



# Inclusive Church

## Annual Report 2019



## Chair's report



As an extremely small educational charity Inclusive Church punches far above its weight. Our Ambassadors are one of our greatest assets and are drawn from the thousands of supporters. Thank you so much to everyone who gives so generously of their time and energy to our shared work. Just a snapshot of what we have achieved together is in this report.

Our National Coordinator, Ruth Wilde, hit the road running and her focus on working with and supporting our Ambassadors enable our charity to have a wide reach. The Trustees are also volunteers and have given many hours to ensure that our governance and strategy is fit for purpose and nimble enough to respond to rapid change, and of course we do this in partnership with other organisations. This year we are growing a partnership with HeartEdge which is also a 'network' organisation and we will be, with St Martin in the Fields, publishing the next book produced from the Disability Conference, 'Something Worth Sharing'.

Two of our longest serving Trustees will retire from the Board at our AGM. Sally Barnes was initially appointed to our Board from national WATCH and when that term completed she remained as an independent member. David Hancock joined the Board as Honorary Treasurer in 2008 and has done a wonderful job on behalf of all of us. We all have cause to give thanks for the energy, wisdom, determination and faithfulness shown by Sally and David over many years and we wish them well as they settle onto the back benches with the rest of our wonderful supporters.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for input as we sought to update our 'Statement of Belief'. We are now referring to this statement as Our Vision/ Values and we believe that what is to be put to the AGM for adoption gives the most flexibility for our work as an educational charity and scope to work with partner and campaigning organisations. On behalf of the Board we commend this.

It is a privilege to serve as Chair of the Board and, on behalf of everyone we seek to empower, thank you for being a vital part of Inclusive Church.

**The Very Reverend Dianna Gwilliams.**  
**Chair of Inclusive Church and Dean of Guildford**

## National Coordinator's report



It has been such a privilege to work for Inclusive Church as the National Coordinator over the past year and a half. Thank you to all our trustees, volunteer ambassadors, churches and supporters who work tirelessly for inclusion!

Since starting work with IC, I've enjoyed speaking at events and services all around the country. I'm on my travels in the picture on the front cover- at a church in Buckinghamshire- and am pictured with the parish's three female priests. It's very appropriate, as the Church of England celebrated 25 years of women's ministry this year, to have a photo like this: what would we do without women priests now!

Last year's Disability Conference in October was a very special event. It was my first time at the conference, and I was bowled over by how brilliant it is. Last year's theme was a practical one- 'Something Worth Sharing'- and disabled people (and their friends) gathered to share resources, gifts and stories, some of which is appearing in a new booklet by the same name (out mid-2019). On the front cover of this report, there's a photo of people at the conference- it was another record attendance!

As well as the annual Conference on Disability and Church, in partnership with St Martin-in-the-Fields, we had a wonderful AGM and Annual Lecture at Leicester Cathedral in July 2018, with Ruth Hunt (CEO of Stonewall and practicing Catholic) as the guest speaker. There's a picture of one of our trustees, Andrew Lightbown, with an IC supporter at the AGM on the front of this report. In the latter part of 2018, trustees also gathered for a Strategy Day. Out of this came some new strands of work, including ideas for supporting regional ambassadors and churches better. As part of these work strands, I have organised five upcoming ambassador training days, which I hope as many regional ambassadors as possible will be able to get to. We also have plans to improve our resources and our website this coming year.

All in all, it's been a hectic and very rewarding past year. Thank you for being part of it!

**Ruth Wilde**  
**National Coordinator**

## Highlights of 2018/19

# 25

Years of Women's Ministry

### Women in the Church

In 2019, the Church of England celebrated 25 years of women's ministry. Several of our trustees attended events.

# 86

Churches joined IC this year

### Inclusive churches

86 new churches joined the Inclusive Church Network this year (July 2018- July 2019). They are Anglican, Methodist, Scottish Episcopal, URC and one Roman Catholic church.

# 500

People attending the Disability Conference

### Conference on Disability and Church

In 2018, we counted almost 500 people who have attended the Disability Conference since 2012 when it started!

# 2065

Subscribers to the newsletter

### Subscribers

We have gone over the 2000 mark – 2065 supporters are now signed up to and receiving our monthly e-newsletter.

# 43

Ambassadors are working with us

### Regional ambassadors

Our volunteer ambassadors are active in 24 regions. They are the eyes, ears and voices of Inclusive Church on the ground and they are indispensable!

# 10k

Social media followers/friends

### Social media

Inclusive Church has a strong presence on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. You can also find us on YouTube.

## The Inclusive Church Lecture

**The Inclusive Church Annual Lecture** provides an opportunity for a leading theologian or commentator to reflect on the nature of inclusion.



Previous lectures were given by Martyn Percy, Linda Woodhead, David Ison, Michael Jagessar, Loretta Minghella and Ruth Hunt.

The 2019 Annual Lecture was held at Southwark Cathedral with Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields and theologian, giving the lecture. It was entitled 'Citizens of Heaven: Identity, Inclusion and the Church'.

## Books and Group Resources

### Small Group Study Resources and IC Books

Inclusive Church has published 6 books on inclusion and small group resources to complement the book series.



The home group study guides exploring core themes of inclusion.

We are always looking at new ways in which we can resource our volunteers and supporters better.





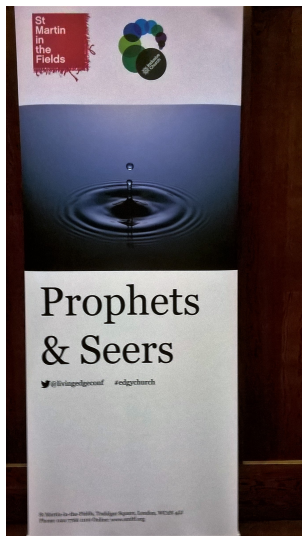
## The Pioneering Disability Conferences



Inclusive Church in partnership with St Martin in the Fields has held an annual disability conference since 2012.

These conferences have become distinctive in that they are 'organised by and for people with lived experience of disability'. The conferences have drawn together nearly 500 people, for whom the

conference is a vital annual event.



In 2016, the conference became a whole weekend event at St Martin in the Fields. As well as the Saturday main conference, there is now a full programme on the Sunday as well.

In 2017 we produced a booklet commemorating the first five years of the Disability Conference. In 2019, there will be a new booklet produced as a resource, called 'Something Worth Sharing', based on the 2018 conference.

## Inclusive Church and Partnership

Partnership working has always been at the heart of the work of Inclusive Church.



Some of the trustees of Inclusive Church represent partner organisations.

**Partnership Day.** After a year's break, Inclusive Church are

again organising a Partnership Day in November 2019. We will be running this year's event alongside our partner HeartEdge (a project begun by St Martin-in-the-Fields), and the theme will be 'At the Heart and on the Edge'.

### New Partnerships

As part of our strategy day in 2018, we discussed how we might develop and strengthen existing and new partnerships. In 2019, IC will be working with a new partner- Church Action on Poverty- to deliver workshops at the Catholic 'National Justice and Peace Network' conference. If you believe there is someone we should be working with or something we should be working on, get in touch to discuss it with us.

## Summary of Financial Activities for year ending 31 December 2018

Incoming Resources	Total 2018 (£)	Total 2017 (£)
Balance brought forward	20,702	18,693
Donations from individuals (incl Gift Aid)	20,629	23,938
Donations from corporate bodies	9,042	6,925
Other income (incl. Prepayments and book sales)	1,078	1,192
Total Incoming Resources	41,059	40,786

Resources Used	Total 2018 (£)	Total 2017 (£)
Cost of generating donations	234	198
Charitable activities	36,696	35,563
Governance costs	2,119	1,415
Total Resources Used	39,049	37,176
Balance carried forward	20,703	18,693

Certified statements of financial activity presented to our AGM are available on our website and the Charity Commissions website. For financial matters contact our Treasurer: [office@inclusive-church.org](mailto:office@inclusive-church.org) - please quote FINANCE as the subject.

## Statement of Belief and contact information



The Inclusive Church vision as of the beginning of July 2019\* is as follows:

We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical

ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

\*Changes to the statement will be voted on at the AGM on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

How to get in touch

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