



Welcome to the March 2020 newsletter from Inclusive Church!

March 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.

What a difference a month can make! In our last newsletter, there was not a single mention of Covid-19 or coronavirus. Now we are on semi-lockdown in many countries, with schools, bars and restaurants shut, and people over 70 and others who are particularly vulnerable to this pandemic encouraged to not go out at all. Added to this, a large number of people are working from home at the same time as looking after and teaching their own children, and the supermarkets are struggling to cope with 'hamsteren' (Dutch for stockpiling)!

In these times it is important for us to look after our physical health but also our mental health and spiritual life. Many churches have decided to take their services online, and one of our supporters has made a very helpful crowdsourced document where you can see the many services available across the denominations. See below for more.

Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the newsletter!

Ruth Wilde. National Coordinator

Churches with Live Service Streaming & Prayer Resources

Naomi Jacobs, IC supporter and member of the Disability Conference planning committee, has organised a crowdsourced document called 'Churches with Live Service Streaming or Online Prayer Resources'. It has information about when online services are on and how to access them, as well as links to prayer resources. As the Church of England and other churches have decided to stop most services, this is very helpful for connecting in with others and keeping our spiritual lives going.

Here's [the link](#) to the document.

Creating Sanctuary Resource

A new website has been launched to aid churches in welcoming LGBT people with resources and training. The resource is called 'Creating Sanctuary' and is not to be confused with 'Seeking Sanctuary', 'City of Sanctuary' or anything else related to refugees and asylum seekers. This

'sanctuary' is the safe space in church for people on the LGBT+ spectrum who have been hurt and excluded and who often carry specific church-related pain.

Check out the new website [here](#).

Blogs and News

New IC blog

There is new blog about General Synod elections and how you can help, by our elections coordinator, Nic Tall, [here](#).

Entertainment for home alone time

If you are worried about too much 'alone time' in this period of social distancing, there are plenty of things to entertain you and inspire you out there on the internet. For example, this [wonderful extended sketch](#) called 'Gender Outlaws in the Bible' by the performance artist and Bible scholar Peterson Toscano has been made available for free on Vimeo. Well worth a watch!

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](#).

From Herefordshire ambassador, Susannah Peppiatt:

'On 12th March, Hereford Diocese Inclusive Church Forum held an event called 'Transforming Church' to try help open up the conversation about transgender people in our churches, get people thinking about the barriers that trans people might face in trying to come to church, and what we can all do to be better.

A happy coincidence meant that the IC event was preceded by a Rainbow Service organised jointly by the Hereford Academy's CU and LGBTQ group, and some of the people wanting to go to one of the events stayed later or came early to go to the other.

After some refreshments, we started with a great talk from Theo Newnham, Discover Intern based at St. Martin's, talking about his own experiences of faith and gender, before splitting off into 'stations' to explore the ideas raised in more depth, grouping discussions loosely into 'language and liturgy', 'physical spaces' and 'Q&A'.

The event went really well, with conversations well underway and being very fruitful when we called

it a night at 8.30 pm. On the back of this event, we are now considering more inventive ways of bringing this conversation to people further from Hereford city – watch this space!

Events

IMPORTANT NOTE: We suspect that many events will be cancelled for the next three months. We have included events after July in the below list, in the hope that they will be able to go ahead.

Inclusive Church AGM and Annual Lecture

The AGM and Annual Lecture will take place on the 7th July at 7pm at Manchester Cathedral and this year's speaker will be Professor June Boyce-Tillman. Tickets will go on sale soon.

Modern Church Conference 2020: Living in Love and Faith

This year's Modern Church conference will be taking place from the 13th-15th July at High Leigh Conference Centre in Hertfordshire. The conference is named after the Church of England's latest project on sexuality, due to report in July 2020. This conference will hear from speakers how the Christian Gospel affirms, accepts and welcomes everyone, whatever their identity, gender or sexuality, without reservation or ambiguity. Speakers include Tina Beardsley, Susannah Cornwall and Adrian Thatcher. Book through the Modern Church website [here](#).

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