



Welcome to the July 2020 newsletter from Inclusive Church!

July 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 month, I've been busily interviewing theologians as part of the Inclusive Church Black Theology series. We've been speaking to Black theologians from across the world. Go to our [YouTube channel](#) to watch the conversations.

We can also announce that there are plans for the Disability Conference this year to be entirely online and as accessible as we can possibly make it. We have a date for the conference and some advance events to put in your diary. See more below.

Finally, don't forget to book now for the Annual Lecture in August (also online). The places are limited and are quickly filling up. Here's [the link](#) to book.

Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the newsletter!

Ruth Wilde. National Coordinator

Black Theology Series 2020

The Inclusive Church Black Theology series got underway in July, with Professor Anthony Reddie giving an overview of Black Theology as well as introducing the other contributors and talking about his own work. Professor Dwight Hopkins then joined us from Chicago, followed by Revd Dr Evie Vernon, a 'Nannyish' (Jamaican Womanist) theologian living in the UK.

The final two theologians will be Dr Fundiswa Kobo from South Africa and Dr William Ackah, a lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London.

To listen to the first three interviews, and to subscribe to our channel and receive notifications when the next two interviews go live, follow this link to [IC on YouTube](#).

Disability Conference 2020

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

Saturday 17th October 2020

This is our 9th annual conference *for rather than about* disabled people, in partnership with St Martin in the Fields. This year we'll be entirely online, working with [HeartEdge](#) to bring our usual mix of talks, panel, workshops & small groups. We believe in participation - using words & art, music & prayer. So in preparation, we're holding two advance workshops:

Music with June Boyce Tillman – Friday 4th September 4.30pm

Art with Jonathan Evens - Thursday 17th September 2pm

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

Blogs and News

New IC blogs

There are two new blogs on the IC website this month. The first is a sermon preached by Ruth online at the beginning of July, entitled '[Compassion and Anger: the two hands of justice building](#)'.

The second is about the theology of taint (theology or simply prejudice in theological clothing?), entitled '[Women and the Church: how much has really changed?](#)' and is written by a former IC trustee, Sally Barnes.

Other news and blogs

Gathering Voices has put an interesting panel discussion online entitled 'Seeing More Queerly', with Jide Macaulay, Alex Clare-Young and Rachel Mann. You can watch it [here](#).

Speaking of Rachel Mann, she has two new books out this autumn. The first is a debut novel called 'The Gospel of Eve' and the second is a theological book called 'Love's Mysteries: The Body, Grief, Precariousness and God'. You can find out more and pre-order them [here](#) and [here](#).

Another new book worth ordering is Azariah France-Williams's '[Ghost Ship](#)' about racism in the Church of England.

One of our partners, the Progressive Christianity Network (PCN), have released a series of short films called 'Made of Stories' - a series of stories from people's lives which 'radiate hope, insight, and love' (Brian McLaren). You can watch the short films [here](#).

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](#).

From Surrey ambassador, Stella Wiseman:

We are having discussions on how we can continue to include more people who can't get to church physically and I know a lot of churches are going to continue online services permanently as well as reopening buildings. Now that my term is over and I have handed in my final essay of the term, I am going to start looking at how we can do this better and encourage each other. However we are all very aware how those without technology are being left out.

Secondly, the Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale is holding an online Pride service on August 8th (the date Surrey Pride should have been held). There will be music, art, testimonies, poetry, prayers etc from the LGBTI+ community + allies in both Surrey and Hampshire. It will be on www.badshotleaandhale.org that afternoon (not sure of the exact time yet but late afternoon probably).

Also there are more plans for another Rainbow service in the autumn. I'll send details when I have them.

From Herefordshire ambassador, Susannah Peppiatt:

We've been busy here in the Diocese of Hereford since lockdown and have taken the opportunity to run some online events. First, we ran a Q&A with the diocese's new Disability Advisor, Fr. Garry Ward, which went really well and is now available [on YouTube](#) as a resource for anyone who wants to learn about some of the issues around disability and the church: (some of it is quite rural-specific but some of it will be relevant to anyone!)

A couple of days later, we also held an online service to mark the anniversary of the start of the Stonewall Riots, which involved people from across the diocese, and again is still [available online](#) (though may be a bit dated by the time of publication!)

From a supporter who wishes to remain anonymous:

Under lockdown, a local church in England has bought some audio players using funding they applied for from their local council. The players play audio files from memory stick and are designed for visually impaired people. This church has given these players to its members who can't access the church's services online or in print. The church puts audio recordings of its virtual services onto memory stick and delivers a stick to each of the people with the players so that they can listen to the service.

I can see 3 benefits to this practice.

1. It gives people access to the church's virtual services who wouldn't be able to access them otherwise.

2. It saves resources because the church deletes the files from the sticks after use then reuses them for subsequent weeks.
3. It saves the church time because it is much quicker to copy an audio file onto memory stick than to burn it onto CD.

For details please see [here](#).

Events

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

Space to Be : An Online LGBT+ Gathering

Space to Be is an online collaboration from Diverse Church, House of Rainbow, OneBodyOneFaith, Open Table, and Two:23. You can watch the last event and book yourself on the next one which takes place on the 31st July at 7pm [here](#) (sorry for the short notice!)

Ghost Ship Book Launch

Join Azariah France-Williams and guests for readings, music, discussion and debate on the 1st August at 4pm. Guests include Winnie Varghese and Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani. Ghost Ship is Azariah's new book on racism in the Church of England. Register to attend the book launch [here](#).

Open Table Virtual Gathering

On the 2nd August at 6.30pm, Open Table Liverpool will be hosting a virtual gathering. To join in with this, email liverpool@opentable.lgbt and you will get the Zoom codes.

Inclusive Church Annual Lecture

The lecturer this year is the Revd. Prof. June Boyce-Tillman. The annual lecture will be on Zoom on 27th August at 7pm, followed by a Q&A and then breakout conversations. You can book [here](#).

Disability Conference - September Events

There will be two advance events in September, in the lead up to this year's online Conference on Disability and Church:

Music with June Boyce Tillman – Friday 4 September 4.30pm

Art with Jonathan Evens - Thursday 17 September 2pm

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

Telling Encounters: Stories of Disability, Faith, Church & 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

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