



Welcome to the February 2020 newsletter from Inclusive Church!

February 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.

We were very saddened to hear the news about Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche. If you haven't heard this news, please click [here](#) to read the statement from L'Arche themselves. Inclusive Church want to express our solidarity with Vanier's victims and our support for L'Arche as an organisation, which continues to do brilliant work and with whom we continue to work in partnership. We are currently considering, alongside our publisher DLT, how best to deal with the fact that Jean Vanier was one of the contributors to our book 'Mental Health'. Please hold all people affected by this and connected with L'Arche in your prayers.

Read on for news from our ambassadors, partners and supporters.

Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the newsletter!

Ruth Wilde. National Coordinator

Deanery and General Synod Elections

Do you want the Church of England to be more inclusive?

Do you want a church that welcomes everyone regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, mental health, economic power or sexuality?

If you do, we need you to vote in the 2020 Synod elections.

Here's the [link to follow](#) to find out more.

You can also give to this campaign [here](#)..

Blogs and News

New IC blog

There is a new blog by Krysia Waldock, one of the Disability Conference planning team members. It is a review of a condensed version of the PhD research of another planning team member, Naomi Lawson Jacobs. The blog, and the corresponding research booklet, are entitled 'The Upside-Down Kingdom: Stories of Disabled and Neurodivergent Christians in Churches'. The blog also contains a link to a free download of Naomi's booklet. You can read the blog [here](#).

Other blogs

In the world of blogs, IC have identified a very good blog by Jeremy Pemberton which is well worth the read. It is entitled 'Sexuality and Intimacy: Are We Thinking Straight?' and it really digs deeply into the problems with the Church of England's view of sex. Here's the [blog](#).

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 [National Coordinator](#).

Three new ambassadors

We have three new ambassadors this month! Two are in Herefordshire - Kathy Bland and Susannah Peppiatt - and one is in Lincolnshire - David Margaron. They have not yet been added to the website for technical reasons (!) but will be soon. In the meantime, you can contact the other ambassadors for Herefordshire and Lincolnshire [here](#).

From Herefordshire ambassador, Peter Dyke:

'*Transforming Church: How to Include All Genders in Our Churches*' - an event organised by the Inclusive Church forum, of which Peter is the chair. This will take place on the 12th March at 7.30pm at St Martin's Church HR2 7RJ. Email Peter for more information- his email is on the website [here](#).

Events

Open Table Lent Series: Transfigurations by Peterson Toscano

'On Mondays during Lent (beginning on the **2nd March** at St Bride's Church, Liverpool), we'll watch and discuss the extraordinary work of [Peterson Toscano](#) who describes himself as a "Quirky Queer Quaker". This groundbreaking work unearths the stories of gender-variant people in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, Toscano's film deepens well-known (and lesser-known) Bible stories and presents an array of Bible characters with an array of genders.

'Over six weeks, we'll reflect on Peterson's dramatic retelling of biblical stories, our responses and reflect and share our own stories examining where they fit into the biblical stories. There are no

experts in the group, we'll all be exploring together.

'Please email Warren on liverpool@opentable.lgbt to let him know you're coming.

'Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. There is no cost but donations invited to help cover costs.'

One Body One Faith: Empowering the Prophetic Voice

One Body One Faith are hosting an event on trans and non-binary theology, by trans and non-binary people. This will take place on the **28th March** between 10am and 4pm at The New Room, Bristol, BS1 3JE. Visit the Eventbrite page [here](#) to book.

Inclusive Church AGM and Annual Lecture

Save the date: this will take place on the **7th July** at Manchester Cathedral and this year's speaker will be Professor June Boyce-Tillman. Tickets will go on sale soon.

Free to Believe Conference

This conference will be taking place at High Leigh Conference Centre on the **30th July - 1st August 2020**. The theme is 'What is liberal faith and what does it offer to the world?' For more information, go to the website [here](#).

Supporting the work of Inclusive Church

Are you a church with money to spare for mission and causes you believe in?

Are you a person looking for a charity to give to monthly?

Are you someone with a great story to share about how Inclusive Church changed you and/ or your church?

We would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Ruth: office@inclusive-church.org

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.

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