



Inclusive Church

Annual Report 2021



The Power of Partnership

As individual organisations we recognise the **power of partnership.**

As such, **Inclusive Church, Modern Church, OneBodyOneFaith, Open Table Network, Progressive Christianity Network, and Student Christian Movement** will proactively seek opportunities to work together to challenge inequality, pursue justice, and provide teaching and resources, for the good of the Kingdom of God.



Modern Church
faith in the world



OneBody
OneFaith



student
christian
movement

National Coordinator's report



We're in the second year of a global pandemic and things have changed a lot for Inclusive Church. All of our trustees' meetings, the Annual Lecture and Disability Conference, and my visits to churches, have been online (on the plus side, this meant that, I was able to 'visit' Latvia and Sweden!) In 2021, the annual lecturer was Ellen Clark-King, Dean of King's College London (pictured on the front of this report). You can listen to her talk on our YouTube channel.

In many ways, it has been hard for organisations like ours to adapt to this new world, but some of the things we've learnt this year have been extremely helpful. We have learnt more about the experience of online and on-site worship and events, especially for disabled people, some of whom have been able to attend the Disability Conference and Annual Lecture for the very first time. Last year, the Disability Conference planning team prioritised accessibility for the first online conference. This was only possible through the generous support of our partner and online host HeartEdge, and the anonymous donor who offered to underwrite costs.

This year, some of the most important things we have done as a charity involve improving our online presence and other work we can do without having to move from behind the computer screen. We have a brand new and more accessible website (with new database), which we launched in February. The beautiful rainbow image on the front page of this report is from the new home page. The new website has a better online directory of churches, which is something we are still working on and improving in 2021. Our blogs and 'IC stories' (launched by our new Fundraising Team, made up of three trustees and me), have been an important outlet for new ideas, with contributions from all types of people, from trustees to PhD students. Aside from the IC Stories series, the Fundraising Team has been working hard behind the scenes on other schemes too, some of which will be launched soon.

Something important we've worked on this year is our partnerships with other charities. The third image on the front page shows a statement we put out with some of our partners about the 'power of partnership'. With two of those partners – Open Table and OneBodyOneFaith – we produced a consultation on online church. Our regional ambassadors' training also went online in 2020, led by Nigel Pietroni, an expert and trainer in the art of public narrative. This year it will be again online and co-led by Helen Warwick of Holyrood House retreat centre.

It's been an interesting year, and as always, your support is invaluable. Have a good 2021-22!

Ruth Wilde, National Coordinator

Highlights of 2020/21

600+

Churches signed up as inclusive churches

Inclusive Church directory

We now have over 600 churches signed up as inclusive churches. The number of churches who want to work on being inclusive to all continues to grow.

43

Regional ambassadors

Regional ambassadors

There are 43 regional ambassadors working across 11 regions (and countries), from Scotland to the South-West. To find out more, see the website: www.inclusive-church.org/regional-ambassadors

800+

Disability Conference attendees

Disability Conference

Since its inception in 2012, we estimate that more than 800 people have attended the Disability Conference both on-site and online.

57

Churches joined IC this year

New inclusive churches

Last year, 57 new churches signed up to Inclusive Church. This is despite many churches having other, more pressing things to deal with during the pandemic.

The Inclusive Church Lecture

The Inclusive Church Annual Lecture provides an opportunity for a leading theologian or commentator to reflect on the nature of inclusion.

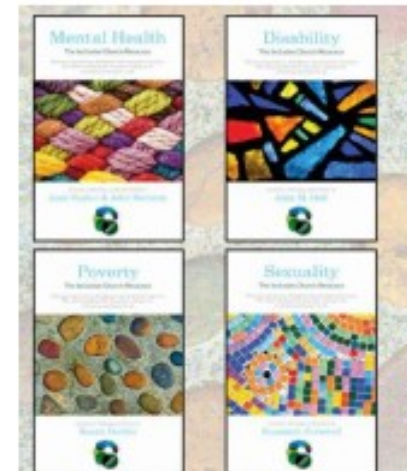
Previous lectures were given by Martyn Percy, Linda Woodhead, David Ison, Michael Jagessar, Ruth Hunt and Sam Wells, among others.



The 2021 Annual Lecture was online again, and the lecturer was Ellen Clark-King, Dean of Kings College, London. Her talk was entitled 'Who should we follow? Leadership from the margins'. The talk will be available to watch on our YouTube channel from September 2021.

Books and Group Resources

Small Group Study Resources and IC Books



Inclusive Church has published 6 books on inclusion and small group resources to complement the book series. The home group study guides exploring core themes of inclusion.

The Disability Conferences



Since 2012 Inclusive Church has hosted an annual conference on disability and church, in partnership with St Martin in the Fields.

In 2020 we moved online, hosted by HeartEdge. This opened up the conference to those unable to attend due to health or geography. We'll be online again in 2021 and aim to be hybrid in the future.

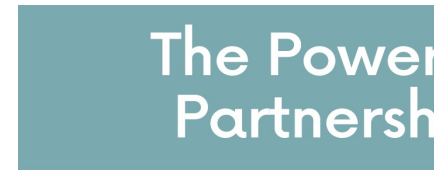
These events are uniquely for disabled people rather than about disability. Disabled people are the majority of the conference planning team, speakers and delegates. It has become a space to gather to resource each other and the church.

(Still) Calling from the Edge, Saturday 16 October 2021 will be our 10th annual conference. We have much to celebrate but also to lament. Disabled people are often on the edges of churches and communities – as has been highlighted by the pandemic. We are still calling to the church. Read more about this work, download resource booklets and join the mailing list: <https://www.inclusive-church.org/disability>

Inclusive Church and partnership

'Power in Partnership'

In 2021, Inclusive Church and some of our partners published an infographic together to highlight the importance and 'power of partnership'.



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Consultation on online church

Alongside two partners, we launched a consultation on inclusive online church and events this year, with the aim of helping our organisations and affiliated churches to move forward with making online church and hybrid church as inclusive as possible.

Regional Ambassadors

Our ambassadors' training was online in 2020 and led by Nigel Pietroni, a trainer in public narrative- a technique used in community organising and by orators like Barack Obama. In 2021, the training will be co-led by Helen Warwick from Holyrood House retreat centre.

Summary of Financial Activities for year ending 31 December 2020

Incoming Resources	Total 2020 (£)	Total 2019 (£)
Donations and grants	34,632	38,410
Charitable activities	475	840
Fundraising and other income	248	518
Total Incoming Resources	35,355	39,768

Resources Used	Total 2020 (£)	Total 2019 (£)
Cost of fundraising	216	216
Charitable activities	32,376	38,518
Governance costs	1,229	1,808
<i>Net operating surplus (deficit)</i>	<i>1,534</i>	<i>(774)</i>
Balance carried forward	23,414	21,880

Certified statements of financial activity presented to our AGM are available on our website and the Charity Commissions website. For financial matters contact our Treasurer: office@inclusive-church.org - please quote FINANCE as the subject.

Vision statement and contact information



The Inclusive Church vision is as follows:

"We believe in inclusive Church - a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to

discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

How to get in touch

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