



Welcome to the January 2020 newsletter from Inclusive Church!

January 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.

Last year was an interesting and exciting one for IC. We put on the first Christian conference on neurodiversity with St Martin in the Fields in October; we delivered training to our regional ambassadors for the first time; we held another successful AGM and annual lecture; we formed new partnerships; and we were involved in many other brilliant events and projects on inclusion.

I think 2020 is going to be just as exciting. We have a new website coming at Easter and I've had a sneak peak - it's looking good! We are also going to develop the ambassador training in new and exciting ways, and we are going to work on our long-term strategy and capacity for the future (perhaps we should call this our '2020 vision'!) It's the beginning of a new decade, and the work of inclusion is needed more than ever. Let's work together to achieve great things this year!

Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the newsletter!

Ruth Wilde. National Coordinator

New Church Action on Poverty resource

Ruth Wilde has contributed to a new resource from IC's partner, Church Action on Poverty, entitled 'Scripture from the Margins'. It could be a useful resource for inclusive churches, perhaps during Lent.

If you find any issues with the resource (or if you want to comment on it at all- good or bad), please contact Ruth: office@inclusive-church.org and she'll pass on your comments to Church Action on Poverty.

You can download it for free [here](#).

Blogs and News

New IC blogs

Ruth has written a new blog on being prepared to make mistakes if we want to become more inclusive. You can read it [here](#).

Alex Clare-Young has also written a blog for us - on their new book 'Trangender. Christian. Human'. You can read that one [here](#).

Jobs news

The trustees of OneBodyOneFaith are seeking a volunteer with the skills and experience to act in the role of Fundraising Manager. If you are interested in this opportunity then more details can be found on our website www.onebodyonefaith.org.uk

OneBodyOneFaith are seeking an Administration & Accounts Assistant (Maternity Cover) for 16 hours a week (job-share possible). Closing date **3rd February**. More details can be found on our website www.onebodyonefaith.org.uk

An inclusive church is looking for a new Rector. The successful applicant will be Rector of West Kirby with Caldy on the Wirral peninsula. Interested? More information and details on how to apply [here](#). Closing date is the **21st February**.

Another inclusive church is looking for a Vicar! This time in Erdington, Birmingham. Closing date is the **28th January** so there's not much time left to apply! More info [here](#).

Other news

The Bishops of the Church of England have released a [statement](#) about Civil Partnerships. It is not particularly what Inclusive Church's supporters would have been hoping for, to say the least. Here's an article about it in [The Guardian](#) which seems to have hit the nail on the head: yep, it's all about sex!

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](#).

A new ambassador in Bolton

We have a new ambassador in Bolton, called Stephen Nolan. Get in touch with him if you're in the area! Here's the [link](#) again.

From Wiltshire ambassador, Louise Stewart:

Salisbury Area LGBT+ Christians group

This group was formed in July 2019, with the core values of Belonging, Equality, Trust, Inclusivity, Ecumenism, Respect, Affirmation and Safety. The sanctuary of the United Reformed Church in Salisbury is made available to the group once a month, with the generous support of the URC elders and Revds Ana and Tod Gobledale, pastors of that church.

We were helped in our formation by Peter Martin, long-time convener of the Southampton Area LGBT+ Christians group.

The group has flourished from the start, with members coming from many denominations, and none, and we now welcome up to 20 individuals to our monthly meetings which have plenty of time for socialising and building up community, and a theme, or focus, to help us shape our meetings. We have been pleased to welcome local Councillors, Samaritans, and, this last month, Revd Canon Jeremy Davies, to be our speakers, and we are looking forward to the coming months as we prepare to support and participate in Salisbury Pride 2020.

All are welcome to the meetings, which are generally on the second Monday of the month, at Fisherton Street URC, from 7:30pm-9pm. For further information and to join our mailing list, please email Mark, Lisa or Louise at salisburylgbtpluschristians@gmail.com.

In other news, the (world's first!) Anthology of Sacred Music by Women Composers, which I have published through the not-for-profit organisation I run, Multitude of Voyces C.I.C., has been very well received and is already encouraging and enabling church and cathedral choirs around the world (!) to include more music by women composers within their repertoire. Sacred music within traditional Anglican worship is an area where women are hugely underrepresented, and sometimes deliberately marginalised, and MoV's work aims to address this. The series of anthologies will develop during this year, now with the support of Stainer and Bell who will be managing worldwide distribution of these volumes.

Multitude of Voyces is a registered Community Interest Company and all profits from the sales of the books will help run our local community project, Makaton Mass, a multi-denominational 'new translation' of the Eucharist service, to allow for full inclusion by adults and children with intellectual disabilities and to support their families and communities. For further information about MoV please email Louise Stewart at louisestewart@multitudeofvoyces.co.uk and see www.multitudeofvoyces.co.uk

From Liverpool ambassador, Warren Hartley:

Luke Dowding, Executive Director of OneBodyOneFaith is speaking in Liverpool in February for LGBT History Month.

Sunday 16th February 6.30pm. Luke is preaching at the Open Table Eucharist service at St Bride's Liverpool marking LGBT History Month

Monday 17th February 6.00pm. Luke is delivering a St Bride's Public Theology Lecture entitled, Queering the Kingdom: Good News for the other. In this lecture, Luke explores how queer theology can offer a framework that enables radical inclusion for everyone; drawing parallels from the progress made by LGBTQIA+ people for full equality – and the work that is yet to be done

Luke was appointed Executive Director of OneBodyOneFaith in 2019, has a degree in Theology from Spurgeon's College, & a Masters in Biblical Studies from King's College London. A passionate advocate for social justice in the UK & internationally, as well as serving as a Deacon and Trustee at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in London.

The St Bride's Public Theology Lecture series brings nationally renowned theologians & philosophers to Liverpool to deliver papers from the cutting edge of thought about the Divine & our world.

St Bride's Church, Percy St Liverpool L8 7LT

visit www.stbridesliverpool.org.uk for more details

Events

Student Sunday

The Student Christian Movement invites churches to join them for a day of prayer on Student Sunday, the **16th February 2020**. A free resource toolkit is available from the SCM website with suggested prayers and activities to welcome students to your church. Find out more [here](#).

A Celebration of St Mark's CRC

On the **29th February**, St Mark's CRC are hosting an event in celebration of CRC's achievements since 2003, of the life of Jim Cotter, and of the launch of their new resources website. It will take place at St Mark's Broomhill & Broomhall, Broomfield Road, Sheffield, S10 2SE between 10am and 12pm. There is no charge for the event, but please let them know if you want to go: admin@stmarkscrc.co.uk or 07981 191871.

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** in Manchester.

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 a person with fundraising experience who would like to help us achieve great things going forward by building our capacity?

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. Contact The National Coordinator at Inclusive Church by phone 07935 374877 or email: office@inclusive-church.org