



Welcome to the October 2020 newsletter from Inclusive Church!

October 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.

Below, one of our trustees, Jenny Humphreys, introduces the newsletter, so I won't write too much. I just want to say thank you to all of the wonderful people who helped organise this year's Disability Conference. It was online for the first time ever and a roaring success! You can read more below.

Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the newsletter!

Ruth Wilde. National Coordinator

From IC trustee, Jenny Humphreys:

Over recent months many people have had to re-assess their lives due to unexpected circumstances, whether unemployment or ill-health. But even those whose situation has not been so extreme have been coping with changes to jobs, relationships, and memberships of organisations (including church). And many of us in lock-down were having clear-outs, either from our cupboards or by consolidating online files. Doing so reminded me it is 25 years since my licensing as a Reader in 1995, continuing with theological studies to degree level in 2003.

Those studies inspired my interest in inclusivity – for example modules in Black, Asian, Feminist, and Liberation Theology. Through them, and through my role as Diocesan World Mission Adviser, I became more aware of issues of ethnicity, global poverty, gender inequality and other structural injustices, all closely interlinked.

Has the world moved forward on all these issues since 1995? Raising awareness of Make Poverty History and the UN Millennium Development Goals gave me a glimpse of what might be possible if people worked together at every level.

But seeing the effects of climate change and the rise of racism and homophobia around the world makes me uneasy for the future. Even this global pandemic does not seem to inspire the world's politicians to put aside their differences and work for the good of all humanity. So Inclusive Church's work in raising awareness of the intersectionality of all these issues is increasingly important. Thank you for all that you and your church are doing to make God's world a more equitable place, and please see below for more ways to get involved.

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

This year's Disability Conference was online for the first time ever. The feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive. A big thank you to Fiona Macmillan, IC trustee, and the rest of the planning team, who brought everything together. A huge thank you too to the HeartEdge team, who helped us to make it a success with their vast experience of hosting events online. Thank you to all the people who spoke, ran workshops, did tech, chaplained the event, etc. Thank you especially to Revd Dr Hannah Lewis who led the liturgy at the end entirely in BSL (with a translator).

Much of the conference was recorded and will soon be shared on the IC YouTube channel and website, so please keep an eye out and/or subscribe [here](#).

Liberation Theology Conference 2020

Ruth spoke at the annual Liberation Theology Conference, which usually takes place in Sunderland but was online this year, as everything pretty much is at the moment. Other speakers included Anthony Reddie and Joerg Rieger. The topic of Ruth's talk was 'With the pandemic heightening an already divided and unequal society, what lessons can people of faith learn to enable us to build a more inclusive church?'

To watch the talk Ruth gave, you can go to the IC YouTube channel [here](#). There is also a transcript of the talk [here](#).

Blogs and News

IC news

A message from the IC trustees: 'Could you serve the Inclusive Church Network as a trustee of the national charity? The Board invites applications/nominations of enthusiastic and dedicated supporters of inclusion of all kinds to join in governing our growing network. The Board would especially welcome applications from people with lived experience of exclusion — particularly **black and Asian people and people of other ethnic minorities, women and minority genders, and non-Anglicans**. For more information, please Inclusive Church: office@inclusive-church.org'

There are **two new blogs** on the IC website. The first is the transcript of the talk Ruth gave to the Liberation Theology Conference on the topic 'With the pandemic heightening an already divided and unequal society, what lessons can people of faith learn to enable us to build a more inclusive church?' Read it [here](#). The second is a review of the book 'The City is my Monastery' by Richard Carter, from one of our supporters, Yve Taylor. You can read that [here](#).

Other news

Rachel Mann has a new theological book out called 'Love's Mysteries'. If you would like to find out more and buy it, click [here](#) to go to the Church House bookshop.

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 have been busy attending training in the art of 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. Running the training are IC supporters and Public Narrative trainers, Nigel and Christopher Pietroni. Christopher teaches leadership at Birmingham Institute of Leadership and at Harvard with Marshall Ganz.

From Liverpool ambassador, Warren Hartley:

Firstly, I'm really pleased to advise that two more churches have recently approached me and are taking the first steps of exploring registering with Inclusive Church so watch this space!

Secondly, Open Table Liverpool is holding a Transgender Day of Remembrance Service next month, here's some details below:

Transgender Day of Remembrance Communion Service
Sunday 15th November 2020
6.30pm
Zoom

Join us on Sunday 15th November at 6.30pm for a special service in honour of Transgender Day of Remembrance. This year the Revd Dr Tina Beardsley will lead the service and vigil.

Each November Open Table Liverpool dedicates its monthly communion service to Transgender Day of Remembrance (TdOR). This is a day when people all over the world remember those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and to draw attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community. This is always a special service remembering those killed and recommitting ourselves to creating a just world for all.

You can join the Zoom gathering by clicking
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3487627488?pwd=WmVMU3N3NUd3a0tYMXhLSDlqaTJRQT09>

Meeting ID: 348 762 7488
Passcode: 494498

Tina will also be giving an online lecture on Monday 16th November at 6pm on Zoom in partnership

with St Bride's Liverpool, Open Table Liverpool and HeartEdge. More details available soon but save the date.

Everyone is welcome at Open Table Liverpool. We are part of the Open Table network which offers an LGBTQIA+ affirming Christian community and aims to create a safe and supportive place for you to explore your faith and what this might mean for your own spiritual journey. No matter who you are, where you've come from, or where your journey may take you, you will find a welcome.

Please contact Warren on liverpool@opentable.lgbt if you have any questions or would like more details.

www.opentable.lgbt
www.tdor.info/

Supporting the work of Inclusive Church

We are so grateful for all the wonderful, generous supporters out there keeping us going.

Hip hip, hooray!

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?

Inclusive Church exists only because of the generous giving of our members, member churches and supporters. The more money that is given, the more capacity we have to do great things!

You can donate quickly and easily by following [this link](#). Or contact Ruth: office@inclusive-church.org

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