



SIBYLS LOGO - ROBYN GOLDEN - HANV 28 MAY 2018



“My path followed Christ, who as we would say, suffered, died and was buried. As a transgender person I suffered alienation, died of shame, and was buried in guilt. Through transition I rose again in accordance with God’s will for me and am now living my transfigured life.” Hilary Howes

Dear Sibyls

Congratulations are due to one of our members and commiserations to another: congratulations to Robyn Golden-Hann who has been accepted by the CofE for ordination training; commiserations to Tina Beardsley who felt compelled to resign from the coordinating group overseeing the CofE Living in Love and Faith project. More on that below. Yet again a step forward and another back: Tina's resignation and comments on the matter hardly fill one with confidence that LLF will result in anything other than more disappointment. But Robyn's ordination means another trans priest will be added to the stellar array of trans talents by which the CofE is already so greatly enriched. I have included in this newsletter a talk Robyn has given as an example of what her lucky parishioners can in due course expect. Do pray for Robyn as she begins this momentous phase of her life.

Another disappointment has been the reaction of conservatives in the church against the approval of services, adapted from the liturgy of baptism, to mark someone's transition. They are a minority but clearly for the foreseeable future an intractable one. The Evangelical Alliance has produced a document setting out a conservative position. Mike Higton from Durham University has demolished their position in a very comprehensive critique (see below).

Our only residential weekend this year will be at Purley Chase in Warwickshire. There is full information about the weekend below and I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there to share what promises to be a highly enjoyable experience. One of our members, Elaine Sommers, is co-president of the European Forum of Christian LGBT organisations which this year is holding its annual conference in London. It would be great if as many Sibyls as possible were able to support this event.

The Sibyls' committee has been working hard to arrange meetings for members who live in the same area. Not too easy as we are widely dispersed and in some areas thinly spread but I do hope it will be possible for those Sibyls who so wish to get together and offer each other mutual support and friendship. And do let the committee know via myself if there is anything else you feel Sibyls should be doing to help you and respond to your needs.

Though it will still be some way off when you get this newsletter, I wish and pray for a very joyful Easter for you and your loved ones.

Pauline M 07581553357

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THE SIBYLS

Christian Spirituality Group for Gender Variant People

c/o 10, Ffordd Las, Rhyl, LL18 2DY

www.sibyls.co.uk E-mail: enquiries@sibyls.co.uk

The Sibyls is a UK-based confidential Christian spirituality group for transgender people, their partners and their supporters. It offers companionship along the journey, and information/advocacy to churches.

Sibyls seek to fulfil the two great commandments of Jesus: To love God and love one another. To achieve this we provide opportunities to meet in safe and friendly establishments. We promote the freedom to talk, to learn, to pray and to seek God's will.

If you are having difficulties reconciling your faith with being transgendered or are concerned about acceptance in your church then maybe Sibyls is what you have been looking for. It could be that you just need to talk with fellow Christians who understand what it is to be transgendered, or simply wish to be yourself as you worship in fellowship and in a safe environment.

If you are looking for an accepting church, it may be useful to visit our website, where there is a resource for this. Go to the Resources page on <http://www.gndr.org.uk/sibyls5/indexmain.htm> Click on the "Pastoral" and then on the "Churches" tab. This is being updated, but has useful links. Especially supportive are the MCC Churches. We like to know of churches which welcome transgender people. Also if you would like more information to give to your church please do contact us.

We welcome new members, young and old. There is no membership fee or annual subscription, and no commitment, except confidentiality. Your details are held in total confidence and will not be given to any other members without your permission.

Sibyls' Website - www.sibyls.co.uk

Dates and information on future events are posted on the website. A full range of resources is also available. Click on the "Resources" tab on the right of the top banner on the website to access these.

Please note that the members' section of the website is no longer password protected although the older newsletters have been archived and still protected.

Facebook Groups

Two Facebook Groups are available to enable Sibyls and other trans Christians to communicate and express and exchange views and news. They are the Sibyls

Members Group and TranschristianUK. Do join up if you are not already members.

Forthcoming Events

SIBYLS LONDON EVENING MEETINGS 2019

2019 London Evening Meetings

11 April, 13 June, 6 August, 10 October, 12 December 2019

6:00 p.m. at St Anne's Church, Dean Street, Soho.

**THESE EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL TRANS PEOPLE,
TO THEIR FRIENDS, SPOUSES AND SUPPORTERS**

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SIBYLS TO COME

Meet on the Second Thursday of every second month for a Service at St Anne's Church, followed by a meal together

Come in whatever role is convenient at the time

During the intercessions we normally pray for those we know and also on behalf of others who would like our prayers. If you would like your name, or the name of someone you know to be included on the prayer list, please email me. Include any details you think appropriate. You can email us privately at sibylslink@gmail.com. (If you would like your request for prayers to be made available to the whole group, the Sibyls members can of course email the Sibyls email group and/or Sibyls Members facebook group instead)

These meetings are very good; gentle lovely evenings with a service which is always thoughtful, peaceful and healing, followed by a good meal in congenial surroundings

Details: 6:00 service at St Anne's, 55 Dean Street, Soho W1D 6AF, 50 metres up on the left from Shaftesbury Avenue (it doesn't look like a church but it is), and from about 6.30 a gathering at a Soho restaurant.

You can just turn up on the evening: however it would also be helpful to get some idea of numbers in advance. If you do know you are coming, please email me at sibylslink@gmail.com. We normally decide on the restaurant to go to at the end of the service. If you are late please ring 07596 197 665.

You will be welcome
Susan Gilchrist



European Forum 38th Annual Conference June 25/26 to 30th

I am pleased to announce that registration for the London Conference of the European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups is now officially open. The first date includes the Trans Pre-conference, which is being arranged by members of The Sibyls.

The Sibyls is in its second year of membership of the Forum, and the annual conference has landed on our doorstep, so I would like to encourage as many as possible of our membership to sign up, and find out firsthand what the Forum is and does, and why the membership groups are at the heart of everything.

Here is where you can register: [the registration page for London 2019.](#)

If you couldn't possibly afford to attend this event, it is possible to apply for a scholarship through the Agape Fund, but be aware that these awards are very limited and the window for application will close soon.

The Trans Pre-conference is a great chance to meet other trans people from many countries. Shanon Ferguson gives some details here:

The Trans* Preconference has been running now for 4 years and was started to offer a safe space for those who identify as trans* to gather, to assist and advise the Board regarding trans* issues and to offer information and education to other members.

This year we will have the opportunity to explore the relationship between gender and sexuality, pastoral issues, being trans* in the UK and the work of the European Forum Trans Working Group.

There will be time to relax and socialise with music and a little pampering (hand/foot massage)!

It would be great to see you in London and have a strong Sibyls delegation. If you have any questions about registration etc, I can hopefully provide any information you need. elainesommers007@yahoo.co.uk

Finally, here's a short video of what we did two years ago when our conference attendees joined the Equality March in Gdansk Poland. Can you spot me in purple clutching our Forum banner?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cALtRG0Lsyk>

WEEKEND AT THE PURLEY CHASE CENTRE, The Midlands, CV9 2RQ

www.purleychasecentre.org.uk/

27-29 SEPTEMBER 2019

PROGRAMME FOR THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY

People may arrive any time after 3pm. Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits and cakes are available all the time all weekend.

7 p.m. Buffet dinner. There is a bar for people to buy their own drinks at reasonable prices. The centre only takes cash & cheques but not cards.

8.30 p.m. Time for sharing and news from our churches/denominations.

10 p.m. Compline

SATURDAY

8 a.m. Breakfast

9.30 a.m. Rev. Alison Southcombe, Spiritual Director of the Purley Chase Centre. An introduction to the ideas of Swedenborg:

Using Swedenborg's ideas of correspondence to examine the Bible

We all realise that when Jesus said "I am the bread of life," he didn't mean he was edible - he was referring to being that which feeds, nourishes, sustains and gives life. In looking at this symbolic idea, what we have understood is a 'correspondence.' This idea of Biblical allegory was known to early church fathers and was brought into fresh focus in the 18th Century by the scientist and mystic Emanuel Swedenborg. Swedenborg called the understanding of these correspondences - the inner spiritual sense - which allows for a deeper understanding of scripture and a means to apply what has been apprehended to one's own life.

In this short workshop we will be looking at scripture and using the ideas Swedenborg provides as a toolkit to examine Biblical passages in a new way.

11 a.m. - Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits and cakes

11.30 a.m. This session relating to transgender issues within the Church of England will be jointly led by Rev. Priscilla White and Tina Beardsley. Priscilla is a parish priest in Harborne, Birmingham and is a representative on Synod for trans issues.

1 p.m. Lunch

2 p.m. Free afternoon. Potential options include:

- Visit the Battlefield Line www.battlefieldline.co.uk Leicestershire, Shackerstone, CV13 6NW. There are trains at 3pm & 4.15pm going from Shackerstone to Shenton and back. This is 12 ½ miles from the Centre

- Visit the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk, CV13 0AD. This is 10 miles from the centre. **2.00 pm to 3.30 pm** Join one of their experienced Guides for an informative 2 km guided walk exploring the Battle of Bosworth, the death of King Richard III and the unlikely victory of Henry Tudor.
- Stroll in the beautiful grounds of the centre or stride out further afield to the nearby Hartshill Hayes Country Park, www.countryparks.warwickshire.gov.uk/country-parks/hartshill-hayes-country-park It's a 30 min walk or a 6 min drive to the Country Park.
- Twycross zoo.
- Just relax in the warm, comfortable centre.

Refreshments are available any time people would like them.

6.30 p.m. Gala Dinner – a great opportunity for everyone to dress up.

8 p.m. Entertainments. Elaine Sommers will show films she has been involved in and may also sing.....all welcome to join in and contribute as they see fit.

10 p.m. Compline

SUNDAY

8 a.m. Breakfast

9.30 a.m. Sibyls Together

11 a.m. Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits and cakes

11.30 a.m. Service with Holy Communion in the Chapel led by Alison Southcombe.

12.30 p.m. Group photo

1 p.m. Sunday lunch

2 / 2.30 p.m. Leave to go home

Directions to Purley Chase Centre

Purley is located on Purley Chase Lane, which runs between the villages of Mancetter and Ridge Lane. Despite its rural position, the Centre is easily accessed by road and rail.

Postal Address – Purley Chase Centre, Purley Chase Lane, Mancetter, Atherstone, Warwicks, CV9 2RQ.

Tel: 01827 712370

Email: enquiries@purleychasecentre.org.uk

Manager: Rachel Gilsenan



By car – The centre is just over 2 miles south of the A5 near Atherstone. It can be approached from all points of the compass via the motorway network, using M1, M6, M42 or M69 for instance. If travelling along the A5 from the East then just before Atherstone, take the B4111 towards Mancetter. If you are travelling along the A5 from the West, go past Atherstone on the dual carriageway and when you reach the large roundabout at the end, take the right exit towards Mancetter B4111. After about a quarter of a mile on B4111, just past the church, take a right turn signed Ridge Lane. Over the traffic light controlled bridge, follow the road round to the right and up through the trees, Purley Chase Centre is about a quarter of a mile further on, on the right.

By rail – The nearest main line railway station is at Nuneaton, about 6 miles away. Nuneaton is a stop on the high-speed main line between London and Lancashire. Atherstone Taxis (01827 712427) charge £17. Triple A Taxis (01827 713637) charge £14/£15. Slower trains go through Atherstone station which is about three miles away from Purley Chase Centre. This is also the Euston Crewe line. Atherstone Taxis charge £10 to £12 and Triple A Taxis charge £8/£9. Both Nuneaton and Atherstone are served by various bus and coach services.

Lifts can also be arranged for people arriving at either Nuneaton or Atherstone. Call Pauline on 07581553357.

Booking Form

To book a place for this weekend, please could you fill out this form and post it, with a cheque made out to Mr P A Raftery - The Sibyls, to:- Mr Peter Raftery, 7 Sketchley Lane, Ratcliffe Culey, Atherstone, CV9 3NZ

Or you can email the completed application form to rafterypeter1@gmail.com and transfer the money directly into The Sibyls account through internet banking.

Bank: Co-operative Account Name: Mr P A Raftery - The Sibyls
Sort Code: 08 93 00 Account Number: 80470524
Reference: 'Your name' (this is vital to help identify who has paid)

To facilitate the Centre, CLOSING DATE is 31st August 2019

Your name _____

Telephone number _____ Email _____

Your address _____

_____ Post code _____

Accommodation – please tick one option: (full-board is Friday dinner until Sunday lunch)

En-suite - Double room Twin room Single room £125 full-board per person

Adapted facilities with wet room £125 full-board per person

Name of other occupant in room or willing to share with

Standard dormitory accommodation with shared bathroom £105 full-board per person

(There are 3 double rooms and 2 adapted room with wet rooms - book early to avoid disappointment ☺)

Not needed – staying off site-Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner £38 person, Lunch & Dinner £32 per person per day Please state the number of people & which days

.....

Dietary requirements _____

Any allergies or special needs? _____

Do you need help with transport to The Purley Chase Centre?

.....

Can you offer a lift to someone?

.....If you have a question or

require further information about the weekend or the venue, please email me at

rafterypeter1@gmail.com or send a text to 07595776574. (As I teach I am unable to answer my mobile during the day)

Trans-figuration: a transgender reflection on the power of Resurrection – Robyn Golden-Hann

'The one unsubstitutable Christ is inexhaustibly rich and gathers the whole range of human need and experience to himself. New situations call for new confessions of Christ, for he wills to be acknowledged as Saviour & Lord in every time and place. Christians have both the freedom and obligation to confess Christ in appropriate and relevant ways in their own specific contexts in continuity with the New Testament witness and in conversation with the particular experiences, needs, and hopes of people here and now.' (Daniel Migliore: Faith Seeking Understanding, 1991. Pg 144)

So, it is with that understanding I'd like to look at the way gender transition may be understood through the lens of the Resurrection, and vice-versa, what Transition may have to teach us about the power of the Resurrection. My own experience has been that by leaning *into* Christ's Passion and Resurrection narrative, it has helped me reach a greater understanding of my own transition; and furthermore, from my own experience of loss, death and rebirth as a trans-woman, the resurrection of Christ has borne for me a particular significance. Indeed it is the defining article of my faith.

As Christians we declare that Christ is Risen!

It's still a bold, revolutionary and game changing claim, but it wasn't really until I'd gone through my own death and re-birth that the fuller impact of the resurrection impressed itself up me. I'd like to start by unpacking those two terms in the title a little; *Transfiguration* and *Transgender*, both of which bear the important prefix of "trans". The dictionary definition of the word "trans" is variously given as something *across, beyond, into another state or place, surpassing, transcending*.

The dictionary goes on to define "transfiguration" as "*a complete change of form into a more beautiful or spiritual state*" a completely positive sounding description! Transgender has become a word we've all grown so familiar with and hear a lot without always perhaps thinking about the root of the word and yet it is a relatively modern word, born out of a necessity to describe those that go beyond or cross perceived gender boundaries, surpass; and I believe, in common with the definition of transfiguration, '*change into a more beautiful or spiritual state*'. (*At the risk of blowing my own trumpet, I would claim to be guilty as charged on that count!!*)

Nevertheless, transfiguration, transition and the transgender experience all speak of journeying from one state of being to another which is at the root of spiritual growth. An internal pilgrimage if you will, whereby one embarks on the ultimate journey, that of travelling towards oneself and thereby meeting God along the way.

The Transfiguration.

The Scriptures are of course full of many accounts of people being transfigured, whose lives and character were changed in radical ways through trial and encounter with the godhead; Abram becomes Abraham, Jacob became Israel, Joseph put on a special coat, changed his outward appearance, and all manner of trouble was let loose; and in the end, he was unrecognisable to his brothers. Transfigured indeed! However, the example that usually springs to mind when we mention Transfiguration in the Bible is that of Christ when he goes 'up the mountain' with Peter, John and James. Luke tells us that "As he was praying the

appearance of his face changed and his clothes became bright as a flash of lightning”. (Lk 9:29). In this holy encounter Jesus' physical appearance is changed. Spiritual transformation can bring about physical transformation too! Perhaps we are often guilty of disassociating the physical from the spiritual in our dualistic western mindset, and as Christians as historically regarding the spirit as higher and more important than the flesh we inhabit?

The experience of gender-transition though can teach us something about the interrelatedness of spirit and flesh; certainly from my own perspective it has been, at its core, a deeply spiritual experience which in turn led to physical transformation, which in turn informed yet greater spiritual growth; the two are in relationship with each other and continue to be so.

However, the general understanding of the transgender experience as reported in all manner of media has focused largely upon the medical & physical story (hormones and surgery!) the emotional narrative (the personal pain driving the need to transition) and more recently the political and societal implication of transition which has increasingly dominated the popular press and thus the popular mindset. Some would even believe that we of the trans community are hell-bent on some sort of revolution to turn the world upside down and frighten all the horses.

I would like to ask you to imagine a different narrative, that gender transition, seen increasingly as a radical, even political act, is in fact simply the physical manifestation of a primarily spiritual change.

The small still voice within

Any such major life change is driven by a deep seated need from within, that small still voice, the heart's deepest desire. Critics of transgender people sometimes claim that their transitions are driven by the ego, that it is the deliberate outplaying of wilful desire; and that is certainly a narrative I think many of us have encountered from some branches of conservative Christianity with regards to all LGBT+ identities. The usual argument being that a trans-person is following their own selfish desires rather than conforming to the nature God has given them, and are therefore going against the will of God. However, I believe the need to transition is driven by the truest call of the spirit, a 'knowing' which heralds the revealing of a divine nature buried within our physical selves.

Now, I know that I didn't make myself trans, that in no way was my doing and certainly not my idea for an easy and straightforward life! I'm sure that others gathered here have had similar experiences of 'coming-out', that first step being the growing awareness (or a sudden epiphany!) of who one is and the realisation that something has to change. However that realisation comes, one knows that something needs to change in order that one is 'true, authentic'. As the Psalmist declares in Psalm 139 “ You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb” and continues “My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place When I was woven together in the depths of the earth *your eyes saw my unformed body.*” (Psalm 139 13, 15-16). The one that made us knows us, far better than we ever shall! Yet it is our divine duty to know ourselves, to uncover that which has been hidden in plain sight, for as Jesus radically states (again in Luke's gospel) 'The Kingdom of God is Within You' (Lk 17:21)

Dare we trust that that which comes from the deepest and truest calling of the heart is godly??

How might this inform our understanding of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ? What does the transgender experience specifically have to teach us about what it means to die, and rise again?

As Christians we are a Resurrection people. I think that cannot be stated often enough and sometimes fear that the focus of church is set elsewhere. Doctrine and tradition are important, but occupy far too much of our attention and energy. It is only in the over-identification with this awesome event that our Christian spiritual re-birth can occur. It still strikes me as crazy, bizarre, radical...that a man died and a messiah rose from the dead! Yet from one who was once a man...who became the woman standing before you, I know that miracles happen, that God makes the impossible possible and that the crazy, bizarre and radical are light-work for God! Jesus died, and on the 3rd day, Christ rose! Transformation!

This was a spiritual, physical and politically revolutionary transition in every sense. And in rising from the dead Jesus took on a new title. Saviour, Messiah, Christ, Redeemer...and so forth.

This was a transition that necessitated a change of name. No longer was he Jesus the Carpenter's Son from Nazareth, but Jesus, CHRIST!

Speaking Truth to Power

In the beginning was the WORD. The words we speak have power, saying one's truth; 'coming out' brings what is within, without, and releases a whole new world of energy. Again, I am sure this is something which many gathered here have experienced. Sooner or later, the truth of oneself has to be spoken. Admitting that one is Trans...that is hard! It certainly was one of the most terrifying things I'd ever had to do...and one has to do it over and again as one explains the situation to family and friends, work colleagues, clients and so forth...not easy! But it is often the first act one undertakes on the journey to true transfiguration. It's all very well knowing who one is, sooner or later, in some way it has to be declared.

The Garden of Gethsemane

However this journey of self-realisation and action is not without its denial and fear, but within that comfort and assurance was to be found within the Gospel stories.

There are so many parts of the passion narrative I've found myself readily identifying with...and through that identification realising that of course, that is how God in Christ speaks to us...that this Jesus who experienced so much, the pain, anger, frustrations, betrayals, that we all experience in this life, is perfectly equipped to know us intimately.

“That which he has not assumed, he has not healed” (Epistle 101, Gregory of Nazianzus 329-390 AD, Archbishop of Constantinople). He knows me intimately, of that I am certain.

It is in the garden of Gethsemane I should like us to spend a little time.

Now, if I were to make up a story about a god who became a man, I wouldn't have him on his knees in fear and doubt, sweating blood before the disgrace of betrayal, a show trial, and public execution! That's far too vulnerable and human...just like us!...well, myself certainly. I knew that transition would cost me dear.

At that time of coming out, in my early 40's I was married, had two young daughters, a mortgage on a house and a fledgling business to run & was under pressure to maintain a household and be a husband and father. Transition seemed to come at the most inopportune

moment in life, when I risked losing everything I had worked so hard to establish, and maintain. Why risk all that? My ex wife had made it abundantly clear that my transition would entail the end of our relationship and that I would have to leave the marital home, and my relationship with my daughters was in jeopardy...it already having been threatened that I would never see them again.

Quite frankly, I didn't want to be trans. I had hoped that it would be possible to keep the tide at bay and find occasional relief for the gender conflict within by occasional cross-dressing. To a point, it had worked, and I'd just about managed to accommodate a transvestite identity within the marriage...but the pressure built and built.

And so it was I found myself yet again at the GP, this time almost on my knees, weeping, begging..."I don't want to be transsexual...but I cannot carry on like this...please write me a referral..."

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done" (Lk 22:42)

And so, before resurrection one must die; the seed must fall to the ground, or we must go willingly to our own cross...as Christ has before us.

That may sound melodramatic, but Christ has modelled the pattern of much of our own struggle and suffering. And so it was, in dying to the old self, all that I had worked to build up, my identity, role and place in society were all given up though it was not just a societal and relational.

For me there was also, at a later stage, the surgical transition. Not all trans-people undergo surgery by any means, and it was something I was careful not to rush into...but in the end, there was a sense of inevitability about it. I am very blessed to live in a time when such things are possible; and whilst it is still lengthy and complex surgery, nevertheless the techniques are well established and gender-reassignment surgery is (almost!) routine, though of course still highly specialised. I don't mind saying that I was pretty scared going into hospital, facing the unknown, and of course the possible dangers of undergoing any surgery. So it was with a great deal of prayer (my own, and that of many friends, including those from my church) that I faced my own 'cross'. It was again the over-identification with Christ and his passion that really helped me get through this experience. I knew it was going to be painful...and there would be blood! *I shall spare you the details!* However, it is an especially peculiar experience to willingly put oneself through pain and discomfort...knowing that the suffering was necessary in order to fully embrace the new life that lay on the far side of discomfort. But let's not dwell there too long, for it is to Resurrection I should like to bring us.

Resurrection

After Christ's crucifixion, on the third day, the women went to his tomb to anoint his body. They assumed he was...well, who he was before, only dead! It was the same Jesus they were looking for.

Luke picks up the story...

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5)

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

A question many trans-people would ask in exasperation (whether or not they even know the resurrection narrative!)

Why do you still assume I am who I once was? Why are you looking for the old me? Trying to treat me as my old self?

Why do you use my old name?

Indeed, the usual term trans-people use to describe their old name is 'Deadname'. Being 'Deadnamed' is desperately insulting, disrespectful, and can be tremendously painful. The metaphors of death and dying have long been used by both trans people when talking of their old selves...*and* by those that have felt bereaved by a loved one's transition, as they perceive the person they thought they knew as having 'died'.

But...

He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: (Luke 24:5-6)

The trans person told you they were going to change! Why do you not believe them??

And of course, denial and disbelief from those around the transperson are part of the story too. Inevitably there will always be someone who refuses to accept a person's transition; unfortunately we see this denial of the validity of trans-people being played out increasingly within the media, with, for example, some Radical Feminists claiming that trans-women are not women and especially within current debates within the Church of England.

There will always be that someone who says we are not who we know ourselves to be! It sounds ridiculous to deny somebody else's truth about themselves; but, to return to the resurrection, there were plenty who refused to believe Christ is risen, both then and now. And, there were those who of course, simply did not recognise him!

I've always loved the encounter between Christ and the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-36). Here, the resurrected Christ spends a good while in their company, deep in conversation, and yet they fail to recognise him! How could they? Their memory of the Jesus that was, could not be reconciled to the Christ who is, such that it was only in the breaking of the bread that they finally 'see' him! Jesus Christ chooses to reveal himself to whom he will...and in that revelation, people are transformed. This encounter also has parallels to the trans-experience, where the post transition person may simply be unrecognisable to someone who knew their old self. It's happened to me, and I know it has happened to others; such that one has to reveal oneself...and then enjoy the look of revelation as the realisation sets in! Furthermore, I've found myself in situations, twice within recent months, where in conversation with new Christian friends, they have brought up the current media-wide trans-debates. Again, I've been in the sweet position of choosing to reveal myself as a trans-woman to someone previously (to my intense satisfaction!) unaware of my status. This new knowledge in itself brings to that other person a whole new awareness; as I've had the privilege of being the first Transgender-Christian someone has knowingly encountered on several occasions. Such encounters are transformative, and, I am pleased to report, have

always been healthy and positive.

The doctrine of the Victorious Christ might be summed up as 'a salvation (that) brings the freedom to grow into the likeness of God, to live the life of resurrection' (Dr James Stevens, Theology Quest and Questions handout 2.5, Sarum College, Jan 2019)

Therefore, in contrast to some of those vocal detractors within the Church who would seek to deny the validity of the trans-Christian experience; of those who would claim we are living in rebellion against the divine pattern for our lives, I would dare to counter-claim that the Transgender voice is a prophetic one. By living authentic lives true to the deepest calling of our hearts, by willingly going to our own crosses and being prepared to lose all, to suffer rejection at the hands of those we know and love, to die to the old-self and be truly re-born, transfigured, resurrected; we have the potential to show to the Church what it may fear to look upon.

The Passion and Resurrection are *not* neat and tidy Sunday morning activities that slot carefully into our well planned agendas. The Gospel is Good-News indeed, but it is also revolutionary...and dangerous stuff. For Christ asks a lot of us. He wants our whole selves and invites us to die with him, again and again and again.

Perhaps THAT is why there are those who fear the transgender voice within the church? Ours is an overt story; that of a people who ARE willing to die and be reborn AND to show themselves to the world!

I'd like to close with another quote, this time from 'Called or Collared?' by Francis Dewar, one of the books recommended to me during the early days of my discernment towards ordained ministry, a process which has borne remarkable similarities to my transition!

“You may be realising that responding to God's personal calling to you could be a hard road...And it could require a lot of courage to put that into practice. It could mean finding a lonely road, and one that would make you different from others. You are right. It is the narrow way and the narrow gate that Jesus speaks of (Matthew 7.14). But happy are those who find it; because it is the way to life both for you and through you for others. It will mean finding your uniqueness, and that does mean finding the courage to step out from the crowd. But it will bring you to a genuine closeness to others. It will not be the closeness of those who are too frightened to be different. It will be the companionship of the colours of the rainbow where every colour has its own unique part to play in the corporate spectrum of the Kingdom.” (Called or Collared, Dewar, 1991. pg. 53)

Robyn Golden-Hann, February 2019

References:

Migliore, Daniel L. (1991) *Faith Seeking Understanding*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Dewar, Francis (1991) *Called or Collared*, London, SPCK



Talking balls and associated matters!

And now for something completely different?

When you have a spouse who isn't too keen on your little 'hobby' it's wise not to push your luck too far. So what better way to find excuses to get out and about than to combine it with another 'passion'. If I'm already spending the day heading to a football match, why not make the most of it and slip into a cute outfit as well.

That said, for the first time it was a slightly daunting prospect. So I chose an England World Cup Qualifier against Slovakia on 4 Sep. 2017 and a suitably understated outfit. No one died, England won and so next it was time to brave an Albion home game (that's Brighton & Hove not West Bromwich): that was goalless but I was hooked. The scariest thing was probably going to the ladies' at half-time, as the queue was from both ends facing each other – I was somewhat head and often shoulders

the tallest there – and it was a case of taking it in turns when a cubicle came free!

Not to restrict myself to top level games I rounded off my first season with a visit to Eastbourne Town. Their tongue in cheek 'Pier Pressure' and 'Beachy Head Ultras' fan groups had been featured in The Independent as boisterous and LGBT friendly, among other things (!), so I joined a crowd of around 240 for a Southern Combination Football League Premier Division fixture (that's step 5 non-league if you know what that means!).

This season has unexpectedly provided some rather fab



opportunities to enjoy Executive Premium hospitality at Spurs home games, for reasons I won't explain. And therefore also the chance to upgrade outfits a little. The downside is the absurdly small bag size limit at Wembley, which means cutting right back on emergency make-up and cramming everything in a bag I bought specially to keep within the limits. But with a pre-match meal, entertainment, a comfy, posh seat and complimentary half-time drinks it's a small price to pay – thankfully I'm not paying full price for the package, which for the top games weighs in at about £420 inc. VAT!!

My first such match was my annual Boxing Day game, against Bournemouth, and at the time of writing (early March) I've also done an evening game against Watford (coldest night of the Winter!) and the early kick-off against Newcastle United (sorry Pauline, and Jo, that Spurs won 1 – 0).



But again, it's not just been big league stuff. I went to see Woking play Hungerford Town on a VERY cold Tuesday evening in October and combined a trip to Dover Castle with Dover Athletics home game against Hartlepool United.

And of course The Albion have featured, including a first away trip for a 3 – 1 win at Bournemouth in The FA Cup 3rd Round, and home games against Derby County in the 5th Round and a vital Premier League win over Huddersfield Town.

At the Derby game, while waiting for the bus back to the park & ride, I came over all dizzy and nearly fainted: I think it was a little virus that suddenly flared up. Some fellow fans helped get me sat down and a steward came over to check how I was. I was then



The Crabble Athletic Ground, Dover



attended to by a posse of very nice St. John's Ambulance volunteers, including a 14 year old girl doing her first game, who were delighted to have someone to attend to, on what had been a very slow day: that's really doing your bit for trans visibility and no doubt provided something to talk about at their subsequent meetings!!

I guess, as usual, the key to getting out and about is confidence, which I appreciate is not an easy thing to develop. But I find that if I interact with people pleasantly and carry on as if it's nothing unusual, others are also comfortable and I like to think enjoy their encounters with me, meaning my experiences generally, with only

a few exceptions (not at football), have been overwhelmingly positive. At the Huddersfield game I took advantage of the Albion In The Community prostate advice drop in before the game, and the fact I was wearing a cute frock and ankle boots passed without comment. OK: Brighton is probably the best place



to go if you are venturing out for the first time, although I would suggest a few confidence building trips before heading to The Amex!

It hasn't all been football: in November 2017 I was allowed to slip an outfit into the case when we went to Amsterdam, so I could get out for a few hours while my wife was at a trade conference, and I've enjoyed a couple of lovely retreats



Away at Bournemouth

with The Northumbria Community and at Ashburnham Place. My National Trust membership has also been put to good use. Not EVERYONE is comfortable, but I play my part and then it's up to them, and I have a feeling that more people than I think don't actually work out who this imposing, 6ft+ girl (without heels) really is.

I know I come across as bit of a 'Cyndi Lauper girl' and appreciate this may be a little frivolous with all that is going on. But I also hope it's a bit of an encouragement to get out and about, whatever you enjoy. So I shall continue to do my bit for trans visibility as much as I can, and maybe I'll take in a Sussex T20 game this year!

Rebecca Williams xx



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018	2017
Weekends / Days away / Events *		
Receipts from members	£1,298.00	£570.00
Paid to House or for expenses	(£1,182.79)	£496.80
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>£115.21</u>	<u>£73.20</u>
Advance bookings		
Deposits for various events in 2018	(£60.00)	(£550.00)
Book Royalties Received	£124.25	£417.33
Honoraria for Tina & Mish	(£200.00)	
Donations		
Donations to Sibyls	£125.00	£135.00
Other costs		
Donation for hire of rooms for meetings	(£100.00)	(£30.00)
Domain Renewal	(£110.09)	£0.00
Annual Membership of the European Forum	(£126.87)	£0.00
Use of group funds for members to attend meetings and events	£0.00	(£173.00)
CASH SURPLUS/ - DEFICIT	<u>(£232.50)</u>	<u>(£127.47)</u>
Opening balance at HSBC Bank	<u>£1,316.62</u>	<u>£1,444.09</u>
Closing balance at HSBC Bank ****	<u>£1,084.12</u>	<u>£1,316.62</u>

* Not all moneys go through the Sibyls bank account as different event organisers have different approaches.

Details of the bank account for The Sibyls: Cooperative Bank:

Name of Account : **Mr P A Raftery - The Sibyls**
Type of Account : **Current account**
Sort code : **08-93-00**
Account No : **80470524**

Please make cheques out to Mr P A Raftery. Electronic transfers for donations and payments are welcomed. These will require an email to be sent to the event organiser and to Peter Raftery to ensure that we can identify who has paid the money.

Peter's contact details:

Address - Mirabel, 7 Sketchley Lane, Ratcliffe Culey, Atherstone, CV9 3NZ

Mobile number - 07595776574

Tina's Resignation from Living in Love and Faith

Tina Beardsley leaves Living in Love and Faith project and explains why in Church Times article:

https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2019/1-february/comment/opinion/dr-christina-beardsley-why-i-left-the-bishops-sexuality-project?fbclid=IwAR0Tw8tKCmja9sC6xbHldvQCQyefX28vJJXxwspHKloeZF-X0K_ujXq3HCk

Colin Coward comments on significance of Tina's resignation:

<http://www.unadulteratedlove.net/blog/2019/2/1/on-leaving-in-love-and-faith?fbclid=IwAR1brWoCxHRCVDDho60jT4Rw4tnpvYc0qwx0-LUEUXpToSeNt5JzqUMXQwE>

Living in Love and Faith update:

https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2019/4-january/news/uk/sexuality-review-will-not-pronounce-on-the-rights-or-wrongs-of-same-sex-marriage?utm_source=Daily+Media+Digest&utm_campaign=c4cdc1c0a2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_12_21_09_06_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_296e14724b-c4cdc1c0a2-248851757&fbclid=IwAR3khPVkX2Nagzm0ZLFc3tttG3ouSjDf_eHltmly95SdYeLRwH0s1iR2SWU

Tina Podcast:

Tina talking to Persia West: The Mask of Gender and the Spiritual Heart:

https://themarksofgender.com/episode-1-tina-and-the-spiritual-heart/?fbclid=IwAR17FdclBpZtxrgvKy7kcHbQZxsOIPKR6mGx8S-N_ZdlBdFn_FPggrZO2B0

A Voice of Hope from Tina:

<https://viamedia.news/2019/03/22/voices-of-hope-march-22nd-2019/?fbclid=IwAR33yHUUpSMXiYSBVQ37rWARdSiS5xtzDpVEt2OKciZyBzY9ZZGQGqTveMfl>

Liturgy of Welcome for Trans People

Powerful opposition to trans liturgy in CofE: 2000 Clergy sign letter:

<https://www.responsetohob.co.uk/>

https://www.christiantoday.com/article/open-letter-urges-cofe-bishops-to-revise-postpone-or-withdraw-transgender-services-guidance/131567.htm?fbclid=IwAR23kboSnsLu7Dirm5ib_6dX5Q1dpRGllMljZ2U75UrQ7v09jmexCNn_k7w

Tina Beardsley's response to the letter:

https://viamedia.news/2019/01/31/a-trans-priests-response-to-the-harmful-open-letter/?fbclid=IwAR1F6fTYRF453wBOtal5_7kkNrX3D-1QAlwsOkbS7qdKmRMd_F8E7fnHjSA

Tina Beardsley quoted in Guardian article on this controversy:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/29/church-england-plan-welcoming-trans-people-under-fire-clergy-lay-members-bishops-withdraw-guidance?fbclid=IwAR0zeNrwg-13ICDumFaYzBYt2cUalzr05Zhji888qiNixPoMwW06s00Pw8l>

Briefing paper on bishops' pastoral guidance on affirmation of baptismal vows for trans people:

<https://www.inclusive-church.org/briefing-paper-trans?fbclid=IwAR21D8FQSGcWF-ILMiB978FYFKl1r8e2oLTe5ME-Kp4Tv6Pt2mRb5SGhB9c>

Rowan Williams signs letter of support to trans people:

https://caminowheels.wordpress.com/2019/01/31/letter-to-the-church-times-re-the-house-of-bishops-guidance-on-gender-transition-services/?fbclid=IwAR0xLxBzyKfbUzjAGYg00ZkbAmqqCo7wybR3C_tEAn3fw3DTKQ4gvei_cj0

One Body One Faith Response to Letter:

<http://www.onebodyonefaith.org.uk/news/facing-the-opposition/?fbclid=IwAR2FLEyW7vC9cf3sIxwfUBkDb-hW9i3lWPSB5mtzNfQaNZYDwh5Qv2zHpWs>

Rosie Harper's deeply-felt response to what she sees as male violence behind the opposition:

https://viamedia.news/2019/01/29/transphobic-letters-mansplaining-male-violence/?fbclid=IwAR39xgXKV7vmtDZ3BqM0-tYRdMuKlZCylaFk8f_peeSx3E-iluKFYRp6yzo

Justine Welby says clergy can ignore guidance on trans liturgy if they want:

https://anglicanmainstream.org/justin-welby-says-church-of-england-clergy-can-ignore-transgender-guidance/?fbclid=IwAR0T_6kpYbazOA7lodN5wBTfoKw9fu3tGFwrqDO8P8SXjI2_mbeY1KkZmSc

Powerful defence of liturgy of welcome from LGBTQ Faith UK:

https://lgbtqfaithuk.com/?fbclid=IwAR3oaJLEMOOnfpkebMVk5coL6ghwYXrm4Ms4KfitWr9w6A7eMC_GW6h0SFKRk

Bishops fulminate against liturgy of reception for trans people:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/12/23/church-englands-plan-transgender-baptisms-outrages-bishops/?fbclid=IwAR0BgZCkSNmXL8dyJpKSG1as0wMACaWnXuHWS42xDjFwHOMI2PTZzEo5bPO>

And disappointing anti-trans letters to Church Times:

https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2018/21-december/comment/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor?fbclid=IwAR3wZKG3oEiqp0lc58hfDV7krj6cEDUF4f-yw51QTIHQIHGtn7Vj_uYdl8

Radio interview on trans liturgy with Rev [Sarah Jones](#) and Chrissie Chevasutt:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p06xl10r?fbclid=IwAR2MFWvpqPims3YJk4xBbx46HttgLSXebqOkW6pUBI_kF_gcMYX0YIGsTos

Good article by Savitri Hensman:

http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/27629?fbclid=IwAR0qAnMqeAlk68vtDA39ZpfmZQUEZ3HcAvvm_FZ_kwRfg_XK2pXiwXD1R7k

CofE Synod

Pre-Synod Questions and Answers – (fairly! Concise summary of Susan Gilchrist’s excellent work in this area:

http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/243P-TransgenderQuestionsAndArguments.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1i1Zo5kIDDOzN5R_860G6GCWP0MRvtk1B8TZVHuYx_BIFF_8WMKeInhyg

Rachel Mann’s experience at Synod:

https://therachelmannblogspot.blogspot.com/2019/02/in-company-few-remarkable-days-at-synod.html?sref=fb&fbclid=IwAR3uajGzVL_ae90_anMHnw6QYG1Qso05QCF_5wsRJnpuK3zpAq9y9GbAemo

“Transformed”: Evangelical Alliance’s document on trans people:

<https://www.eauk.org/resources/what-we-offer/reports/transformed-understanding-transgender-in-a-changing-culture>

Is trans thinking a form of Gnosticism? Part 3 (6 parts in all) of Mike Higton’s critique of Evangelical Alliance’s document on trans people:

http://mikehigton.org.uk/a-critique-of-transformed-4/?fbclid=IwAR1zqCVDwUuaNvPDI1t9Vv25JHWct_7pkgXwLX7w5wH6PIIvi17rYyprm7E

Debbie Hayton:

Debbie debates with Kellie Maloney on Channel 5 News about Martina Navratilova’s comments on trans athletes (and agrees with Martina....):

https://twitter.com/5_News/status/1098309581812482048?fbclid=IwAR11UHbpu5RYUPx2ADuhpci0DPF8ycFDdyI9aJ9I5uVwVI6OdTrif72aqvA

Debbie calls for freedom of speech and rational debate instead of aggressive militancy and intolerance by some trans activists:

<https://debbiehayton.wordpress.com/2019/01/28/the-difficulties-of-questioning-the-transgender-dogma/?fbclid=IwAR3XDteD30IntBKSjHNG9ig5LXKQuoJk2NjPn12WvMmp1uQTzSMJrLunmfQ>

Debbie writes in Spectator about bizarre case of trans woman accused of trans phobia by trans ally and taken to court:

<https://debbiehayton.wordpress.com/2019/03/12/a-collapsed-case-shows-the-perils-of-policing-transphobia/?fbclid=IwAR0eB1IHWzcylaTmsWjZzh0qBTywMFgj7K9xZSndVGkTm7uq37ml1tNPsmY#more-530>

Debbie writes in Morning Star:

<https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/government's-handling-transgender-rights-has-been-mismanaged-start?fbclid=IwAR2kvxZbioB9rtNdHV19AtsnLb1diBUYpF84jYWRQrnBunz9UQuIva1I0mc#.XDJEeJ9VGB4.facebook>

Jenny-Anne and Elen in Film about Gender Identity Care Pathway in Wales:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTcf4et8zg4&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR38O2w-x3YMP0eR4fWN0SFQWblavGgV3hdagyGRsBXqwFzckVYdhI0fNYO>

Jenny-Anne in conversation with Peter Lynas (author of EA document on trans people):

https://www.premierchristianradio.com/Shows/Saturday/Unbelievable/Episodes/Unbelievable-How-should-the-Church-respond-to-Transgender-Peter-Lynas-and-Jenny-Anne-Bishop?fbclid=IwAR2OULyJk3sbxOSx4I2YEcm1qqsPwYvf_L1fkX9sGTy5ekD4QRllgpiDqao

Intersex

Govt calls for evidence on people with variations in sex characteristics:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-calls-for-evidence-on-people-who-have-variations-in-sex-characteristics?fbclid=IwAR3bc-vZ3ewCWfw6sDK_F2sAigwxkUPRo8zxKI8HIS1y5ubO2ckUEassUf8

Sara Gillingham on lack of pastoral care and understanding for intersex people:

https://www.christiantoday.com/article/im-an-intersex-christian-and-its-time-the-church-listened-to-me/131867.htm?fbclid=IwAR1nSPdJOiyWIFKN0T3mNwh655dlbB_QejoW_WKDG7J8RYr8cHJktVgqkR!

Non-binary

God's image in non-binary people:

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/critical-essay/nonbinary-gender-and-diverse-beauty-creation?fbclid=IwAR37eERTkK8g6B7LGm-I9Ou4Pu84biBt3pNYnLEE5Gv1xSe4wu0eqva7tBA>

Trans Men:

Transmen also suffer transphobia:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/01/01/transgender-men-transphobia/>

Trans Children:

Some trans children know their gender identity by age of 3:

<https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/trans-kids-gender-non-conforming-study/#gs.652P6OqX>

Mermaids' £500,000 grant from national lottery approved following review:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/02/19/trans-kids-charity-mermaids-national-lottery-grant-review/>

Trans children know who they are:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/01/young-trans-children-know-who-they-are/580366/?fbclid=IwAR0zMW7WWAYaGJgNmj6s6KXQhKwKp6FMa5CXb729mrh1noQVlcZoGXWlZU>

Treatment of trans children – updated paper from Susan Gilchrist:

<http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/241P-MistreatingTransgenderChildren.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1Gnlvh7HrDQUoNa-Gzvmj4yx2UR7N5WzZpMexfSZaxyiTLrAofPcuMfHg>

Older Trans People:

Some stories from older trans and non-binary people:

https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/skarlan/heres-what-older-trans-and-nonbinary-people-want-you-to-know?utm_source=dynamic&utm_campaign=bffbofficialgoodful&ref=bffbofficialgoodful&fbclid=IwAR2f7III6gA04Fo9cdWjNtEtW9_RQ1mKrmIbNfzeoJyUOv0_E9VWlZyq8vE

Trans Super Hero

Transgender superhero - well, we do need role models!

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/01/19/transgender-superhero-dreamer-supergirl/>

Trans Immigrant:

Trans immigrant from Iceland finds us rude:

https://metro.co.uk/2019/01/02/trans-immigrant-feel-unwelcome-in-uk-8228467/?fbclid=IwAR2R1AqH3UqZLLuA6zl8Ez0f_kg5PEhOB4yiZ0m2EJNwy9tsK4CQoBofgJg

Trans Brain:

Genetic link to being trans?

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australian-scientists-find-possible-genetic-link-to-gender-dysphoria?fbclid=IwAR2xhtFZED5CAbUNR8wOW-DcoZJPSNn-9-vneoFxxManJVyLywjMVB8yyzg>

No difference between male and female brains?

https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn28584-a-welcome-blow-to-the-myth-of-distinct-male-and-female-brains/?fbclid=IwAR3JydW5LXfxWtqGDNxd2o2jbh1wJkkTI50xfkBiu16-qZY6_tJ2csEROEk

Trans Faith (miscellaneous):

Review of TransFaith by Rachel Mann:

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2019/4-january/books-arts/book-reviews/transfaith-a-transgender-pastoral-resource-chris-dowd-christina-beardsley-and-justin-tanis?fbclid=IwAR2IZsgrpK6uice2d0lgUgJJ-omBmHurNnO0S4qQY9RNNom39cl5XZfY6A>

Also lovely Lenten reflection by Rachel:

<https://viamedia.news/2019/03/18/voices-of-hope-march-19th-2018/?fbclid=IwAR323MkM6WG1f8DsCfv1CpqsZJSTBQ1qmuh2eBLbLqtQM7HdLBKft5LjNSM>

Interview with Justin Welby in Spectator – no LGBT issues, but good read for Christian Unity week:

https://www.spectator.co.uk/2019/01/justin-welby-catholic-or-protestant-who-cares/?fbclid=IwAR1fXTj6gWAYQh8SldwLRgqJBrC2_f4LxSO2EGey29xpl8Fbidf3wFXcQOo

Statement by Young Quakers on trans and non-binary inclusion:

<http://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/docs/trans-and-non-binary-statement/?fbclid=IwAR0JZFJHCDPMPAqnErOUlpiUQ7BpgLyqvfc1AaXDZr8fywWEDcUtAYTQIUk>

Spring *is* coming: Andrew Forshew-Cane sees signs of hope for LGBT Anglicans:

https://viamedia.news/2019/01/25/the-first-signs-of-spring/?fbclid=IwAR15nCfGTGtNOKXo425cM-nJ3RkOUGShglL_nfPQ_bXUxOZArXU6XiVb1f8

“Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians” – new book by trans theologian Austen Harke:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/03/13/transformations-illustrates-the-richness-of-trans-inclusive-faith-communities/>

Resources for transgender day of visibility (31 March) from Jo Inkpin:

https://www.transspirit.org/celebrating-gender-diversity.html?fbclid=IwAR3W43T0xm5yiKk7LTA_gvaDPkRyYpoMSS7GIRTw1F-620kzdASscpsbrXY

Trans Catholic:

Young man grapples with being trans and Catholic (I remember actually with some amusement how the priest I came out to floundered and struggled to respond to me):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ck2chLYJV0&feature=youtu.be

Perhaps peripheral to the interests of many Sibyls, but this is a really good article by Andrew Sullivan on the Catholic Church and gay priests:

http://nymag.com/intelligencer/2019/01/gay-priests-catholic-church.html?utm_medium=s1&utm_source=fb&utm_campaign=nym&fbclid=IwAR10jK1sJgHmc_1TM9OYsCWJAhOxqLWSG_xMG1M9ObGjxa6E5x8wO1yhDMY

Trans Media:

Rather lurid article by Christine Burns – 2018, the year of trans persecution:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/12/21/trans-persecution-2018-christine-burns/?fbclid=IwAR0fkgHLg6TZTslDcFRYpY5uq8EtEgMFfpjgW5RZrqqsrMRUkvdXI_w3iQ

How the media covered trans issues in 2018:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/12/31/trans-extremists-media-press-headlines/>

More biased press reporting:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/01/11/daily-telegraph-transphobic-headline/>

Treatment of trans people in media in 2018:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/12/31/trans-extremists-media-press-headlines/?fbclid=IwAR2BpA4P5ywhTeBz4_1AlyR115U0rU2FBQ5NgtpgteCKxqPTgoNsk_3hc

Trans Sprout:

Transitioning as a sprout:

<https://debbiehayton.wordpress.com/2018/12/31/when-a-sprout-transitions/?fbclid=IwAR2LB9sgoslHrLqKGWvh-2-EyNPdse-M9BCnbnrID18z8Tt1zjIz8enN6zkg#more-494>

Trans Rights:

Feminist academics support trans rights:

https://www.buzzfeed.com/patrickstrudwick/meet-the-feminist-academics-championing-trans-rights?fbclid=IwAR3MTCrHYjW4_g_inMG6E8aQUrWaXMBiWZJOnCpvFLe2C3wg4ivjaABakBo

New Statesman: backlash against gender ideology must stop:

<https://www.newstatesman.com/2019/01/judith-butler-backlash-against-gender-ideology-must-stop?fbclid=IwAR1lwI4brQhqWwdb9mgjLfvWx5IDcvtM5KXeLli54vpf1gAyx1pgnvHA5s>

Equalities Minister shocked over polarized views of reform of GRA:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/03/01/equalities-minister-shock-polarised-views-trans-rights/>

Trans Health:

Should NHS fund fertility treatment for trans people?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/health-46634595/should-the-nhs-pay-for-transgender-fertility-treatment?fbclid=IwAR00qcR3612ca320NewdbTxeUImjfoPhhOkR5HXwTrCJQ-MeaB0u3S9wqfg>

Maria Miller says Government has mishandled trans issues and should focus on health services for trans people:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/01/03/government-mishandled-trans-maria-miller/>

A patient gets the new transgender surgery she helped to invent:

<https://www.wired.com/story/a-patient-gets-the-new-transgender-surgery-she-helped-invent/?fbclid=IwAR0aYFkZ7eNo1pZNRNtrS7dCyWXAPjLCwqdtImI9bOVAiGGhWyUc7qzn0yc>

NHS National Adviser on LGBT health post:

<http://jobs.england.nhs.uk/job/v1449637?fbclid=IwAR0jetycnk9LMzE-IIOFQRwLtrAqyZaS9MqCZCw-RtlFeSuhQdZvNRQgPTA>

Trans Death:

Death of Julia Grant:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/01/02/julia-grant-trans-rights-pioneer-dies-aged-64/>

Trans Life:

The only transgender agenda is to live a normal life and to be safe:

https://thespinoff.co.nz/society/29-11-2018/the-only-transgender-agenda-is-to-live-a-normal-life-and-feel-safe/?fbclid=IwAR3ZYr_sW1t29d7D225CRfl3NZ57Wkl5e6uDcg2TYHaWc419S3mkx4lhC7l

Fascinating story of Sandy Stone:

https://broadly.vice.com/en_us/article/zmd5k5/sandy-stone-biography-transgender-history?fbclid=IwAR3znDiR-3mAD5QAntEkPMFOSCG7Dzf7T4Q-z5R9moM8zYCicQn0Fkek9Kk

What's in a name?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-46567954>

Are trans people held to double/unrealistically high standards?

https://medium.com/the-transition-transmission/way-beyond-a-double-standard-b1e116ea1689?fbclid=IwAR2m2e_5aFePyCtp00nL7EckEPe0Qz3TfYUV9wBPnDtIOqHWKxi1rrnZOCQ

Excellent piece on tightrope trans women walk to fit narrow definition of how to be a woman:

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/02/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-woman-it-is-not-just-about-femininity?fbclid=IwAR2d4o43w6I7vcbpMRY_fzNLyCWODidnKB4N-px9ZErA04WVdA7tx4-ICBE#comment-124219347

“Distinctiveness” threat of trans people (Psychology Today):

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/inclusive-insight/201809/what-precisely-do-transgender-people-threaten?fbclid=IwAR2cDXHc6tzkSjCGPbhyWKcZa0jLyxV1HVFsiPLFSIDMcNmME2L0zeQtbo>

German trans Green MP:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/01/15/germany-tessa-ganserer-transgender/>

Pro-lesbian or trans exclusionary?

<https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/pro-lesbian-or-trans-exclusionary-old-animosities-boil-public-view-n958456?fbclid=IwAR1GI46q8j1xLio83WUksIncVHCWIH2fk9ozbaqaBEMlzwalhMsNDJ401H4>

Research confirms benefits of transitioning, contradicting claims of some conservative commentators:

https://thinkprogress.org/what-we-know-transgender-surgery-72ae4737545a/?fbclid=IwAR2_nQ2BFpkZE626pmEwrDnBhr6QUvf8klxShgoXPL_yjVF5_hAd21qOaA4

Yes, women can have penises:

<https://theconversation.com/can-a-woman-have-a-penis-how-to-understand-disagreements-about-gender-recognition-101991?fbclid=IwAR0wQckAsf67aOgdqiq9vxK2XMz6dfjrjCleqCeXtQwqiARW7Rn6l60a5dsI>

Brave Brazilian trans woman:

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/erica-malunguinho-black-trans-brazil_n_5c7828b8e4b0952f89dfa406?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZmFjZWJvY2suY29tLw&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAADB3LtyNjNK23ZhcKFN3vXjC9iar9LoGDnEXQP1_lcfJf7A2qZPCldn0LT40xWXGEsVwZitjZg2P-zN3nX5wqYiC4a-CV3LzG4BnDyOs5N6tO50aHwDcYqrAjiO89lI2KX-QyuXi47Rr11T0PWecrW41H32OscN2tFa0odlgWcd

Feminists should not tell trans women they are not female enough (Guardian):

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/jan/19/feminism-trans-women-female-enough?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR2gPnxZxNXrFKn_RMbIT7I9v-W_T0fbvT30YBqeWdLahh2dDJGiXX1NH7M

Transition stories from 3 generations:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-47753215/transgender-how-people-from-three-generations-transitioned>

...not trans-related but I couldn't resist including this Lenten reflection by Fr Richard Leonard SJ on fasting and abstinence since he illustrates it by reference to an incident in the Lord of the Rings:

https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/articles/videos/fasting-and-abstinence-during-lent?utm_source=ignsp&utm_medium=blog&utm_campaign=lent2019

Book review – Undivided by Vicky Beeching - PF

Vicky of course is not trans but a cis lesbian. However, I found her story of her struggle between her religious beliefs and upbringing and her sexuality resonated powerfully with me. Growing up in a very religiously conservative and evangelical environment, Vicky became a star and celebrity in that world, moving to America and leading worship and singing her own compositions to vast congregations in mega churches. However in all that time she was concealing her sexuality as far as possible from herself and from everyone else. She reached a point where the pain of this conflict and suppression became unbearable and she returned to England and tried to find a way to reconcile her faith and sexuality. Meditating deeply on the passage in Acts where St Peter realizes that to God there are no "others" but all are equally acceptable to him was a key turning point and she decided to come out knowing that she would face the loss of fame, reputation, livelihood, friends and much else. A sympathetic journalist published her story and she was indeed trolled

and vilified by many of her Christian friends. Sadly she paid a heavy price in her health for her courage and integrity and succumbed to chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia. She is a remarkable and rather wonderful woman. At the end of her book she relates a very telling tale of a Jewish Rabbi on his deathbed and in tears. Asked to explain why so good a man should have any fear of God's judgement he replies: "I am afraid. When I get to heaven, I know God is not going to ask me, "Why weren't you more like Moses?" or "Why weren't you more like King David?" I'm afraid that God will ask "Zusya, why weren't you more like Zusya?" And then, what will I say?"