:24 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1003	With only 12 of us in the congregation and living on an estate where we are trying to be incarnational, everyone is needed to pull their weight. I love my church because I am literally integrated into the community. I have my own flat, but 2 other couples are very near neighbours. I am regularly invited for meals and feel free to be able to drop into the main community house. My flat is also a drop in point for friends that we are making within the community.	May 6, 2012 7:23 PM
1004	I love my church, they are my extended family. I have several sets of surrogate family members - grandparents to younger brothers and sisters. I know I am loved, but it has taken about 5 years for me to feel like that, and I have had to be confident in who I am to make that happen. If you're not confident, church becomes difficult to 'do'. If you're fortunate enough to have others your age, take advantage of it, but don't always expect them to be at church. I often find myself standing alone in church as the only one in my 20's but I use the opportunity to catch up with grandparents and young people. The older generation at church always ask for an invite to my wedding - I know they are joking, but I also know they are praying for me! My vicar (who is also my line manager) prays for me and his wife is always looking out for me!! But unless you're doing a theology degree for priesthood, you'd be fortunate to find a guy who knows who God is!	May 6, 2012 6:07 PM
1005	It's large - so there is less of a "goldfish bowl" effect when it comes to dating. There are more single men than in most churches.	May 6, 2012 4:35 PM
1006	There are difficulties connecting with other singles and the one main problem I have found is that when you are known to be looking out for someone it is accepted you are looking for a wife whereas in the world it is not always seen in this way. The other problem is when someone gets close to you but I feel it is not right to progress to something more committed it has to be done carefully to keep the other person intact and this can be offputting to even begin a strong friendship. I tell my pastor what I am doing step by step and he prays and encourages or discourages me and because I do trust him I value what he says and work closely with him.	May 6, 2012 3:18 PM
1007	Many other single Christians of similar age. Well attended evening service in addition to the morning (family ) service	May 6, 2012 2:45 PM
1008	It has lots of events and retreats to mingle with ppl from church.	May 6, 2012 2:32 PM
1009	I am the only single Christian in my church as it is a small congregation so can't really comment!	May 6, 2012 2:19 PM
1010	I don't know if its a 'good' place for a single Christian other than its a good place to be a Christian. Its loving and accepting of all people regardless of their circumstances, sometime in spite of their circumstances. I think those who are married or in families are loving to all others. The small group structure helps with creating a family feel although I've been in other small groups that didn't feel so much like a family. Its people being interested in others lives - genuinely not looking at things in a hierarchy where marriage and family has more needs than those without. I rarely hear talk about people's marital situation in our church more about their ministry, gifts and talents - this is good godly focus for me.	May 6, 2012 1:51 PM
1011	We have a regular congregation of no more than 40, but have produced two marriages in the past year in addition to those marriages conducted for couples who joined the church seeking to marry.	May 6, 2012 1:34 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1012	Church itself isn't what makes being single easier, it's knowing that Jesus was single and more affective in his ministry because of this and also knowing that i'm an equal in God's eyes. I have the freedom to do anything i like in the church and it's embracing that and being given the opportunities in which to lead, to discover gifts and talents and being encouraged by other people in the church that makes a difference and not feeling under any pressure or under sympathy to find someone.	May 6, 2012 1:34 PM
1013	I have been part of the Creative arts team being short reflections to the congregation and taking people through the liturgical calender. I have given a few reflections in my church. I am also responsible for set up of the PA from front of house, and the team look to me for advise and instruction. You could say I am sort of a team lead.	May 6, 2012 1:27 PM
1014	Having said the above I have a very dear lady who is like a Mum to me and as a single women that is very precious.	May 6, 2012 11:59 AM
1015	My church is family so nothing goes on for singles that is why I use this site	May 6, 2012 11:47 AM
1016	There used to be singles groups but the over 40s were marginalised as most singles in the church's eyes were 18-30 or 35. After that, if you were single it was most likely to be through divorce or separation.	May 6, 2012 11:13 AM
1017	My church is a good place for single Christians because there are so many of us! Many of us meet together for meals in the city after services. Occasionally (once every year or two) the church puts on events especially designed to help single people learn about the Biblical interpretation of singleness and relationships.	May 6, 2012 10:03 AM
1018	Everyone is accepted, single or family but the majority are families and married. However I have never felt like an outsider because I am single.	May 6, 2012 10:01 AM
1019	A good and strong singles ministry often helps the singles to feel involved	May 6, 2012 10:00 AM
1020	I don't feel my church is a "good" place for single Christians but I don't feel it's a "bad" place either. I am part of a worship group and a house group and have never been made to feel excluded for being single. I think I would just feel more confident in myself if I weren't single as I wouldn't feel so different.	May 6, 2012 9:48 AM
1021	It isnt so I cant	May 6, 2012 9:04 AM
1022	A number of social events. Participation in the Church is not restricted.	May 6, 2012 8:49 AM
1023	Teaching on Singleness; Social opportunities that include singles (doesn't need to be a 'single's group' because singles sometimes feel stigmatised and don't want to go to these kind of groups; community living opportunities (for those that want); Pastoral care that addresses issues singles' face (ie celibacy, divorce, single parenting); Skills database - where people can share their time/skills to mutually benefit others in the church	May 6, 2012 8:29 AM
1024	We have made ourselves available to the university and the Christian Union there, and student outings and meals etc are part of the church ministry, which is great for that age group now, but wasn't available for me, so there is a stor tage of the same generation males as myself in my church! We have social evenings in local pubs such as Quiz nights at Wetherspoons and Alpha groups there too in the past. We are considering at present to outreach with other singles in other churches to create a 'singles 20 -40'	May 6, 2012 8:17 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

group who will meet each month to go for dinner, an event, concert etc, but that is in the pipeline because I have made aware in my church that the singles have no hope of meeting a Christian spouse, in the current situation and my married friends are also aware how difficult it is and sympathise, the others generally in my church who are single are in their twenties and all on on-line dating sites, I am of the few who is older, which gives me no hope in my church to find someone. Our Church is community based and is trying to attract all people - our motto this year is 'a church without walls' so we are putting on a Jubilee party and Olympic torch run with barb-e-que. Saying that this mostly attracts familys not eligible singles. Not a lot of thought generally I feel is given to singletons in a church situation.

1025	Welcoming and loving environment.	May 6, 2012 8:07 AM
1026	I find it very difficult to know how to go about making relationships in my church when it seems guys and girls should only interract in large groups. It makes meeting someone a lot more difficult.	May 6, 2012 7:23 AM
1027	There are alot of us ! The "pastoral " care is run by an army of middle aged /retired women. My church tries to function as a "family". It is support to those in need. Like all groups it can feel rather like an exclusive club. I live in a middle class market town. I don't know how people would react if we were challenged socially.We live in a safe place . Very cosy.	May 6, 2012 7:07 AM
1028	my Church is full of married Christians or people who have been paired off, within cultural and ethnic communities	May 6, 2012 6:30 AM
1029	The church is aware of the widows and older single women, but as yet has not really addressed how to involve them apart form in the traditional roles of flowers, coffee and cleaning. Being rural we do not attract many young single people but have a lot of young families.	May 6, 2012 4:12 AM
1030	i cant because i go to a church that the average is is 70 and iam 47	May 6, 2012 4:03 AM
1031	I don't think it is. the only singles activities are a small 20s group organised by themselves. In contrast I am part of a thriving christian singles group which is fun and well attended but ignored by the church community because they either do not see the importance of it or they feel threatened, that it is somehow 'dangerous'.	May 6, 2012 3:44 AM
1032	At the moment its not a good place for single people, however there is potential. The venue is local and accessible. It can hold a number of people and already established within the community.	May 6, 2012 3:44 AM
1033	I have made friends with two married couples. Initially I was friends with the wife but have been accepted by the whole family (kids between 12-20) as someone they like to hang out with.	May 6, 2012 2:45 AM
1034	it is not a good place for singles.	May 6, 2012 2:32 AM
1035	Don't like that phrase - 'a good place for single Christians'. It is a bit patronising and presumes that singles are not happy with that status. I would like to meet more Christians who are single or not have a partner attached to them. It is up to us 'singles' to do something if we are not content with being a single in our church. Is it not the events themselves that are organised beyond Sunday that attract people socially? Eg annual BBQ (in child friendly park); Easter up the hill (families can care share) that	May 6, 2012 1:43 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	perhaps don't have the same attraction for singles. Not sure speed dating would be a great hit. I'd like to get together with other churches in the neighbourhood to see what we could do together but not necessarily as singles.	
1036	I would'nt say that the Church (I attend) is judgemental towards myself or any other person.	May 6, 2012 1:38 AM
1037	There's an active student population at my church and a 20 & 30s group (predominantly attended by 20s) which meets up, however there isn't anything for those who are at the upper end of the 30s age group or older. There are no single related activities which happen, although there are a large number of (predominantly female) singles.	May 5, 2012 4:39 PM
1038	I no longer attend one specific Church regularly - reasons given	May 5, 2012 3:32 PM
1039	A lot of the people have come from broken ness and have been hurt previously in churches and value that people matter and are accepted for who they are in Christ and realise that the fundamental objective in church life is to love one another and be obedient to laws of Jesus and be guided by Holy Spirit. Respect is key in church life and being united in things of God.	May 5, 2012 3:18 PM
1040	As a musician with gifts for working with children & young people, I felt able to provide a lot of time to get very involved in my last church - but that's more about my particular gifts than about the church itself. In the church I've just started going to, they have a very big emphasis on compassion and helping every individual to find their gifts and serve in whatever ways they can - there are a lot of families, but the focus is on lifegroups, where a person's relationship status doesn't seem to matter, because everyone works together as a family.	May 5, 2012 3:08 PM
1041	i have struggled at times and at times when families get together at socail events i have felt left out especially being a single parent	May 5, 2012 2:56 PM
1042	My pastor and wife are very supportive and understanding of my struggles as a single woman in the church. My pastor also preached a sermon to the church once about singleness and stressed how difficult it can be for single people. I really appreciated this and thanked him afterwards for preaching this sermon to the whole church to make them aware of this issue within the church.	May 5, 2012 2:39 PM
1043	It is a good place for older singles, those widowed etc, as they really look after each other. But for the few younger ones I don't think they are prejudiced against, but they are not especially understood either.	May 5, 2012 2:10 PM
1044	unable to answer	May 5, 2012 2:03 PM
1045	My church warmly welcomes singles; they try to encourage and let them participate in church activities.	May 5, 2012 12:56 PM
1046	There is a very strong group for 20-30 age group in which there are many single girls. The group organises a number of activities each week.	May 5, 2012 11:12 AM
1047	I was very well supported my a few member of my church when I first seperated from my husband and those few people continue to make me feel welcome, others look down upon me for being alone.	May 5, 2012 9:54 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1048	Home Groups with mixes of young and old, couples and singles, men and women ie people who often happen to live in the same area. Families and couples are encouraged to invite singles of all ages and many long term singles have held a very special place in the hearts of many families and in the church as it is recognised they need this care - because they do not have a partner with whom to share and be comforted. But they have Jesus and Jesus works through the actions of other people. In turn singles feel useful as they can share their experience or teach or babysit, and pray and smile.	May 5, 2012 9:32 AM
1049	It is a lively Baptist Church with a good number of Christian Single Females. However there are very few males any everyone above the age of 25 is married.	May 5, 2012 9:30 AM
1050	Some places are more receptive to singletons than others - finding a good church is hard - once you manage it - I think I have - then it doesnt matter who you are.	May 5, 2012 9:20 AM
1051	My local church welcomes anyone regardless of whether they are married or not, as a lot af activities are held there such as Art Exhibitions, Music Festivals, and a children's corner to keep children occupied during church services.	May 5, 2012 8:16 AM
1052	Going to church should not impact on your life, it should compliment it.	May 5, 2012 7:42 AM
1053	In the church I feel accepted in my single status but its my age with this status that makes it harder to meet a partner I think, as students or those in their 20s tend to socialise together and socials for singles in 30s/40s don't happen	May 5, 2012 6:29 AM
1054	Good teaching, a willingness from the elders to get to know singles as well as couples (although not always to the same extent for single women)	May 5, 2012 6:18 AM
1055	There are sermons about married and singleness being equal.	May 5, 2012 6:03 AM
1056	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. There are many events for youth and students. One of these events, which happens every few months or so, has now been widened out to "students, 20 and 30 somethings"	May 5, 2012 5:53 AM
1057	We have a great 20- 30's group, this includes married couples and singles	May 5, 2012 4:43 AM
1058	i have a few very good friends. My church very caring through a long illness.	May 5, 2012 3:48 AM
1059	it's not a barrier to leadership or ministry.	May 5, 2012 3:08 AM
1060	My church doesn't have a strong established in crowd and a few of us, primarily single but of various ages meet for a pub based discussion group.	May 5, 2012 3:08 AM
1061	Although I frequently struggle with being a single christian in my church, I'm also aware that I have some really good relationships there. There are people who invite me for meals (and people I have to dinner at mine!) I live alone, and when I had surgery last year, different people from church popped in everyday in the following week to see how I was.	May 5, 2012 1:29 AM
1062	If you are below the age of 45-50 then there are plenty of groups for single	May 5, 2012 1:12 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	christians, but if you are over that age, you become invisible and it's very frustrating and lonely.	
1063	It values all, teaches how to be single in a Godly way.	May 4, 2012 11:37 PM
1064	Social group for single Christians in 20's and 30's Pastoral worker arranges meals out etc for those not attached to a family Single people in positions of leadership Many other single people although mostly female	May 4, 2012 5:52 PM
1065	Our church is quite big so it makes it quite difficult to meet other single people.	May 4, 2012 5:38 PM
1066	Our church treats everyone the same, it recognizes we are part of the body and so we have a particular role to play in the church for the benefit of the members and community.	May 4, 2012 5:31 PM
1067	A good place for younger single people	May 4, 2012 4:47 PM
1068	There seem to be more single people of my age at Holy Trinity Brompton - safety in numbers. Also, their projects are more focussed on outreach to the wider community, which everyone will have the opportunity to feel they can contribute towards - especially people who are single and may have more time to get involved. This way, single people have more opportunities of taking on important roles as part of the church community.	May 4, 2012 4:41 PM
1069	I'm sorry to say there are none. All of us who are single feel out of place. Younger singles only get support from older bereaved christians and cant make friendships with people of their own age.	May 4, 2012 4:26 PM
1070	Well, er... I think it accepts all sorts of people, and there is no discrimination on grounds of status, ability etc. There's no dominant type such as 'young families', we're a bit of a rag-bag!	May 4, 2012 4:17 PM
1071	nothing	May 4, 2012 4:08 PM
1072	single network ministry single people's conferences	May 4, 2012 3:47 PM
1073	We have a young adults group that I am a part of where many single people attend. It is like a community where we do social and spiritual activities together.	May 4, 2012 3:02 PM
1074	As a divorced single with older children of that of my peers I feel my church doesn't offer alot!	May 4, 2012 3:01 PM
1075	Church was very supportive when my husband died. Social events are organised such as occasional walks after the service on a Sunday which are welcoming to all regardless of single/married etc	May 4, 2012 2:58 PM
1076	much of our home group seem to be single. it seems ok to sit in the crowd alone	May 4, 2012 2:56 PM
1077	The priest is very caring and has nurtured me in giving me the role of sacristan and server.	May 4, 2012 2:48 PM
1078	There are some members of the church who make you feel very welcome as a single person, but there are others who I feel don't know what to do with you! It becomes very clear that its easier to entertain couples or families so I	May 4, 2012 2:35 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	don't get invited out that much. A few people consistently make comments about the fact that I'm single, thinking that its funny - its not any more!	
1079	unless you are "student" age	May 4, 2012 2:33 PM
1080	When you get involved you realise that there are a lot of us single for various reasons covering a wide age range. Lead people are all married with children.	May 4, 2012 2:29 PM
1081	I do not think my church is a good place for single Christians. I would appreciate it if you could tell me of any Church that is a good place for single Christians, because then I would go to it.	May 4, 2012 2:18 PM
1082	Church always presents singleness and marriage as equally valid options.	May 4, 2012 2:10 PM
1083	My church is a church for Christians and those interested in faith, it is not a club.	May 4, 2012 1:28 PM
1084	I'm included in leadership, in events, both social and spiritual- but that is as much up to me as it is to the Church. Many singles opt out because THEY are paranoid. On many occasions I have shown the initiative and invited people for lunch etc, I'm not always waiting for them to invite me.	May 4, 2012 1:28 PM
1085	Having a reasonable number of singles who can socialise as a group is important.	May 4, 2012 1:24 PM
1086	My Church embraces all, no matter what their race, creed, colour, political or social statues	May 4, 2012 12:54 PM
1087	Lots of other single Christians! Regular 20s/30s weekends away and monthly get-togethers, good Sunday social life, lots of sport ministry - all good for meeting people. Also plenty of small group ministry which helps make you feel part of the church and loads of opportunities to serve and join the family.	May 4, 2012 12:53 PM
1088	SEVERAL SINGLES IN CHURCH	May 4, 2012 12:46 PM
1089	Traditional church,anglo-catholic, feel you fit in and not judged	May 4, 2012 12:43 PM
1090	Acceptance no matter what your circumstance.	May 4, 2012 12:30 PM
1091	My church is not a great place for me with respect to being single, really. We're might well be the only central London church with more single men than woman...but there aren't many of us either. We're very much a 'family' church. I've been around for about two years now and I've no idea what happened before I arrived but there are babies everywhere. The congregation is around 250 but there are fewer than ten single 20-somethings in the membership (I can count six). This means we aren't really a target audience, so although a lot more pass through, most don't stay.	May 4, 2012 12:21 PM
1092	Members of the congregation are not judged on the basis of their marital status.	May 4, 2012 12:19 PM
1093	AT ONE TIME THERE WAS A SOCIAL GROUP FOR SINGLES BUT NOT NOW.	May 4, 2012 12:09 PM
1094	I dont think the church does judge me that much on the basis of being single.	May 4, 2012 12:07 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	But I certainly dont think of it as a place that is specially good for singles. Of course I mean it is not espeacially good for encouraging single Christians to find a mate. Quite the opposite I would say	
1095	A friendly place where everyone is accepted irrespective of background or relationship status. Plenty of social occasions/events suitable for both singles and couples/families.	May 4, 2012 12:00 PM
1096	Some of the house groups are for 20-30's Young people have been encoraged to lead house groups, preach at the front on a Sunday and be involved with church roles	May 4, 2012 11:35 AM
1097	I dont feel particularly single in my church, i feel very accepted for who i am	May 4, 2012 11:33 AM
1098	It is good to fellowship with other believers who are single.	May 4, 2012 11:25 AM
1099	People are very caring	May 4, 2012 11:15 AM
1100	I think that when we gathered together for workship, we realy have a strong feeling that we have our spiritual Family, and probably we find the family that we need!	May 4, 2012 11:02 AM
1101	Single people are not treated any different to married. But I do believe that as a christian now for 15 year there are some diffrences in teaching about if it is right to marry once you have ben divorced. I have lived in London all my life and have only been in Kent for the last 3 years the churchs are not the same as the inner city ones so I donot know just how or if there would be the same teachings.Hard to get a good Pentecostal church in Kent.	May 4, 2012 10:54 AM
1102	Whether you are Single a widow or a widow there is always something that you can be part of .My Church runs a group called Open door where like mindedpeople of either sex can get together visit gardens, pub lunches and Theatres etc	May 4, 2012 10:37 AM
1103	Lots of other students are single as well, there is no specific emphasis on having to find a husband.	May 4, 2012 8:51 AM
1104	I'm not settled enough at present to properly comment. In the church I was in before I moved, the major things that drew me there were that it was warm, accepting and unexciting in a good way - I had come out of a church that felt the need for permanant revolution in what I felt were unhelpful directions, and a church that just happily and calmly got on with living out the Christian life in its community was a real blessing for me.	May 4, 2012 8:47 AM
1105	Don't know.	May 4, 2012 7:45 AM
1106	It provides initiates that tend to aggregate similar people together ( for example: families vs singles, very old people vs younger/middle aged). It provides time and place for people to meet before and after the services (some tea and biscuits and some chairs/tables). A message board to leave some notices. In London, singles are many and so it makes sense to target them.	May 4, 2012 7:06 AM
1107	Social events are not advertised as just for families or couples. There is a high proportion of singles (including divorced) in leadership roles.	May 4, 2012 5:25 AM
1108	Good community houses. Vicar that recognises that its OK to go out with	May 4, 2012 5:00 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	non- Christians	
1109	We did have a very good twenties / thirties group. The difficulty is that more and more people have drifted away from it, largely as a result of marrying and having children, so the group won't be sustainable for too much longer, and this makes it harder to be single in church. In my own church, the congregation is very diverse - we have couples, families, singles, divorced people, gay people, overseas people, students, asylum seekers... because we're such a mixed bag, it feels easier to fit in. Theologically, my church is quite liberal, and I feel that this means that there are fewer pressures to fit into one very narrow mould of what a 'Christian' is. On the flip side, I once went to a women's service with a friend at another local (more evangelical) church. The service was led by a collection of young women from a very affluent suburb, all of whom had prominent wedding and engagement rings; several of whom had prominent pregnancy bumps. At the time, I was single, and in a bad place emotionally about this, so I found it crass and really unhelpful to be preached at by these women about the Glory of God. I left the service feeling like a total failure, and as though God loved these lucky women far more than He loved me.	May 4, 2012 4:48 AM
1110	Not a good place for singles.	May 4, 2012 4:48 AM
1111	My church is great for single people as it treats everyone the same. There are single people and families both working together and I've never felt so relaxed in a church before. There aren't many single men in my church and I think this helps because I don't feel any pressure to persuade anyone to marry me! Other churches with lots of single people can feel like 'marriage machines' and the pressure is to find yourself a husband among the congregation.	May 4, 2012 4:21 AM
1112	There are a lot of other single people there but as soon as your friends marry or get involved they distance themselves and the men either ask all the girls out or don't talk to you at all. The girls talk about wanting to meet someone a lot. No one seems to celebrate and embrace being single and what a gift it is.	May 4, 2012 3:50 AM
1113	Church is a good place for singles because the Church is not about couples, or whether people are married, widowed, single etc. The Church is about community and discipleship so gender or marital status should not and does not enter into it.	May 4, 2012 3:13 AM
1114	In the past we had a 20's/30's social group that was successful in helping people to form friendships and relationships.	May 4, 2012 2:35 AM
1115	Open loving and genuinely caring	May 4, 2012 2:10 AM
1116	A lot of singles in our church, particularly with families. Church is very supportive sharing support for childcare and to enable others to be involved in cell groups and ministry. I have a rota of friends from my church family who provide childcare to enable me to attend university in the evening and church family prayer for me when going on dates via CC and support myself and my family prayerfully. They would like me to meet a Christian man but respect my need for it to be right in God's timing so just offer practical and prayer support and a listening ear.	May 4, 2012 2:02 AM
1117	we do have singles meetings/prayer meetings, but its mostly for younger people (teens - twenties)	May 4, 2012 2:00 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1118	Together with another lady I started an all age social group for "singles" to promote friendship across the age range and to support people who have no partner or are on their own through divorce or bereavement. This has extended to people from other churches.	May 4, 2012 12:57 AM
1119	generally the single people sort themselves out as a group and support each other, which is good.	May 4, 2012 12:49 AM
1120	It is the only church for some distance, so there is very limited choice of church if you are a practising Christian.	May 4, 2012 12:25 AM
1121	Coz we welcome everyone single or married	May 3, 2012 7:00 PM
1122	I am sorry to say that, as a single / separated person, there is no Church that I have tried to be involved in which I could describe as being a good place for single Christians - and I speak as a strongly committed Christian who has, in the past been involved in Church eldership, preaching, small group leading etc..	May 3, 2012 5:47 PM
1123	-	May 3, 2012 5:26 PM
1124	The church has lots of young families but also has single Christians. There are events aimed at everyone and socials within home groups. There are not specific events for single people though.	May 3, 2012 3:35 PM
1125	Families willing to invite single people along for social occasions. Looking beyond people's marital status (whether single, married or divorced) to the individual. Not assuming that because someone is single they are bound to have lots of free time to take on chores that other people don't want to do!	May 3, 2012 3:19 PM
1126	I am one of a relatively small proportion of singles at my church. There is no singles group or special focus and I think this is actually helpful in integration within the church. Couples, families and single people mix together and support each other.	May 3, 2012 2:44 PM
1127	No one judges you on your circumstances (at least if they do it isn't apparent).	May 3, 2012 2:32 PM
1128	The singles who have not previously been married or don't have kids get together but those of us with kids find it hard to break into the social scene	May 3, 2012 2:20 PM
1129	There are no specific groups for singles above the age of 25. Singles are accepted to go into leadership. There are courses for people who are about to get married and those who are divorced but not any course about how to deal with being single.	May 3, 2012 2:07 PM
1130	We started our own inclusive social group. The vicar wanted us to be called something, and restrict our age range and membership, but we defied being pigeon holed and started reaching out to other churches. We are much happier now, but think the church leadership would never have had the vision.	May 3, 2012 1:42 PM
1131	I was accepted in my very small church with no questions asked. I needed a refuge and I found it.	May 3, 2012 1:10 PM
1132	There are a lot of us and there are a lot of people to socialise with. there are also a lot of people with a variety of personal circumstances. However there	May 3, 2012 12:58 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	are a lot of poeple who assume that I must have lots of spare time on my hands and don't realise I ahve to do all my washing, washing up, ironing, shopping, cleaning cooking etc. They also assume I can't understand children or issues that parents may have and so my opinions about a whole range of things can be dismissed purely because I'm not a parent!	
1133	Everyone socialises together, singles, couples and families. The emphasis is on fellowship and friendship. My single status is irrelevant and not an issue.	May 3, 2012 12:58 PM
1134	At the church I am at now I feel valued by the leaders who know my name and talk to me, they don't just talk to couples and people with families. Couples also are happy to talk to me, whereas previously couples just seem to talk to other couples. I am included in a home group which is supportive.	May 3, 2012 12:37 PM
1135	My Church loves and values everyone regardless of whether they are single, married or divorced and offers fantastic support and friendship for all these groups. They are also really good at creating non-cheesy natural ways for singles to get to know each other without feeling set up. We just need a few more single people!	May 3, 2012 12:25 PM
1136	It's easy come, easy go. Nobody minds anything as far as I can tell.	May 3, 2012 12:22 PM
1137	The church is a wide variety of ages, it is quite welcoming, there are homegroups, bible studies and prayer groups which are inclusive where friendships can be made. Different ministries and interest groups one could get involved with.	May 3, 2012 12:17 PM
1138	We did run a singles group that met once a month. However, there were so few men that it became a ladies group. It could have been better run and included other churches to widen the group in my opinion. However, it was a positive move for our church.	May 3, 2012 12:10 PM
1139	If people understand, that there are certain things, which are private, and being Christian does not give you a right to poach on smb's preserves, then they respect privacy and everybody who is single is allowed to freely breath without any feeling of guilt. Among such people everybody wants to be and if she or he finds such a congegation, they stay there, because they are and feel secure.	May 3, 2012 11:54 AM
1140	There's a brilliant ministry for people in their 20s and 30s. It includes those who are married, but it is a safe place to meet others of similar age, without over-spiritualising our need for social encounters.	May 3, 2012 11:47 AM
1141	People are not judged or put to the side for being single. We are one church family together.	May 3, 2012 11:39 AM
1142	Lots of ways to get involved and serve. mid week groups which can be a mixture of singles/married/family depending on what you want - large church so lots of choice to suit what you want. encouraged to 'do church' not for what you can get out but what you can bring - changes perspective	May 3, 2012 11:36 AM
1143	I think people are seen as individuals and valued whether they are married or single - so you can serve in all the ministries whether you're single or married. Plenty of single people have good levels of responsibility in our church.	May 3, 2012 11:34 AM
1144	Mainly an older congregation, so most young people absent	May 3, 2012 11:27 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1145	My church is a friendly welcoming church but weekdays there is nothing to go to which is for single people to meet with like minded people socially. There is a why be alone club but this is for the very elderly and my agegroup are recruited for giving lifts! I feel that there is a need in most areas for social activities for the over 65s who still want to live an active and fulfilling life.	May 3, 2012 11:25 AM
1146	I cannot think of a single thing here	May 3, 2012 11:21 AM
1147	welcoming to all people from different backgrounds, strong leadership and accountability, small church so know people well, cell groups	May 3, 2012 11:20 AM
1148	- Some people who have a lot of energy and are often younger ie upto about 25 often seem to enjoy it even if they are single, especially if they like to spend lots of time at Church and enjoy doing a lot of ministries for it. It seems to cater to them very well.	May 3, 2012 11:15 AM
1149	It's not	May 3, 2012 11:09 AM
1150	We have a growing number of people in their 20s and 30s, about half of which are single, which meet regularly for social activities/ Importantly, there are quite a few married couples who are part of the group, and couples/singles are treated equally. What can be really difficult is that when couples have children, they seem to migrate to other groups within the church with other families, and those groups can feel closed off to single people.	May 3, 2012 11:04 AM
1151	Basically being single or married does not seem to be an issue in my church, and single hood is valued as a God given calling anyway. Single people can participate in ministry as much as marrieds.	May 3, 2012 10:39 AM
1152	All people regardless of status are offered various roles or tasks if they are willing or able. This has not been the case in previous churches I have attended. This church fellowship is very inclusive. I have been trained as a home group Bible study leader and feel supported in this role. I am a sidesperson welcoming at the church door monthly. have also been invited to lead prayers in church, join the prayer ministry, stand for the PCC e.t.c so there is plenty of scope to participate if I have the time!	May 3, 2012 10:30 AM
1153	no comment	May 3, 2012 10:29 AM
1154	We treat everyone the same. We have a lot of single people in our church of varying ages and everyone has a part to play in the life of the church and indeed we encourage everyone to get involved. I have to say that there are not a lot of single men but then there aren't in any organisation.	May 3, 2012 10:29 AM
1155	It does not help to have church leaders who break confidences so that they feed their overinflated egos. Having church leaders who do not do this would be a start in the first place.	May 3, 2012 10:24 AM
1156	Friendly, loving, accepting, welcoming, engaging.	May 3, 2012 10:08 AM
1157	Welcoming. Accepting. Don't give trite answers like "things tend to happen when you stop looking" (which means I'm doing something wrong) and "I'm sure God's got somebody very special for you as you've had to wait for so long"	May 3, 2012 10:00 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1158	We have a large number of younger single adults and specific stuff aimed at us e.g. groups etc	May 3, 2012 9:56 AM
1159	Unfortunately there are quite a lot of single women but no single men which i believe is the case for a lot of churches - and in society as a whole - particularly for the more mature women. A good place for singles i think is married couple remembering to include them and invite them without minding having an odd number or thinking they can only invite them if they have a partner	May 3, 2012 9:54 AM
1160	All are equal, some come as one of a partner, some with a partner. No one is bothered about oners marital status. No one has asked, either.	May 3, 2012 9:28 AM
1161	As a single Christian I did feel a bit awkward at first but once I got involved in more things through church this has largely gone away and I feel very accepted.	May 3, 2012 9:20 AM
1162	Quakers strongle believe in equality. They do not use titles, so "Mr", "Mrs" and "Miss" just don't appear. There is a tradition (but not a rule) that couples sit apart in worship. Many Quakers who are married, have partners who worship elsewhere or nowhere, so it is not unusual to see people arriving on their own. It all adds up to being accepted for who I am. I have never found this in a church before - and I've been a Christian an awful long time!	May 3, 2012 9:03 AM
1163	Doesnt use stories about married people to illustrate sermons Doesnt have family services Mothering Sunday is celebrated on a Saturday so people who arent mothers dont feel excluded	May 3, 2012 8:40 AM
1164	My church has a Vicar who is single. He organises holiday for the church and all are welcome. The church has a Childrens Church and does not have an excessive amount of young families. I think there is a balance of people who attend the church. I think it is difficult for some churches as the only people who go to the Church are young families and everyone else feels excluded. About 20 years ago I attended a very large charismatic church and one day the Vicar, in his sermon said: There are single people in this church who go home to emptiness and you can invite singles to your Sunday Lunch.	May 3, 2012 8:36 AM
1165	A wonderful place where I meet God every week..we are all going for it..we are not interested in our relationship status. We are too excited and envisioned by what God is doing and will do that to waste our time on worrying about our single status. I have moved past these worries probably as I have found that the Lord has revealed himself to me more now that I am past child bearing age and am more free to be who I am meant to be rather than what I thought I christian man may want!!	May 3, 2012 8:27 AM
1166	They all feel loved by the church members	May 3, 2012 7:56 AM
1167	My church is great if you are less than 35 years old and single, or over 35 and married, but if you are single AND over 35 there is nothing geared for us at all! I have noticed this in other churches too.	May 3, 2012 7:53 AM
1168	Certain good single AND married role models who make it their business to be a friend/family member to everyone regardless of marital status, and who encourage others to do so	May 3, 2012 7:27 AM
1169	I think the church is a good place for everyone and not sure that that it is	May 3, 2012 7:25 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	helpful to divide people by thier status. We are all part of the same family whether married, single, widowed or divorced.	
1170	Can't think of anything, apart from a 4 week seminar coming up on love, sex and relationships...	May 3, 2012 7:22 AM
1171	They are welcomed by older, ordinary members of the congregation, some of whom are very good. Unfortunately the attitude of the leadership means that at this time I couldn't really recommend it to singles unless they are happy to remain single for the rest of their lives.	May 3, 2012 6:58 AM
1172	As I say, many in our church are great examples of single christian leaders, includingsingles involved in charity wok in Africa and Asia and singles who lead worship	May 3, 2012 6:39 AM
1173	full age range, growing congegration, very welcoming to all	May 3, 2012 6:25 AM
1174	I attend a very large church and have recently been introduced to a single girl via our mentors. We would never have met otherwise and our now 1 month into dating.	May 3, 2012 6:23 AM
1175	Fortunately, or unfortunately there are few singles in their 40 & 50s in my church. Indeed, maybe 1 or 2 such people out of perhaps 240 on the electoral role. The bulk of the singles (6-8) are female aged 28-38 and with no corresponding male singles - that's unfortunate as it doesn't make the church a good place for single Xtians.	May 3, 2012 5:58 AM
1176	Social settings where people are free to be themselves.	May 3, 2012 5:36 AM
1177	Unfortunately (as mentioned in my previous comment in question 17), my church and the church I have recently started attending (due to work commitments re my needing to be nearer to work and a desire to be nearer my family), does not provide any attraction for single people unless you are young and a student or involved in youth ministry where again all workers tend to be young and/or students or young couples.	May 3, 2012 5:33 AM
1178	different styles of worship and many singles in the church family	May 3, 2012 5:16 AM
1179	Young single Christians are welcomed with open arms at my church, but I do feel that we are not considered perhaps quite so welcomed, although we have had very recently, special event evenings for older Christians, then the next week for younger ones, takng place with specific topics discussed. There is also not enough older single Christans attending my particular church to enable one to meet a husband/wife!	May 3, 2012 5:03 AM
1180	My current church, which for work purposes, I can only attens intermiitently, has a thinking congregation. I have been surprised by that. The current vicar is attempting to intouduce meditation and the worship area int a worship space.. My views have been asked. Its a hospitable church- nearly every eveny Ive attended has included something to eat and drink! Always invited and asked. Its been refreshing.	May 3, 2012 4:51 AM
1181	About three years ago my church had a singles ball but the ethnicity of my church isn't aimed at me meeting someone	May 3, 2012 4:40 AM
1182	treats every one equally	May 3, 2012 4:25 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1183	N/A	May 3, 2012 4:16 AM
1184	At a diocesan level it is good, at a local level not so.	May 3, 2012 3:20 AM
1185	There are lots of single women of every status. Lots of activities going on that people can join in..The single girls have a back row ministry to welcome lonely people!! But we never get any dishy men!! The down side is that the married couples my age all befriend those that are also in couples. They never include you in their family or invite you for a meal!! There is definately a feelings of them and us when it comes to socializing. The older folk are much better at mixing with the singles."" Married couples will never realize what it is to be single, maybe until they get old and then hopefully they will always have their children!!	May 3, 2012 3:20 AM
1186	Regular socials. there are lots of singles at my church.	May 3, 2012 3:18 AM
1187	Singles are welcomed as people with thoughts feelings wants and needs. They are not discriminate excluded or marginaised I	May 3, 2012 3:12 AM
1188	As a coastal village church, there are quite a few single people who have lost partners or working singles who have retired to the village. Therefore we have social activities that appeal to all. We always make sure that new people are welcomed in the church.	May 3, 2012 2:32 AM
1189	Cell groups. Luncheon clubs and knitting groups. Active in age exercise classes. But I'm afraid they do not cater for singles who are younger and if you have no single males in your church then the internet is our only way of meeting them. BIG PROBLEM THAT I HAVE FOUND. And unless someone in leadership understands these issues nothing is going to change.	May 3, 2012 2:12 AM
1190	Well unfort my Church has a greater cliental of older people. we dont have very many young people attending atol But this dosent put me off as a single person. We have a traditional service run by a very good vicor who has helped me get back on my feet since the death of my Partner in 2009. I feel blessed to be attending my church.Regardless of whether they are any single men in it or not.	May 3, 2012 2:10 AM
1191	events, wecome teams, stuff to do , opportunites to serve, diciplship, families taking an interset.	May 3, 2012 2:08 AM
1192	Our church is too small to be a good place for singles assuming they want to find someone. It would be a good place to go for someone who wants to get out of the dating game for a while though!	May 3, 2012 2:06 AM
1193	My church did run & provide a group called Fuse for all adults which had biblestudies, social nights out & weekends away, but this died off when the leader left for ministry training. A replacement group for over 25s was attempted but this burned out after 6 months or so because nobody new was coming & staying, & no student for my churches massive lively & active student group moved/aged up to us. There is so much any single person with spare time could help to do in the community my church serves.	May 3, 2012 1:17 AM
1194	Incorporation in house groups	May 3, 2012 12:57 AM
1195	Everyone is treated equally and everyone is really friendly	May 2, 2012 11:15 PM
1196	To be perfectly honest I have never had cause to think about being single	May 2, 2012 11:14 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	when at my church, I'm simply accepted for who I am, a divorced mother of 7 children.	
1197	My church would be rubbish for a single Christian man my age if the reason he was going to church was to find a wife, simply because there's no single Christian girls in that age group. But I'm not going there expecting to find a partner. That doesn't mean it's not a good place for single Christians though and I don't feel I'm treated any differently for being single. Sometimes socially it's a bit different because people with families can't or don't do things I might like to because of their commitments. There's often compromises towards 'family friendly' activities, but nothing can be done about that until there are more single people at the church in the first place.	May 2, 2012 9:32 PM
1198	It is great if you are female and want to remain single for the rest of your life	May 2, 2012 7:02 PM
1199	It is very welcoming and accepting of you no matter your background. It is modern, lively and very Word and Spirit focused.	May 2, 2012 6:37 PM
1200	It's based near the university so students who are often single visit. Its a large church so there is a wide variety of people.	May 2, 2012 5:46 PM
1201	A safe place to unlearn my bad habits, and finally get free of any bitterness, anger, sadness and stress. I feel appreciated for all that i do, and there are many other single christians there so i dont feel so alone any more. I am able to talk to male christians and learn more about how to see men in a better light. They have always been there for me and i dont think we could have managed without them. I have changed so much being there. My daughter is growing up trusting and having faith for a christian husband, and has learned about how to be a married woman, to raise godly children and to be part of a community again. I have been helped to come back to life again and discover who i am in Christ.	May 2, 2012 5:32 PM
1202	I am a Single Christian. I am a active member of Choir. I am Loved by everyone in the Church. They always motivate me n Inspire me to work for the Lord!	May 2, 2012 4:41 PM
1203	The Methodist church which I attend allows me to join in almost any event in the church, and for that I am very thankful. However, the welcome I receive is rather unusual these days: in many churches I am viewed rather as quaint at best; or I am viewed as an odd sort of fellow, particularly since I am well educated in both the Arts and the Sciences; in the Church at large I am also viewed with suspicion because of my very keen interest in the Word and in the Theology of Jesus Christ; in particular the extreme Charismatics have a very poor attitude towards me since I accept what is written in the Word, including the Epistles of Paul. As you probably have worked out, I have written several articles concerning Christian Doctrine: my singleness only compounds my rejection by many.	May 2, 2012 4:40 PM
1204	Being on staff as a single woman definitely makes me unique, but I do feel accepted and honoured in this role.	May 2, 2012 4:03 PM
1205	My church is a very active, welcoming, loving and accepting of all. There is plenty going on and new people are invited, whatever their age, to various events that are taking place.	May 2, 2012 4:02 PM
1206	In my experience a church that operates like a community/family is a great place for singles as we are included and don't feel singled out.	May 2, 2012 4:00 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1207	Even though human beings are quite often rubbish at handling singles... the Church has got Jesus and the Holy Spirit who more than compensate for their drawbacks.	May 2, 2012 3:57 PM
1208	Biblical singlehood is a gift- in the same way the ability to preach is a gift, and should be used for service. Singles are probably one of the greatest assets a church has, they are free for more direct kingdom work. That is not to say that leading a family for instance is lesser kingdom work, it's just different. If you are single and in a church and lamenting what the church is or isn't doing for you, maybe you need to stop looking at yourself. When Jesus asks you what did you do with that gift, are you going to tell him you hated it and wasted it, rather than using it to serve Him? Remembering again spiritual gifts are for service. Similarly if you have singles in your church and do not know what to do with them you are missing out!!!	May 2, 2012 3:36 PM
1209	I cant comment on this one ..However just to say that my church is a good place for all .. single and married as far as hearing from God/worship etc. That said, as a single man there and wanting to find someone there are very few possibilities .. hence joining CC !!!!!	May 2, 2012 3:36 PM
1210	There are many singles in my church, which makes it a great church cause you're not the only "weird" single. On the other hand that's also what's difficult in church. It's so "normal" to be single that people stay single for so long and don't make the effort to find a partner...	May 2, 2012 3:31 PM
1211	All who belong to God belong to His family and this needs to be preached about so we each look out for and support one another. Being single isn't easy, so organised groups or activities are beneficial. As it is the 'norm' to marry and have children we each need reminding how to act/react to those who aren't. Admitting we would like to be married can be difficult as it can appear 'unspiritual' or that we are not happy with God's current will/way for our life. All this said, a church with a love for people is what is needed; to accept, help, nurture and pray for its members regardless of whether they are old, young, male, female, single, married, rich or poor etc.	May 2, 2012 3:29 PM
1212	We have a very good 20's and 30's group made up of mainly singles and some young married couples. In fact it is often the couples with young families that are the ones that feel more isolated or left out of social events in our church. Also the church as a whole is very welcoming to anyone regardless of their circumstances or marital status.	May 2, 2012 3:27 PM
1213	Many single Christians in my church - this can be both positive and negative.	May 2, 2012 3:23 PM
1214	Since my husband left me and I am single I have found I have made friends with other single women, mostly divorced. It feels like we can just be and not need to explain everything. Another good thing is the social groups, camera club outings and dinners club. Something in common.	May 2, 2012 3:16 PM
1215	Before worship coffee shop open and people mingle talking to each other no matter if young old single married black white etc.	May 2, 2012 3:08 PM
1216	Plenty of opportunity to participate. Singles are the ones with time to help. Maybe need to encourage singles to initiate more - tend to be reactive because demand-led.	May 2, 2012 3:04 PM
1217	I currently live and work overseas most of the time, My church in the UK has provided me with generous financial and moral support. Families have	May 2, 2012 3:02 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	welcomed me into their homes when I am back in the UK and shared their lives with me. I feel overwhelmingly loved and accepted. I think one of the great benefits of being single is that I have more time to invest in the friendships offered to me by my church.	
1218	My church is somewhere where I am part of a community and have friends I can be myself with and phone or drop in on if I need someone to talk to.	May 2, 2012 3:02 PM
1219	Everyone is welcome, single, married or otherwise.	May 2, 2012 3:00 PM
1220	The welcome I received on my first attendance was amazing not only chocolates on entry then tea coffee (free) served, and I was introduced to a Home Group leader who then invited me to Home Group, this was six months ago, subsequently I have made friends of both single and married members of the fellowship	May 2, 2012 2:49 PM
1221	a good group organising social events including w/ends away	May 2, 2012 2:43 PM
1222	It is a friendly and welcoming church. I genuinely feel people mean well there. I also haven't had the time or been a member that long to fully be able to get to know everyone and therefore don't have enough anecdotes to draw on.	May 2, 2012 2:37 PM
1223	Everyone is welcomed and accepted for who they are, whether they are single or not. There is no prejudice against singles, even if generally people do marry when they are in their twenties or thirties. The church realises that everyone is loved by God with a 'no strings attached' love, so there is no teaching that makes singles feel inadequate or less loved, just because they are single.	May 2, 2012 2:33 PM
1224	Since my wife died 5 years ago and my children left home to lead a life of their own I continue to be accepted for who I am even as a single widowed person. I have always maintained however that unless one gets involved in things then the many spiritual and other blessings of a church fellowship wont necessarily come your way. I am part of an all inclusive church anyway!	May 2, 2012 2:31 PM
1225	It doesn't. They run a mile from singles, particularly women over 40, you are written off as an old maid, weird, choosy, difficult, an inconvenience.	May 2, 2012 2:31 PM
1226	20's group where there are lots of singles Feel completely accepted by church members	May 2, 2012 2:29 PM
1227	I arrived in the UK and started at my church as my marriage was breaking up. I felt accepted right away, and when I chose to explain my situation to the Minister, received support and no judgement - he left it up to the Holy Spirit to convict me. I have been in several leadership positions, where both my life experiences and my skills have been used. My church takes the attitude that our past is past, and that God's forgiveness is complete, and we can all be completely free from our past (although not necessarily the consequences of past choices). People in my church are treated as individuals, and although I have publicly talked about some of what I have been through, I have never felt that others have gossiped about me or judged me. I am respected for what I am now, and how God works in my life now. I have lead Freedom in Christ programmes, which are great for helping single people find freedom from their past. Our church leaders try to be sensitive in the way they speak about and to singles - mothers day is for all women etc, and they are careful in the way they plan infant dedications and other events that could be difficult	May 2, 2012 2:28 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	for singles. We don't have "single" events as such, but some social events would be likely to attract singles. Some of the older folk in the church also volunteer to babysit and "look after" certain single moms helping them to get out to church and social events.	
1228	In truth, one of our clergy who has been with our church for over five years now is in his mid-thirties and is single. This leads a good role model for single men which contradicts the notion that the church is feminine. It is my view that the minister is able to reach single and married men and help them to understand their relationship with God and this is excellent and I think our church is very lucky. The church provides social nights for single people who are divorced. There are plenty of opportunities in home groups where single people are made to feel very welcome. I do not know because I am not part of the decision making team for home group allocations, but it strikes me that the home groups are very well thought through in terms of balance. Our church has a variety of different services, at different times on Sundays and during the week. Indeed our church which is closely connected with the community has many different social activities to get involved in from bell ringing to star gazing. I guess we are very, very lucky in our village and God has really blessed us.	May 2, 2012 2:26 PM
1229	There Are a lot of us and we get together sometimes to support each other.	May 2, 2012 2:21 PM
1230	I've been part of this church for exactly a year only, but feel so accepted as I am. It is the most loving church I've ever been part of (35 years of being born again and have lived in 3 different European countries and attended churches there). I have been asked to join the worship team, the prayer ministry team, the welcome team, the coffee/tea - team, the children's ministry team (had to decline a few :) ). I have never been married and don't have any children, but there are quite a few single mothers in my church and from at least 4 of them, whom I know well, I can say the have all experienced that finally this is a church where they are not being judged for being divorced/ in the process of getting divorced. They feel accepted and loved. At the moment my church is focussing on building up men to reach their full potential in Jesus and become all he has made them to be and it is also focussing on marriage (with marriage course running). Nevertheless, I don't feel excluded because of it. I'm happy that there is finally a church who sees the need to build up men, because in my experience there is generally a lack of Christian men who know who they are and step up to leadership in a lot of churches. This leads to the phenomenon that strong women step into the void in leadership positions, overrepresenting women. Unfortunately, in my experience, this is not always healthy (I am not against women in leadership) because of the imbalance ensuing. Strong men are needed in church, who lead in love and are not afraid to take responsibility. This might even benefit some of the single ladies in the long run, if there are single men who are being built up to become men of God - and so mature into potential future husbands. ;)	May 2, 2012 2:20 PM
1231	We are accepted but tend to self organise	May 2, 2012 2:18 PM
1232	Its not.	May 2, 2012 2:12 PM
1233	The Church I am in at present is unique in that it is a church for the community and all are welcome and feel welcome. I have had more experiences of feeling excluded because I am a divorced single.	May 2, 2012 2:12 PM
1234	Because we are seen as who we are. There are a number of members who	May 2, 2012 2:07 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	are single, of varying ages, but we are not seen for a relationship status but as valid members who are given gifts for the church	
1235	Lots of other singles in the church, people see potential in you, dating is seen as normal, friendly.	May 2, 2012 2:06 PM
1236	It's not! No-one my age, let alone of the opposite sex!	May 2, 2012 1:57 PM
1237	It's good only because the majority are singles. However most of the demographic are young graduates. The other men are mostly married and there are very few single men there for women to meet so it's a problem for the women.	May 2, 2012 1:57 PM
1238	hospitality/inclusion/talking outside their family unit	May 2, 2012 1:49 PM
1239	there are about 20 - 25 students so for this age group our church is a good place for singles	May 2, 2012 1:48 PM
1240	My local church has a wide social agenda so there is always the opportunity to mix and become involved, but it's up to the individual whether they have the confidence to join in.	May 2, 2012 1:44 PM
1241	We recently had good sermon on the gift of singleness. There are lots of us who are single, I had never thought that being single was such an issue.	May 2, 2012 1:34 PM
1242	I have several single friends at church and our pastor's wife is keen to support us.	May 2, 2012 1:29 PM
1243	Everyone is accepted for the person they are whatever their marital status is. Isn't every church like that?	May 2, 2012 1:24 PM
1244	Too many meetings and not time to get to know each other and build friendships. I organized a Barn Dance on 14th Feb, JUST FOR ME TO HAVE FUN AND A REASON TO DANCE. IT WAS ALL FREE WITH SUPER FOOD, 30 CAME+ MY LITTLE 2YR OLD GRANDDAUGHTER, SHE WAS STAR OF THE EVE !!!!!BUT I DID HAVE FUN !!!!! A NON CHRISTIAN MAN TRAVELLED 25 MILES TO COME, BUT WOULD NOT DANCE!! JESUS HAD LOTS OF FUN AND FOOD....X	May 2, 2012 1:21 PM
1245	There are a number of single Christians in the fellowship	May 2, 2012 1:19 PM
1246	We are all in the grace it is not a sin to be single	May 2, 2012 1:16 PM
1247	I must admit the church does include singles in all levels of volunteer/ leadership roles. At the moment there is a small group that I lead with another lady for single women. This has been a great way for some of the ladies, who are new Christians, to open up and express their opinions and it has been a joy to see them grow in Christ which may not have happened in a different group.	May 2, 2012 1:06 PM
1248	There are always opportunities to serve for everyone and the leadership is completely affirming.	May 2, 2012 1:05 PM
1249	It's generally a loving community which accepts everyone	May 2, 2012 12:59 PM
1250	Single people are the minority in church. People go off to university, and they often find their partners there. As a woman in her 50s, there are no single	May 2, 2012 12:59 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	men, and if there was one, he would fall into one of 3 categories. he would either have a disability, be a mummy's boy, or a baby christian. There are only a few mature christian single men looking for a relationship, who would be divorced or widowed.	
1251	Good for couples but not singles	May 2, 2012 12:56 PM
1252	My church has some singles in their 30s and overs, but many students and younger 20s who are single. There is a group called 'Beacon' which does socials and prayer events weekly, catering for those mainly in their 30s but does welcome all ages and has some married couples too.	May 2, 2012 12:56 PM
1253	On older lady arranges occasional singles Sunday lunches.	May 2, 2012 12:52 PM
1254	To be honest, I don't think the Church I attend is a good place for single Christians. There are not many single people that attend the Church I go to, they are either young families with children or retired. I think this makes it very difficult for singles.	May 2, 2012 12:52 PM
1255	People are accepted as people not by their status and there is a community focus, lots of different groups for different people. Wouldn't normally go to such a traditional church but the pastoral and prayer ministry is excellent and it is ok to admit that you struggle there. I feel loved, accepted and valued for myself, not what I do. Another church I go to occasionally has excellent wide-ranging women's events from craft to roller-discos to a Casino Royale DVD evening - very inclusive.	May 2, 2012 12:50 PM
1256	There are lots of other single people my age. No one sees that as a bad thing	May 2, 2012 12:48 PM
1257	It is if you are young, lots of events etc	May 2, 2012 12:46 PM
1258	Ermmmmm, don't think there is anything that makes my church a good place for single Christians!!!!	May 2, 2012 12:44 PM
1259	They try hard to include everyone in events and fellowship but still don't manage to include older singles or understand their needs. especially those of us who feel much younger than we are!	May 2, 2012 12:42 PM
1260	There is a strong emphasis on the church family and it is very close-knit. There are house groups and prayer nights.	May 2, 2012 12:34 PM
1261	People very quickly made me feel welcome (learnt my name, invited me to lunch, coffee, groups) etc.	May 2, 2012 12:33 PM
1262	It accepts me and all sorts which is what I love about it - and the people are never boring. But it is not good for dating - there is only one woman within 10 years of my age who is single - there are two about 15 years younger and there are some somewhat hurt older divorced/separated. This is why I have tried CC.	May 2, 2012 12:27 PM
1263	I don't think it is. I chose it for its traditional background and style of worship, not for the way it deals with single members.	May 2, 2012 12:23 PM
1264	Very understanding pastoral care, which permeates to the homeless, the single mums with children, the drug addicts and we get all those in my church. However, there are never any single middle aged men, either in this	May 2, 2012 12:22 PM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	church or others that I visit in my town. I despair at having been single for six years with never an invitation from a christian single man.	
1265	It has a walking group	May 2, 2012 12:20 PM
1266	One's status (married or single) is irrelevant. Each individual is valued.	May 2, 2012 12:19 PM
1267	I think what makes my church a good place for single christians would be young, informal atmosphere which it makes it more welcome to younger, single people	May 2, 2012 12:14 PM
1268	Lots of other singles. Less pressure to get into relationships. Less privileging of the family. Recognition of the vocations of single persons. Valuing of deep friendship.	May 2, 2012 12:12 PM
1269	Pass!	May 2, 2012 12:12 PM
1270	It is a warm and welcoming place and there are social groups for males & females. It is much easier to join in when everyone else isn't part of a couple.	May 2, 2012 12:09 PM
1271	???	May 2, 2012 12:08 PM
1272	Family link ups - singles have families who they befriend / look after them	May 2, 2012 12:00 PM
1273	They are lovely good people at my church very friendly and welcoming but I do feel out of place especially at Christmas where there are whole families together and also communion services where we share the Peace and couples are hugging each other.	May 2, 2012 11:51 AM
1274	Lots going on into which singles are involved. A mens and ladies groups are there to join and the singles have recently been out together regularly and to conferences.	May 2, 2012 11:50 AM
1275	There's lots to be involved with and lots of exciting ministry opportunities. I am a Street Pastor and being single is ideal as I can do very anti-social hours and this will only affect me. It's a really easy church to 'get stuck in' and meet people.	May 2, 2012 11:46 AM
1276	My church is very open to everyone, from all walks of life - there are a few divorced people and a few singles (not many my age). We are all given the opportunity to get involved and serve in different ways and there are often social events too, which are nice to get together with other church people (but not so great for meeting new people).	May 2, 2012 11:41 AM
1277	Singles encouraging each other, recognising the difficulties trying to help each other out. Would love to see non-singles connecting with this also.	May 2, 2012 11:37 AM
1278	Not sure that it is, It sometimes feels hard because although one feels accepted in the church one doesn't get invited into folks homes for meals etc.	May 2, 2012 11:36 AM
1279	Sorry - don't think it is a good place for singles!	May 2, 2012 11:33 AM
1280	It isn't.	May 2, 2012 11:30 AM
1281	Our church is very welcoming but we do not attract many single men	May 2, 2012 11:29 AM
1282	My own experience is of support through, and restoration following, my	May 2, 2012 11:27 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	marriage breakdown. I have encountered friends who will walk alongside me - this is a true Christian response, and has demonstrated how I can also walk alongside others. HOWEVER, had I not been through this experience, I would have had no idea what it is like for someone my age, so I choose to proactively seek out supporting other singles.	
1283	There are very few singles in their late 20's early 30's in the church. While it is a great place to be Christian, it is not so good as a place to meet someone	May 2, 2012 11:26 AM
1284	I have found excellent friends amongst other single Christians in the Church.	May 2, 2012 11:23 AM
1285	Homegroups based on ages with a mixture of singles and marrieds. Church leadership and the congregation talking to singles as competent adults rather than people to be pitied and helped. We have other passions, dreams and skills than just wanting to be married and it would be nice if they were what we were known for rather than our singleness.	May 2, 2012 11:16 AM
1286	Difficult one because I'm not sure it is a great place for single Christians	May 2, 2012 11:11 AM
1287	Excellent place for teens. Lots of young married couples with kids. (And older families) Nothing at all specifically for singles. Was told that status was not an issue and all can be integrated into homegroups and other aspects of fellowship. However, my earlier thoughts still obtain. Sorry.	May 2, 2012 11:11 AM
1288	My church is very accepting and welcoming but it does not attract single male Christians because I think it is probably a bit too safe and polite and the congregation is mainly middle aged women!	May 2, 2012 11:04 AM
1289	Life Groups are strong for creating good relationships with both single people and couples, or divorced people. Friendships and bonds continue way beyond the Church environment and offer support to people who are not in relationships.	May 2, 2012 10:56 AM
1290	Marital status is not an issue in our church; there are many opportunities for service in different areas, whether married or single, male or female, young or old, working or retired. Obviously some roles are more suitable for some rather than others..	May 2, 2012 10:49 AM
1291	The church that I attend embraces all aspects of life so people feel accepted no matter what relationship status they are in. A few of the members have attended services at my church.	May 2, 2012 10:46 AM
1292	One of our members is single and female. She has been involved in a variety of ministries and has now taken up missionary work abroad. She regularly speaks at meetings when she is home and is valued by all.	May 2, 2012 10:39 AM
1293	Quite a few singles there already. A good number of friends in the same boat and understand what it's like to be single & christian. John Stott was always single.	May 2, 2012 10:34 AM
1294	can't the moment -	May 2, 2012 10:30 AM
1295	It welcomes all.	May 2, 2012 10:29 AM
1296	It is not good or bad - I think things other than my relationship status determine how I fit into the church. e.g. I would say that my ability to lead or	May 2, 2012 10:26 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	participate in any ministry is restricted (in a way I don't agree with) more by my gender than the fact that I'm single.	
1297	There are lots of single women in the church so you can have a good social network but no men	May 2, 2012 10:23 AM
1298	All are treated equally and are accepted both in church and socially.	May 2, 2012 10:20 AM
1299	As a large city centre church single people can attend without a lot of questions about their single life that would give rise to unwelcome answers.	May 2, 2012 10:18 AM
1300	I think there is truth in that the ethos of the church is too feminine. I am, however, uncertain as to a solution.	May 2, 2012 10:17 AM
1301	I certainly feel accepted in my church as a single, but I do not feel that people are fully comfortable with me staying this way; but then neither am I!	May 2, 2012 10:16 AM
1302	Other single people have things in common so if there are a good number of such people we tend to form friendship groups, downside of that is if you appear to have friends married people often don't invite you to anything and if you invite them for a meal say you feed 2 extra people but rarely get invited back	May 2, 2012 10:15 AM
1303	There is not really any discrimination although perhaps the leadership of the church may feel that as a single person I have more time to be involved in the life of the church - not necessarily the case.	May 2, 2012 10:14 AM
1304	There's a lot of people in a similar boat who are getting on with life and enjoying it, trying to do their bit for the kingdom.	May 2, 2012 10:13 AM
1305	Maturity, both in age, relationship and Spirit of its Leadership and its members. As singles we are more able to be involved with Community outreach activities together with the older married couples without the demands of young children.	May 2, 2012 10:10 AM
1306	Largish city church, with above average number of singles.	May 2, 2012 10:07 AM
1307	The older youngsters 20 plus and still single have organised a "Friday Fellowship". We brainstorm once or twice a year and have ideas for every week of the year. We can then choose to attend every week or not. Everyone takes a turn at being a host. We do lots of different things from bible study on a particular theme or book, to food, birthday and Christmas celebrations to going away for a weekend.	May 2, 2012 10:07 AM
1308	treated as part of family	May 2, 2012 10:06 AM
1309	I think my Church is very welcoming & tries hard to avoid the feeling of separateness that can be of my own making. But I do know from experience that it was a lot easier before my wife left me.	May 2, 2012 10:06 AM
1310	I am pretty sure it could be better for single Christians at my church.	May 2, 2012 10:04 AM
1311	It is a comfort to belong to a church regardless of gender or status	May 2, 2012 10:04 AM
1312	nothing does	May 2, 2012 10:01 AM
1313	Have always been treated as part of a family	May 2, 2012 9:59 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1314	I attend a large vibrant city church with around 2000 congregational members. I also attend a midweek age-specific pastorate, which is a great way to meet like minded people and get to know each other in a social way but with a God focus.	May 2, 2012 9:57 AM
1315	There are many single people, either divorced or widowed as well as a few who have never been married such as myself. There are also many married people where only one of the couple attend church so I don't feel alone as a single person. I am also known by name by the majority of the congregation and the family nature of the church is very welcoming to all. It is one of the main reasons I chose the church when moving into the area.	May 2, 2012 9:56 AM
1316	Our church just accepts you for who you are. Being single can feel like a problem but we are all friends so inside the church I am still wanted.	May 2, 2012 9:50 AM
1317	OUR CHURCH HAVE BEEN THERE FOR WIDOWS AND SINGELS.	May 2, 2012 9:49 AM
1318	The stories I could tell are not actually very inspiring!	May 2, 2012 9:41 AM
1319	There are a wide group of single christians at my church and couples alike we all socialise together . But at times it is hard. I know that we are valued and listened to though which is great but isnt the same for many churches i know.	May 2, 2012 9:40 AM
1320	NONE	May 2, 2012 9:34 AM
1321	Unfortunately I can't think of any.	May 2, 2012 9:33 AM
1322	The other single women that are in the same boat. It's a bit of a crappy boat!	May 2, 2012 9:30 AM
1323	Nothing.	May 2, 2012 9:23 AM
1324	To be welcoming. To for families to invite singles into their homes.	May 2, 2012 9:23 AM
1325	It's a good place if you are in your twenties, from the point of view of finding a partner, but no good for my age group. I'm not treating church as a hunting ground though, because I know there aren't any remotely suitable single men my age who go there.	May 2, 2012 9:21 AM
1326	Fellowship Community Getting involved Social groups	May 2, 2012 9:16 AM
1327	Most are single from a recovery background. The leaders and pastors are married but there's no emphasis either family or singleness.	May 2, 2012 9:14 AM
1328	The meeting of worship in a meeting house or home lends itself to the following because there are no frills, no hymns, no though shalt nots. It is the peace, the gentleness, the questioning of self. The joy of share others faiths and learning and growing and accepting. Walking through those doors for the first time into silence can feel like coming home, really home. In the world today it all noise and fast actions - it is wonderful to have an oasis of peace, and quiet and educating one' s self to listen. Everything is done deomocraticly - we all participate and are not talked down to. In the silence someone may get up and say some thing and we listen. So much silent prayer is wonderful - even if you attend with you mind in a whirl it does not matter, more often than not you realise you feel restored.	May 2, 2012 9:14 AM
1329	It's a big church, so there are plenty of other people and nobody has to be	May 2, 2012 9:13 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	the only one in a particular category.	
1330	I am loved by my church family. Whilst there are very few single people in my congregation, many couples and families share their lives with me.	May 2, 2012 9:07 AM
1331	The people in the churches I got to seem to accept me for who I am and not be intent on "marrying me off"	May 2, 2012 8:53 AM
1332	People are friendly and approachable, cell groups do not really split up into singles/couples categories.	May 2, 2012 8:53 AM
1333	My church is not a good place for singles, we use the language of families and have a Vicar who appears not to have noticed that about 40% of his congregation are single.	May 2, 2012 8:52 AM
1334	The friendship is really important	May 2, 2012 8:47 AM
1335	Although I don't meet any single men, it is a good family atmosphere and I am looked after by those older, and can look after those younger.	May 2, 2012 8:30 AM
1336	have a group of single christian but is certainly more female dominant than male, finding a single christian man is hard	May 2, 2012 8:22 AM
1337	I know of people (men and women) in my church who were single and are now married. Although I have found it difficult to meet someone in my church because I can be shy.	May 2, 2012 8:22 AM
1338	Generally a mature Church that accepts Divorcees not as second-class citizens. I have had several invitations from people realising I am single to have meals with them and have been understood. Homegroup helps!	May 2, 2012 8:18 AM
1339	Not applicable if you're over 25!	May 2, 2012 8:16 AM
1340	Its a good place for single christian because one get opportunity to mingle with other single whom eventually might be their life partner, also single people are involved in worship and service as ushers in the church	May 2, 2012 8:15 AM
1341	You feel safe have an extended family.	May 2, 2012 8:13 AM
1342	There is a strong social scene with my age group at church. Whilst the vast vast majority are married or in long term relationships, they aren't remotely coupled within the social group (bar 1 or 2 couples)	May 2, 2012 8:12 AM
1343	City church loads of single people, young and the oldest person 98	May 2, 2012 8:08 AM
1344	It isn't a good place for singles. Plus, because it is small there is no chance of meeting any girls. Also, when I did previously go to a large church where there were girls the girls were far too worldly! Meaning specifically, that they would date non-christian men, go to nightclubs, engage in sex before marriage and leave and go off to university. This was frustrating for me as I was trying hard to be a good christian but they didn't seem to have the same drive. Eventually I gave up and went into the world and did all of the above as well! So having no decent girls in a church can force single men OUT of Church!	May 2, 2012 8:06 AM
1345	I think having lots of other single people. At my age that isn't an issue but as I get older I could see how it could be! Everyone being inclusive, seeing	May 2, 2012 8:05 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	family as more than just those who are related to you.	
1346	I have recently joined my church and have had no comment passed about my single state. I am at liberty to join any groups I choose and they are very welcoming, they know I have more time to serve if I am single. There is not a separate social group for single people, which is better because you don't feel like you stick out so much.	May 2, 2012 8:03 AM
1347	N/A	May 2, 2012 7:56 AM
1348	I think my church embraces who we are as individuals, as God sees us. I suppose the only time I have felt excluded was when I couldn't go to the Marriage course they were running!!	May 2, 2012 7:55 AM
1349	I am accepted as a leader despite the fact I have been divorced in the past and am now a widow. I am an elder in the church and I am the only woman elder! I feel valued in the church but socially I feel more excluded. I often entertain but I don't get many invitations back and I don't like being by myself and would welcome an invitation to lunch after church but it seldom happens!	May 2, 2012 7:53 AM
1350	Its a good place for young singles because they do alot for under 30s but the not enough for the older singles.	May 2, 2012 7:53 AM
1351	There are lot of single women and we meet regular together. The church is not very good at including single people. The church as a whole is great for worship and sermons. People do meet christians guys but we joke and say all the good ones are taken. The church is fantastic for young children and youth.. It is great for families and they are great at looking after the elderley which is good.	May 2, 2012 7:51 AM
1352	I wish I had stories	May 2, 2012 7:50 AM
1353	Very friendly on Sundays but no social interaction during the week, except for at meetings.	May 2, 2012 7:48 AM
1354	In London there were two couples with families who had a gift with single people. They were from two different churches. The wives would go out for an evening with you socially and if you were invited round to visit their children would be in bed or in another room so that you had uninterrupted quality conversations with them which were far ranging and wasn't all about their children and husband and plans for the future. Single people were drawn to them as they were made to feel valued.	May 2, 2012 7:48 AM
1355	As my marriage broke down the church were very supportive, listened to me without making decisions for me.	May 2, 2012 7:44 AM
1356	My church only has one single divorcee and he is just wrapped up in his children I find divorced people have been hurt and don't want to get involved in case they are hurt again. I am a widow and would love to meet someone again and have what I had before.	May 2, 2012 7:44 AM
1357	Single people are encouraged to help in different areas, regardless of whether they are married or not. I am loved for who I am not 'what' I am or what I am not! I am friends with other people, families, single people and young people - we are united because we believe in the one God who brings us all together.	May 2, 2012 7:43 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1358	Not many eligible women at my church, hence there's alot of other single men there.	May 2, 2012 7:41 AM
1359	It's not in my church but singles in a neighbouring church have set up a social group for singles which I find a comfortable place to be.	May 2, 2012 7:40 AM
1360	Had very good seminar on solo christians covering all issues faced by singles positive and negative.	May 2, 2012 7:36 AM
1361	One couple invited several single girls around, thinking who would not want to be home alone on a sunday lunch, which was great fun. I do not feel I am discriminated against in any way because I am single. i am welcomed and part of the scene. it is my own attitude that generally dictates how part of the thing I am feeling.	May 2, 2012 7:36 AM
1362	I belong to a church that is full of couples, this can make me feel outside of things, because it's something I'd like for myself. However the couples are inclusive and there homes are open. There is an increased culture of community living, couples, singles and families are sharing homes and life together and it seems to work well.	May 2, 2012 7:31 AM
1363	It's a family community so everyone treats you like family. I've always found people come up and talk and want to sit with me. I do make an effort to join in and have not found it a problem doing so and being accepted. It has a strong support group and if anyone needs help then someone is near.	May 2, 2012 7:28 AM
1364	Other single people in my age group	May 2, 2012 7:27 AM
1365	I can't, because it isn't a good place for single people at all. I don't care - I just turn up anyway, whether they like it or not! You are most unlikely to meet a partner in any of the churches I have been to, and I am nearly 53 now.	May 2, 2012 7:21 AM
1366	My church provides information on single conferences and events. Additionally single persons are encouraged to enjoy their marital status and be inspired that one day we would find a partner.	May 2, 2012 7:18 AM
1367	May be as a member of the choir	May 2, 2012 7:15 AM
1368	N/A	May 2, 2012 7:15 AM
1369	It isn't! It's judgemental of us	May 2, 2012 7:14 AM
1370	My church has a lot of single people but they are all in their 20's and I am over 30.	May 2, 2012 6:58 AM
1371	Anyone of any status is accepted and able to participate in any area of my church. The only thing lacking is more specific support just for single people.	May 2, 2012 6:50 AM
1372	The single christians in our church uphold one another with understanding and unconditional love ...often understand what it is to be single after loosing a loved one ..I feel that older christians can be neglected and easy to overlook especially in a large church or one that is growing quickly.Need wisdom from the leaders to harness their gifts and experience.	May 2, 2012 6:48 AM
1373	Our home church would be great because I lead it, I know that myself and my co-leaders assess each individual situation according to the	May 2, 2012 6:47 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	<p>circumstances. It's hard being single again, but I have found that there are very few who accept that 1Corinthians 7:15 situations actually happen today. However, this group of people are wonderfully mature, devoted Christians who accept that a person having a strong leadership calling and being determined to follow that calling is a good thing. They are actually proud of me that I chose serving God no matter what the cost, in my case my marriage! This should be seen more often, an unsaved spouse is not going to depart just simply because the other is a believer, for this scripture to come into play it's clear that the SAVED spouses faith was lived out in word and action. This is what the people around me right now understand and they encourage me and have helped me to see that I did nothing wrong by following God's call on my life. Other churches have told me I should just have lived out my faith "in secret", sorry folks but that's NOT what my Bible says!</p>	
1374	Each memeber is loved unconditionally and valued for who they are	May 2, 2012 6:45 AM
1375	Well, my former church had a twenties-thirties group that produced a good number of marriages and/or vocations to the ministry!	May 2, 2012 6:44 AM
1376	My local church is full of families and I feel an outsider at times. At another large, evangelical church in central London I feel much more welcome; there are Divorce and Separation Recovery courses held regularly and single parent lunches held every month.	May 2, 2012 6:43 AM
1377	My church is not a great place to be single!	May 2, 2012 6:38 AM
1378	Bottom line, people are accepted for what and who they are. No special emphasis on singledom, which is not a part of my identity, just how my life happens to have panned out. If you accept people for who they are, then you won't be tripping up over what their family/ marital status is. How hard is that?!?	May 2, 2012 6:38 AM
1379	Church embraces all no matter what your creed colour political social statues	May 2, 2012 6:38 AM
1380	we have a 20/30 sigles group which is good and we have groups for single oap's but the group in the middl3e are somewhat left out.	May 2, 2012 6:34 AM
1381	Brother and sisters in Christ that have same goals that support and love one another. That make you feel like you are part of a family.	May 2, 2012 6:33 AM
1382	non	May 2, 2012 6:31 AM
1383	its make us as one family	May 2, 2012 6:27 AM
1384	There are a couple of activities foe singles at my Church but aimed at the older person that I fit into but think there are also things for the younger members to attend.	May 2, 2012 6:26 AM
1385	There are quite a few single women my age which is great. We can support each other. My pastor has a deep understanding of the loneliness of being single and living alone - unusual compared with other married pastors I have known. He is very supportive indeed of my aim to set up a singles group in our region (i.e. across the nearby towns) to encourage singles to meet together for fellowship and prayer/Bible study.	May 2, 2012 6:25 AM
1386	There is a strong core of people in their 20s and 30s, which is an age-group	May 2, 2012 6:25 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

	for which the pastor has vision, so it's easy to find oneself amongst one's peers, including singles. The church does also generate a lot of engagements and marriages, and I think it's perceived as a place that young, upwardly mobile people - whether single or married - want to come to. The biggest problem at my church is that we don't communicate the gospel effectively, so it is this that affects our ability to attract and retain new believers.	
1387	We have a 20s and 30s group for people of those ages, this tends to be a place where singles are welcome and can meet other singles! Its a big church, so there are plenty of other singles of my age - I don't feel on my own.	May 2, 2012 6:24 AM
1388	there are a lot of single christians in our congregation. they tend to come to this service rather than the others that are very family focused, and it is for this very reason that they come to this service. there is a single woman on the ministry team. they did this consciously in order to be more sensitive to single people.	May 2, 2012 6:24 AM
1389	as a christian single any relationship that comes from meeting in church or from a christian dating site like CC immediately allows the relationship to be based on christian values and morals and this freedom takes the pressure off both parties particular women and they can feel trust and confidence grow in the relationship no happy ending to this story as alot of ladies i have meet have been damaged by divorce etc	May 2, 2012 6:22 AM
1390	Status never discussed	May 2, 2012 6:20 AM
1391	Accepting that we may not all get married and accepting our gifts anyway. Also men need to get better to welcome other men in. There needs to be an understanding of what guys like to do so there are more Christian men in church.	May 2, 2012 6:20 AM
1392	There are plenty of single Christians in the relatively large I gotoand also plenty of families, so all are generally accepted, the singles often gettogether	May 2, 2012 6:19 AM
1393	We cater for everyone and marital status is never an issue.	May 2, 2012 6:18 AM
1394	My church ministry particularly focuses on middle eged / elderly who by their age in life can be single through bereavement etc	May 2, 2012 6:17 AM
1395	There are alot of single people in the church, but people are scared to get to know one another for fear that coffee=marriage. There is unnecessary pressure. Just because two people go to church doesn't mean they are compatible.	May 2, 2012 6:16 AM
1396	lots of members, friendly people. not many singletons	May 2, 2012 6:15 AM
1397	I wouldn't say it's good or bad. There are rarely sermons that talk only about married/family situations so it's never really highlighted. We just get on with it really. That said, there is clearly the expectation that I'll get married eventually.	May 2, 2012 6:14 AM
1398	I am welcomed in there for who I am and I know the local area	May 2, 2012 6:12 AM
1399	It doesn't.	May 2, 2012 6:12 AM

**Page 17, Q1. Please tell us about what makes your church a good place for single Christians. Please provide any stories, anecdotes or examples that could provide some inspiration.**

1400	There are quite a few people my age or similar.	May 2, 2012 5:41 AM
1401	Community meal once a month embraces all	May 2, 2012 3:24 AM
1402	It welcomes all people who attend, single or not Singles are not singled out and marriage is not pushed upon singles	May 1, 2012 7:03 AM
1403	I think it is possible to find groups and single groups in churches, but it is not obvious, it takes time to find them, for the exact age range. However, in a big place like London, there are more opportunities and it could make the life of single Christians easier. Here is an example of a good experience: I participated to a 'Christianity Explored' group organised by a church in East London. Most of us were in our 30s and early 40s, only 2-3 people were married or in a relationship. I felt comfy in this group.	Apr 5, 2012 4:07 AM