



Inclusive
Church
Annual
Report
2015



Inclusive Church Annual Report for AGM 2015

Chair's Report



In 2013 Inclusive Church marked the tenth anniversary of our founding. In preparation the Trustees stood back and looked at what had been achieved and then forwards towards what is still to be done. We consulted with members and supporters and then adapted our course. Since then we have introduced an Annual Lecture, reaffirmed our Statement of Belief, and broadened our objectives in order to address some areas of overlooked exclusion. In addition to sexuality and gender we developed a working strategy that addresses exclusion caused by poverty, ethnicity, mental illness and disability- and responses of individuals and churches to these issues.

Looking back at 2014 we can see the fruit of these endeavours- most clearly in the production and publication of the series of six Inclusive Church Resources. These books were commissioned by the publishing firm of Darton, Longman and Todd. Forty-three contributors ensure a variety of voices, experiences, theological expertise and resources can be placed into the hands of those who are working towards greater inclusion of all people in the life of the church. In the report from Bob Callaghan, our National Coordinator, in our accounts, on our website and in what we have been able to deliver and facilitate, these six themes can be seen.

The Trustees are very grateful to all who, through regular financial support, enable the work to continue. Thank you also to our Diocesan Ambassadors and to all our volunteers for the time you give to the work of IC. It really does matter and our work together is bearing fruit. We also thank Bob Callaghan for the tremendous work he does and I know that many supporters and members would echo my thanks to him.

I'm grateful for the work of all the Trustees, and to our Officers, Simon Sarmiento (Honorary Secretary) and David Hancock (Honorary Treasurer) for keeping the show on the road. In 2014 we said thank you to two of our independent Trustees who stepped down: Keith Elliott and Rachel Beck. We have welcomed Hilary Cotton (replacing Anne Stevens) and Anthony Freeman (replacing Guy Elsmore) as new trustees from WATCH and Modern Church respectively. Anne rejoined as an elected independent trustee, and during the year Keith Sharpe stood down as the Changing Attitude trustee, but was promptly co-opted by the board to rejoin as an independent trustee for the remainder of the year.

2015 is well underway as this report is being written and 2014 seems long ago. For me this is cause for celebration and also a continued call to action for the good of all God's people. Thank you for all you are doing to help build an Inclusive Church.

*With thanks and Best Wishes,
The Very Reverend Dianna Gwilliams
Chair of Inclusive Church and Dean of Guildford Cathedral*

Inclusive Church Annual Report for AGM 2015

National Coordinator's Report



As we look back over the past year there have been a number of key highlights. The most significant of course has been the completion of the Inclusive Church Resource series. With 6 books now published, with 43 contributors ranging from Grayson Perry to Jean Vanier, this is a major contribution by Inclusive Church to the wider church as it reflects on how to be truly inclusive. Inclusive Church is hugely grateful to all those who have given of their time to write for the books, and to the publishers, Darton Longman and Todd for their enthusiasm for the project.

We have worked hard at ensuring that our web presence is strong and vibrant. With the support of our web company, Southmedia, we have improved the look and feel of the website, which now has a strong interaction with our social media outlets.

Inclusive Church has been out and about in different parts of the country. It is always a privilege to visit churches, groups, synods and conferences, spending time with people who are enthusiastic about the work of Inclusive Church. Some of the highlights for me were being able to celebrate at the LGBTI Outa Space Eucharist at Greenbelt, taking part in a 'Singing for the Brain' event at a conference about cognitive disability, and the first Inclusive Church retreat at Holy Rood House where we painted, walked, prayed and got to know each other a little better.

Sometimes it is helpful to remember that the important part of our work is not all about meetings, agendas websites and strategies. The work of Inclusive Church is primarily about people and relationships.

It is a real privilege to be National Coordinator for Inclusive Church, it feels like I am part of something that is making a real difference to the lives of individuals and to the church as whole.

Bob Callaghan. National Coordinator, Inclusive Church

Inclusive Church Annual Report for AGM 2015

Highlights of 2014/15



750 people met us at **Greenbelt** 2014 and over 300 attended the Outa Space LGBTI Eucharist at which Bob Callaghan presided and preached.

Beyond Inclusion events were held in Finchley, Keighley, and Wells.

Preaching and other engagements were undertaken in Burnham on Sea, West Kirby, Stamford, Mansfield, Richmond, Mottingham, Ludlow, & Wotton.

Conferences were held on Disability (60 attendees) and on Cognitive Disability (30 attendees). 12 people attended a retreat at Holy Rood House, Thirsk.

37 new churches have registered with Inclusive Church since July 2015, bringing the total to 223. See list at <http://www.inclusive-church.org/directory>

22 Ambassadors are active in 20 dioceses, They are the eyes, ears and voices of Inclusive Church on the ground. See list at <http://www.inclusive-church.org/about-us/diocesan-ambassadors>

A monthly email newsletter continued throughout the year. The address list for this has been pruned to ensure it goes only to those who want to receive it, currently 2,242.

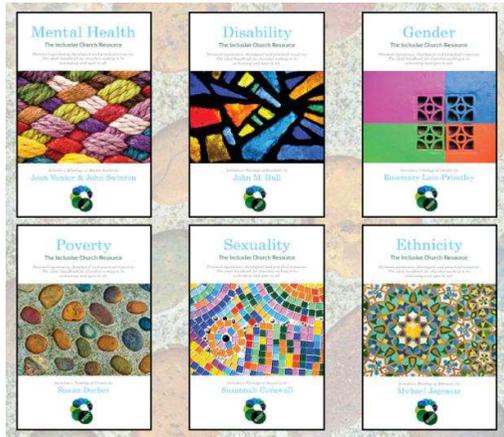
At the time of compiling this report, we had 4,153 Twitter followers, and 1, 320 members of the IC Facebook group. In addition, Young IC had 190 participants in its separate Facebook group.

This year, we began to have individual members who sign the Statement of Belief: at the time of this report there were 180.

In addition to our Partner Organisations who are directly represented on the Board of Trustees (see below) we have worked during the year in various ways with many additional groups, including Affirming Catholicism, Progressive Christianity Network, Sibyls, Accepting Evangelicals, Society of Catholic Priests, , General Synod Human Sexuality Group, [Evangelical Fellowship for Lesbian and Gay Christians](#), LGBTI Anglican Coalition, Cutting Edge Consortium., St Martin in the Fields, Mental Health Matters, and the Committee for Ministry of and Among Deaf and Disabled People.

Inclusive Church Annual Report for AGM 2015

The Inclusive Church Resource Series



The Inclusive Church Resource book series is published by Darton Longman and Todd. Designed as resource books for churches, each book has an introduction, theological reflection, stories from lived experience and a practical resource section. There are 6 books in the series:

Disability by John Hull

Mental Health by Jean Vanier and John Swinton.

Sexuality by Susannah Cornwall

Poverty by Susan Durber.

Ethnicity by Michael Jagessar

Gender by Rosemary Lain Priestley.

The *Church Times* has reviewed three of the books.

Rachel Mann wrote about **Sexuality**:

...It seeks to educate, to reflect theologically, and to provide practical advice and guidance. This it does rather magnificently.

Taking its cue from liberation theology's imperative to ground theology in lived experience, this book contains first-hand personal experiences, a theology of sexuality which illuminates that experience, as well as a resource section containing practical advice on improving a church's inclusivity. It is, then, intended as a pocket handbook and study guide for any church wanting to become inclusive...

Susannah Cornwall anchors this book with a succinct, masterful theology of sexuality which is worth the price of admission alone.

Sue Atkinson reviewed **Mental Health** and **Disability**

THESE two small, useful books are written to help parishioners to make their church more inclusive, i.e. with no discrimination "on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality" (Inclusive Church website).

...The stories are useful to ground the theology in the real world and they make interesting - although at times rather alarming - reading, demonstrating the poor treatment that too many people experience at their local church...

I very much liked the idea that the church's function is not so much about curing as instead about focusing on healing - and that is "something different; something deeper, more soulful . . . to do with finding wholeness, inner beauty, unity and peace".

Inclusive Church Annual Report for AGM 2015

General Synod Campaign 2015



2015 will see the election of a new General Synod. Going on the performance of the current Synod it is clear that much needs to be done to widen the membership of the new synod to better represent the mainstream of the Church of England.

Inclusive Church and its partners in this campaign are working together to create the most favourable circumstances for the election of laity to Deanery and General Synods. We seek laity who will represent the will of the majority of people in the Church of England being for inclusion and opposed to discrimination. This is a joint campaign bringing together some of the key organisations in the Church of England, working together against discrimination: Inclusive Church, Women and the Church (WATCH), Group for Rescinding the Act of Synod (GRAS), Modern Church, Changing Attitude, Affirming Catholicism and the Society of Catholic Priests (SCP).

The campaign pack can be downloaded from

<http://www.inclusive-church.org/events/synod-15-campaign>

Inclusive Church supporters, both lay and clergy, are encouraged to consider standing in their diocese. Nominations open on 21 July. The closing date for nominations will be 4 September, and balloting will be conducted by mail in each diocese from 18 September to 9 October.

Members of Deanery Synods who constitute the electorate will be able to refer to our List of Supported Candidates during the balloting period.

Contact The Reverend Stephen France for more information:

revfrance@btinternet.com

Inclusive Church Annual Report for AGM 2015

Summary of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2014

Incoming Resources	Total 2014	Total 2013
	£	£
Donations from individuals	28977.67	27724.36
Donations from corporate bodies	2688.98	3237.65
Other resources (incl. fees and prepayment)	7742.70	821.37
Total Incoming Resources	39409.35	31783.38
Resources Used		
Cost of generating donations	616.00	501.00
Charitable activities	38629.83	28992.16
Governance costs	784.45	769.12
Total Resources Used	40030.28	30262.28
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources	(620.93)	1521.10
Balance brought forward on 1 st January 2014 (2013)	9317.13	7796.03
Balance carried forward on 31st December 2014 (2013)	8696.20	9317.93

Inclusive Church Annual Report for AGM 2015

Board of Trustees

Dianna Gwilliams - Chair

Simon Sarmiento - Secretary

David Hancock - Treasurer

Hilary Cotton (Women and the Church)

Anthony Freeman (Modern Church)

vacancy (Changing Attitude)

Savi Hensman (Lesbian Gay Christian Movement)

Jenny Thomas (Association of Black Clergy)

Sally Barnes

Dan Barnes-Davies (formerly representing Young IC)

Trevor Donnelly

Anne Stevens

Keith Sharpe (formerly representing CA)

Rosemarie Mallet

Alex Gowing-Cumber

The following also served as trustees for part of the year 2014/2015:

Rachel Beck

Keith Elliott

Guy Elsmore (formerly representing Modern Church)

We thank each of them for their valuable contributions.

Board members do not receive any remuneration or expenses.

During the past year, the board met on the following dates:

17 September 2014, 8 November 2014,

7 February 2015, 25 April 2015, 13 June 2015

The officers, together with the National Coordinator, meet regularly between trustee meetings as the Management Committee.

Inclusive Church Annual Report for AGM 2015

Member and supporter Information



For governance matters contact our Hon. General Secretary via office@inclusive-church.org Please quote GOVERNANCE as the subject.

Key dates for 2015/16

AGM and Lecture Thursday 16 July
Trustees Thursday 24 September
Trustees Saturday 21 November

IC Partnership Day Saturday 23 January

Trustees Thursday 11 February

Trustees Saturday 23 April

Trustees Thursday 16 June

AGM and Lecture July 2016 date and venue to be confirmed

How to get in touch

Registered Office: Inclusive Church

St John's Waterloo

Waterloo Road

London SE1 8TY

The Rev'd Bob Callaghan National Coordinator

T: 07935 374877

E: office@inclusive-church.org

W: www.inclusive-church.org.