# **Londons Churches**

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major cities have long been seen as centres of secularisation however the number of congregations in london grew by 50 between 1979 and the present london s churches have been characterised more by growth than by decline in the decades since 1980 the desecularisation of the city provides the first academic survey of churches in london over recent decades linking them to similar developments in other major cities across the west produced by a large team of scholars from a range of disciplines this volume offers a striking and original portrait of congregational life in london since 1980 seventeen chapters explore the diverse localities ethnicities and denominations that make up the church in contemporary london the vitality of london s churches in the last four decades shows that secularisation is far from inevitable in the cities of the future this study necessitates a significant reassessment of the dominant academic portrayal of christianity in britain and the west which has mostly depicted cities as secular spaces within a secularising culture it will be of great interest to scholars working across a wide range of disciplines including history sociology religious studies and theology

john milbank s theology has shaped much modern political thinking both within and without the church in before and beyond the big society joseph forde presents the first study devoted exclusively to john milbank s theology of welfare and how it has influenced policy in the church of england since

2008 by examining the favourable response the church gave to the big society project in 2010 12 forde shows that milbank s blue socialist fingerprint increasingly dominates however this theology has not evolved in a vacuum and forde expertly places it in its historical and theoretical context he offers a detailed critical discussion of milbank s own critique of what has been the mainstream temple anglican theology of welfare in the church of england since the 1940s and a fresh contribution to the assessment of anglican social theology finally he demonstrates how milbank s ideas have been furthered by other influential anglicans it is this influence that will carry the greatest implications for the church of england s policy on welfare going forward making this study relevant to all who care about its contribution to the provision of welfare

in contrast to scholarly belief that the author of the epistle to the hebrews envisions the transcendent heavenly world as the eschatological inheritance of god s people jihye lee argues that a version of an urzeit endzeit eschatological framework as observed in some jewish apocalyptic texts provides a plausible background against which the arguments of hebrews are most comprehensively explained instead of transcendence to the heavenly world that will come after the destruction of the shakable creation lee suggests the possibility of a more dualistic new world by first defining urzeit endzeit eschatology lee is then able to explore its place in both pre and post 70 ce second temple judaism in examining enoch the qumran texts jubilees the liber antiquitatum biblicarum 4 ezra and 2 baruch and finally the book of revelation lee compares a multitude of eschatological visions and the different depictions of the transformation of the world judgement and the new world to come bringing these texts together to analyse the issue of god s rest in hebrews and the nature of the unshakable kingdom lee concludes that hebrews envisions the kingdom as consisting of both the revealed heavenly world and the renewed creation as the eschatological venue of god s dwelling place with his people

indexes the times sunday times and magazine times literary supplement times educational supplement times educational supplement scotland and the times higher education supplement

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