



Welcome to the August 2020 newsletter from Inclusive Church!

August 2020

The Inclusive Church Newsletter is a digital publication produced every month. It aims to provide supporters and members with the latest news and information from around the life of Inclusive Church and our partner organisations.

From the National Coordinator

Hello everyone, and welcome to your monthly newsletter.

This evening, we will be holding our first ever online Annual Lecture. At 7pm, June Boyce-Tillman will be speaking on the subject '**Travelling On: Carnival, Chaos and the Christian Tradition**', followed by a Q&A with attendees. 100 people have signed up to attend, and it should be a great occasion, even if we would prefer to be together physically.

There is more news on the Disability Conference, including the opportunity to register to attend two advance workshops. See below for more.

Also coming up soon is our 2020 ambassador training, which this year will be run by Christopher and Nigel Pietroni on the art of Public Narrative. If you're interested in becoming a regional ambassador, get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the newsletter!

Ruth Wilde. National Coordinator

Telling Encounters: Stories of Disability, Faith, Church and God

Telling Encounters: Stories of Disability, Faith, Church & God

Sat 17th October 2020 - save the date!

The 9th annual Living Edge conference for rather than about disabled people, a partnership between St Martin in the Fields & Inclusive Church, will this year be entirely online, working with HeartEdge.

We're also holding two advance workshops. The first is 'Path through the woods' on the 4th September - registration [here](#). The second is 'Windows on the world' on the 17th September - registration [here](#).

IC Annual Review 2020

We usually hold our AGM and Annual Lecture at the same time, but this year has been an exceptional year with Covid-19, so our lecture is online and our AGM is postponed. We have decided to produce our annual review, which we usually have printed and ready to hand out at our AGM & Annual Lecture, as an online pdf document only this year.

If you would like to read about what we have been up to, what we have achieved and what our financial situation is this year, you can download the pdf document by clicking [here](#).

Blogs and News

New IC blog

There is a new blog by one of our supporters from Northern Ireland on the IC website this month. Erin Burnett has done research for her theology degree into autistic adults in church. Click [here](#) to read the blog.

Other news

Our friends at the Student Christian Movement have a brilliant initiative this year - gift membership to SCM! Here's what they say:

Do you know a student who is off to university in September? Why not congratulate them with an SCM Gift Membership! For just £15 you can give them a 3-year membership to SCM where they can build community with like-minded students, engage a critical and inclusive faith, and pursue social justice whilst at uni. Find out more and purchase a Gift Membership on our website: <https://buff.ly/2DfVhrt>

Our lecturer this year, June Boyce-Tillman will be talking about inclusion and music as part of her lecture. Meanwhile, another supporter has been in touch with us to say that he has a new book out focussing on 'building Christlike church communities through music'. It is endorsed by Giles Goddard, one of our founding members. Click [here](#) to buy the book, called 'Resounding Body'.

One of our trustees, Fiona Macmillan, was interviewed alongside Rachel Noel on a podcast organised by the Susannah Wesley Foundation. The podcast was about neurodiversity and disability in the church. Click [here](#) to listen.

The Swarthmore Lecture (an annual fixture in the Quaker calendar) this year featured the disability activist, sociologist and broadcaster, Tom Shakespeare. The talk was entitled 'A Friendly Offering of Hope'. Well worth a listen or a read. You can listen [here](#) and buy an extended version as a book [here](#).

If you want a lift, have a listen to a sweet and heart-warming little sung blessing for the Pride season from Open Church in Leeds. To listen, click [here](#).

Some of us will be trying to feel some of the Greenbelt vibe from home this year. It's not the same, but GB are doing everything they can to make it a year to remember for good reasons not just bad! Click [here](#) for more information on Greenbelt: Wild at Home and to book a £10 pass to online Greenbelt this weekend.

Inclusive Church Ambassadors

We have a great network of ambassadors covering different parts of England and Wales. They are the representatives of Inclusive Church on the ground. You can find out who the ambassadors are - and where they are - by looking [here](#).

Details of the role description for ambassadors is available [here](#). If you want to be an ambassador for your area, get in touch with the [National Coordinator](#).

2020 Ambassador Training

Our regional ambassadors are gearing up for training in September and October which will this year be focussed on Public Narrative - a technique developed by Marshall Ganz and used by community organisers around the world, as well as famously by Barack Obama in his speeches. We will be trained by Nigel and Christopher Pietroni. Christopher teaches leadership at Birmingham Institute of Leadership and at Harvard with Marshall Ganz. Both Nigel and Christopher are big IC supporters.

Events

IMPORTANT NOTE: All events listed here are online due to Covid-19.

Telling Encounters: Stories of Disability, Faith, Church and God

Our 9th annual conference for rather than about disabled people, in partnership with St Martin in the Fields will take place entirely online this year, working with [HeartEdge](#) to bring our usual mix of talks, panel, workshops & small groups. The conference will take place on Saturday 17th October 2020 - save the date.

Registration & further details to follow. To follow the conference on Twitter: @livingedgeconf

There are some advance workshops in September to prepare us for the conference. The first one is 'Path through the woods' on the **4th September** - registration [here](#). The second is 'Windows on the world' on the **17th September** - registration [here](#).

A Seat at the Table - Rochester Cathedral

An initiative of Rochester Cathedral, A Seat at the Table offers a worshipping community of welcome for LGBT+ people. The next meeting is on the 16th September via Zoom. If you want to join in, email aseatatthetablerochester@gmail.com

Gathering Voices: Seeing More Queerly 2020

This conversation is being organised on Zoom by Gathering Voices and will take place on the 17th October. It is about breaking false binaries in gender and sexuality. Joining the conversation will be: Lu Skerratt, Alex Clare-Young, Rachel Mann and Jide Macaulay. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Holyrood House events

Holyrood House are well and truly up and running online now and have many great events you can take part in. Check them all out [here](#).

Supporting the work of Inclusive Church

Inclusive Church exists only because of the generous giving of our members and supporters. The more money that is given, the more capacity we have to do great things! If you value the work that IC does and are a member or supporter, maybe you would like to give to our work, either as a one-off donation or on a monthly basis. Why not take a collection in your church for IC?

You can donate quickly and easily by following [this link](#).

To ensure that you continue to receive this newsletter, please make sure you let us know if you change your email address.

The content of the newsletter is drawn from a number of sources including individuals and partner organisations. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect a 'formal viewpoint' of the Inclusive Church trustees, individual members of Inclusive Church or registered Inclusive Churches. Contact The National Coordinator at Inclusive Church by phone 07935 374877 or email: office@inclusive-church.org