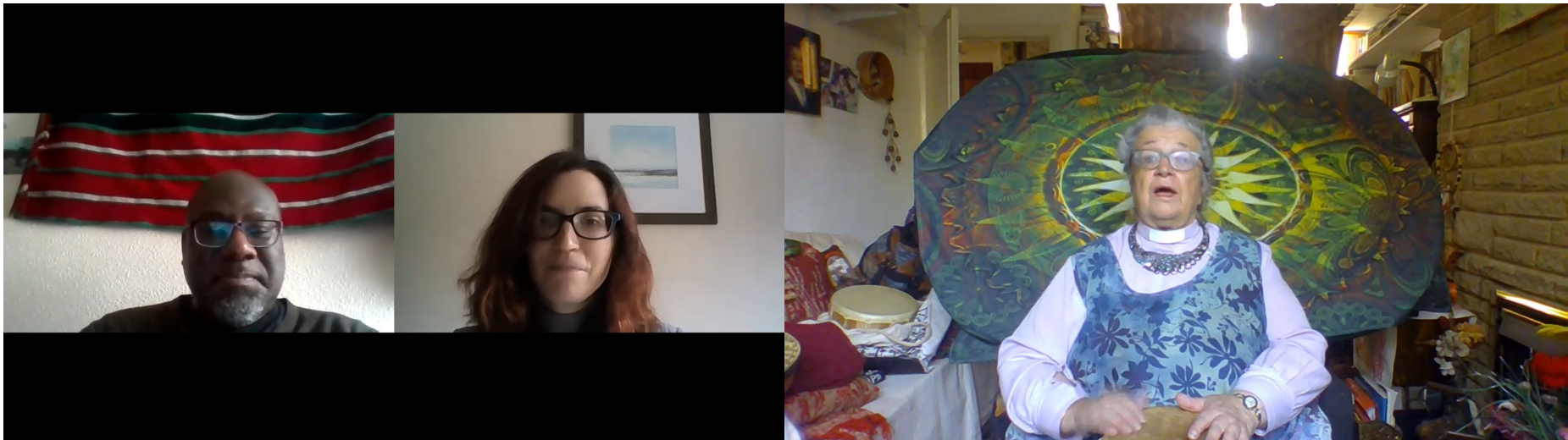




Inclusive Church

Annual Report 2020



Chair's report



2020 has been a year like none other in our lifetime. Thanks to our wonderful army of Ambassadors and supporters, the work of our small charity has continued, and in some new ways. Ruth Wilde, our National Coordinator has been busy with improvements to our infrastructure, database and website as well as continuing to support our Ambassadors and to visit as many groups and churches as possible – albeit virtually. A highlight of 2020 is the Black Theology series which Ruth put together with Professor Anthony Reddie. The interviews are rich and textured and introduce leading theologians whose work is usually accessible to a limited number of academics. They are worth listening to a number of times and storing away as resources for our own personal work in many spheres.

The Disability Conference, which we facilitate with St Martin's in the Field, was another rich source of support, encouragement and fellowship in 2019. You can find out more about the annual conference from the booklets which have been produced and by signing up to receive the Inclusive Church newsletter.

Thank you to all who contribute financially to the work of Inclusive Church. Every penny given directly enables our work to grow – and it is, as can be seen from the data in this review. The Board of Trustees welcomed Mike Bishop as a new Trustee and Honorary Treasurer this year, and we all have cause for being grateful to him for his expertise and dedication.

As an extremely small educational charity, Inclusive Church punches far above its weight. This is due to the flexibility we have to work alongside and to partner campaigning organisations as we develop and provide education and training resources. Thank you to everyone who contributes to this work.

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



I am now in my third year working for Inclusive Church. Thank you to all our trustees, volunteer ambassadors, churches and supporters who work tirelessly for inclusion all over the country! It's been an exciting few years, and there has been a lot going on, but it is strange to be writing this in a world where we can't run in-person events or meet in large groups, where we have to wear masks everywhere indoors, and where we can only see friends and family members at a distance. All the usual things IC would be doing have been cancelled or radically altered in 2020: no Greenbelt, no in-person Annual Lecture, and a very different-looking Disability Conference on the agenda.

Our annual Partnership Day became a 'Partnership Cuppa' online, and Synod elections were cancelled, so our elections project also had to pause until next year. Even our ambassador training events have gone online this autumn. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our world, to put it mildly, and we're having to adapt very rapidly to a new way of doing things.

The Disability Conference in October 2019 was the last big thing we were able to do before the pandemic hit. It was a pioneering event – the first conference on Neurodiversity and Church in the UK. On the Sunday, we had the pleasure of watching a film by 'Tourette's Hero', Jess Thom, and then hearing from her in a Q&A session. Since that wonderful event, all subsequent plans have had to change, including all our trustees' meetings and my church visits, which have gone online where possible.

On the front page of this report, you can see pictures of two major events which were held online this year – the first photo shows Anthony Reddie speaking to me as part of our successful Black Theology Series (you can find all the videos on our YouTube channel), and the second photo shows June Boyce-Tillman, our lecturer this year, who is the first person since the lectures began in 2003 to do her talk and Q&A entirely online!

It's been an interesting year. Thank you for being a part of it with us! Stay safe, and God bless,

Ruth Wilde
National Coordinator

Highlights of 2019/20

100

People attended our first online lecture

First ever online Annual Lecture

In 2020, the Annual Lecture had to go online for the first time, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The maximum number of 100 people joined us on Zoom to hear June Boyce-Tillman speak.

45

Ambassadors are now working with us

Regional ambassadors

The number of regional ambassadors continues to go up, as does the number of regions they cover – 32 counties and cities are now covered.

821

People have watched our Black Theology Series

Black Theology Series 2020

In July and August 2020, we ran a Black Theology Series online. More than 800 people had viewed the different videos as of the 20th August. Subscribers to our YouTube channel has also increased exponentially since the series began.

65

Churches joined IC this year

Inclusive churches

Last year, 86 new churches joined the Inclusive Church Network. This year, the pandemic hit churches badly and they have been simply trying to survive. Despite this, 65 churches still signed up to IC in the period between Aug 19 and July 20.

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, Ruth Hunt and Sam Wells, among others.

The 2020 Annual Lecture was held online for the first time, and the lecturer was June Boyce-Tillman, a well-known hymn-writer and prominent British academic specialising in music, spirituality and theology. The talk was entitled 'Travelling On: Carnival, Chaos and the Christian Tradition'.

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 planning to bring out new editions of two of the books in the near future. Watch this space!



The 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 over 500 people, for whom the conference is a vital annual event.

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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, and in 2019, we produced a booklet called 'Something Worth Sharing', based on the 2018 conference.



In 2019, the conference was focused on neurodiversity for the first time – the first conference of its kind of neurodiversity and church in the UK.

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 Cuppa.

Inclusive Church organised an online 'Partnership Cuppa' to replace the annual Partnership Day. It was a more relaxed and shorter event, which brought partners together to share expertise and learning in the difficult time of Covid-19.

New Partnerships

In 2019, IC worked with a new partner- Church Action on Poverty- to deliver workshops at the Catholic 'National Justice and Peace Network' conference.

We are also working on the 2020 Disability Conference with HeartEdge, a project which originally came out of St Martin-in-the-Fields but now separate to it.

Summary of Financial Activities for year ending 31 December 2019

Incoming Resources	Total 2019 (£)	Total 2018 (£)
Donations from individuals (incl Gift Aid)	28,226	23,938
Donations from corporate bodies	10,184	9,042
Other income (incl. Prepayments and book sales)	1,358	3,012
Total Incoming Resources	39,768	41,059

Resources Used	Total 2019 (£)	Total 2018 (£)
Cost of generating donations	216	234
Charitable activities	38,172	36,696
Governance costs	2,155	2,119
<i>Net operating surplus (deficit)</i>	<i>(775)</i>	<i>2,010</i>
Balance carried forward	19,928	20,703

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 - please quote FINANCE as the subject.

Vision statement and contact information



The Inclusive Church vision is as follows:

"We believe in inclusive Church - a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to

discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a 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."

How to get in touch

Registered Office:

The Warehouse,
54-57 Allison Street,
Digbeth,
Birmingham,
B5 5TH.

Ruth Wilde
National Coordinator

T: 07935 374877

E: office@inclusive-church.org

W: www.inclusive-church.org