



SIBYLS LOGO - ROBYN GOLDEN - HANV 28 MAY 2018



“I am the vine,
you are the branches
whoever remains in me, and I in that person,
bears fruit in plenty”

Newsletter 89 – October 2019

Dear Sibyls

I write this just after returning from a wonderful Sibyls weekend at Purley Chase in Warwickshire (see report below). There was a strong sense of the Sibyls, despite the darkening of the year and the sombre climate, literal and metaphorical, in the world around us, having new birth and a bright future. We have a new Chair in Yvonne, healthy finances, and a renewed sense of purpose, commitment and solidarity in our lives as trans Christians.

As this newsletter, besides other content, includes short biographies of most of the committee members, I shall spare you my usual pontificating in this space. I shall

only say how much I personally owe to the Sibyls and how much I value the support, encouragement and love I have received from you. Where we disagree – which can be quite often! – we have done so with mutual respect and generosity of spirit and have focused on what unites us in a way that one could wish to see modelled more widely in our churches and politics. And please do send me your own news, thoughts, opinions, articles and feedback.

I send to you and your loved ones my own love, prayers and best wishes.

Pauline

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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.

SIBYLS LONDON EVENING MEETINGS 2019

2019 London Evening Meetings
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

Metropolitan Congregation, Manchester and North West

Here are the details of our weekly Metropolitan congregation LGBT+ Sunday afternoon service to which all Sibyls members are warmly invited and welcomed.

We are a Christ-centred congregation which serves, celebrates and affirms the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (lgbt) communities of Manchester and North West England. All are welcome. Our main service is on Sunday afternoons at 4.30pm. It is celebrative yet thoughtful and aims to appeal to folk from a range of different church backgrounds as well as to those for whom spirituality is new. We offer a place to explore Christian spirituality and help people live the Christian faith in ways which make sense in our contemporary society.

We are a friendly church and after worship - which usually lasts around one hour - everyone is invited to stay for refreshments and a chat. We usually have around 6-8 trans people attending and often go for a meal together after the service.



Where we are based

We are a congregation of Wilbraham Saint Ninian's United Reformed Church, near to the centre of Chorlton in South Manchester. Our address is corner of Wilbraham Road/Egerton Rd South, Chorlton, Manchester M21 0XJ (use M21 0UB for SatNavs)

Jenny-Anne Bishop

New Sibyls' Committee

A new committee was elected at the Sibyls Together/AGM meeting at Purley Chase:

Chair -	Yvonne Wood
Secretary (and newsletter editor) -	Pauline Fleck
Membership and communications secretary -	Philippa Whittaker
Treasurer -	Peter Raftery
Website manager -	Susan Gilchrist
Other members: -	Jenny-Anne Bishop OBE
	Elaine Sommers
	Judith Dene
	Debbie Hayton

Our New Chair

Many of you will already know Yvonne. However, here she is, in her own words;

“Yvonne Wood is an artist and designer, and worked for many years as an urban planner within local government. Yvonne was brought up in a strict but loving Methodist family and after university and working for some years, discovered Quakers. Yvonne realised much later in life than many of us, that gender deeply answered big unresolved issues. Since that realization, she found Sibyls, which was an important and reassuring anchor during a turbulent time. Gaining confidence, Yvonne became active within the Quaker LGBT group, helping to make it more trans inclusive. She has led workshops on gender and organized gatherings.”

Here she reflects on the experience of transitioning as a Quaker:

“Being trans and Quaker – a work in progress

Between the Christian denominations, including Quakers, there is no difference in all the stress, confusion and hard work being trans and living our faith; each personal journey is like a complex navigation without GPS. But perhaps in Quakers there is a slightly easier deep place where in the quiet of prayer, it is not a problem. Quaker faith does not start with dogma, but does start with a hope for equality, truth and peace in recognising ‘that of God’ in everyone. When I first realised my gender peculiarity, I was not scared of God and the church, rather I found God, and found joy, and a place to explore and embrace myself, first privately, later out.

As in all churches, over the years some trans people have not been embraced by their Quaker meetings, and there have been sad upsets and misunderstandings. Quakers can also be conventional and strict and can find ways to be insensitive and to offend.

I spent years slowly moving forward in my constant self-certainty, while wading through my recurring self-questioning. Quaker meetings for worship are silent apart from unprogrammed vocal ministry that might be offered by anyone. So I didn’t have to sit uncomfortably through difficult texts or sermons that appeared to challenge my validity. And other people’s prayerful ministry often seemed to relate to me. I could take all my questions and anxieties to meeting for worship without concern. Guilt and shame could be left behind.

I would not have got far in self-acceptance without Sibyls. I would not have come out without Quakers. As I wondered (both asking and marvelling) about my gender and my practical dilemma, I got to truly know myself and to become more open. I committed to Quakers alongside accepting myself. I was drawn to prayer, as a new discovery and wanted to give myself, and to give thanks.

Only my partner knew, and we tackled this together. I knew that that Quakers have no issue with anyone’s personal circumstances, because we all worship equally together. Quakers had been pioneers in gay and lesbian acceptance. But I could not

see how to be open - it is simply not necessary to declare anything about yourself; because the Quaker way is a loving 'so what'. But of course people want pastoral and personal support and I just wanted a few Friends to know and uphold me. Gradually I told a few – and yes, there were some open mouths and some curiosity, but all were respectful.

There was no way I could find to be open to everyone, until another Quaker raised an issue about trans inclusion. This was my opportunity to come out, first to all at that particular discussion, then to many, at other meetings and in sharing sessions.

I chose to be open about the fact I am trans, but I didn't change my very neutral, barely perceptible feminine presentation at my own worship group – I had known people for many years and wanted to maintain continuity of relationships, to slowly reveal myself to Friends when they asked, or when each opportunity arose.

Within Quakers more widely, I became increasingly out and active. I became known to many outside my local worship group. I became very active in the Quaker LGBT group - after initially not feeling I belonged in a well-established lesbian and gay group and helping to make some changes. I have led workshops on gender diversity at the Quaker learning centre at Woodbrooke in Birmingham and have been closely involved with Quakers at Chichester and Brighton, where I feel at home.

After years of hoping that this would somehow be accommodated in my marriage, my partner and I separated, and we went through a period of big changes, moving out of our home and moving to new places. Perhaps I have not shared enough of this huge change with pastoral carers – I came out, split up, moved house and finished work, but actually it has all felt led, and felt as positive as one might hope. There was now little stopping me letting my life speak.

I have started attending a new Quaker worship group local to my new home – after years of hoping and dreaming of this, it was lovely to turn up and introduce myself and be welcomed without any look or query.

There have been some other big steps for me within Quakers this year. One big moment was the annual gathering of Quakers last May in Friends House London. This was when I finally brought my two identities together and was happily able to greet several Friends from my own worship group. Another big moment was being nominated to be on a national committee that organises the national annual gathering. The big step is that I am on a committee that has nothing to do with LGBT! This committee has heavy-duty weekend sessions and is the reason I regrettably could not be at the Purley Chase weekend.

Quakers may have a deep-rooted testimony to equality, but we have been affected by the GRA debate, in a pretty damaging way. Quakers' long tradition of gender equality means there are lots of women who have been involved in feminist movements and a few of these are sympathetic to the trans-critical view of protecting women's rights. There is nothing wrong with holding points of view, which do not affect worship and community, but as elsewhere this has become mired in social

media ding-dongs, even amongst Quakers. Quaker buildings have been hired by anti-GRA reform campaign meetings, and occasionally Quakers have become directly associated with them. For me, I found that the progress we had been making with raising awareness about diverse trans lives was distracted by talking about whether we should hire out our buildings to campaign groups and whether Quakers had a position on trans and the GRA.

Quakers are resilient and we take our time with big questions. These controversies are resolved eventually by unity, led by God, in quiet discernment. The Quaker way has been influential for me. Meetings for business are also worship; we gather the sense of the meeting, we don't vote. I find it strange now to see other organisations putting so much effort and politicking into getting the voting they want.

There is often misunderstanding about whether Quakers are Christian and even whether we actually believe in God – but after years of being there, amongst people of different human and spiritual journeys, the words and approach are different but the encounter, enlightenment and blessing are the same. One thing that everyone knows about being Quaker and that has been such an important reference point for my gender, my activities, my faith, is the testimony to simplicity.”

As if (*a further reflection by Yvonne on her trans experience*)

I am trans but I am not transitioning. Except that I am, big time. Over many years, bit by bit – in changing behaviour, changing attitudes, faith and friendships. I am living it, but I am not waiting for medical appointments. What does it mean to be a non-transitioning trans person?

There are several circumstances in which trans people don't medically transition – to maintain family or work, because of health, wealth or faith issues. Or because they don't need to. This is what makes me humble, so many have no choice, so many do need this.

The weekly Daily Telegraph magazine has a regular page called 'The Wrong Trousers' following David Thomas's transition. It says, 'David Thomas still lives as a man, but has begun the male-to-female transition that will eventually result in becoming a woman.' For me it is opposite, I live as a woman and have not begun the 'male-to-female transition'. Of course this is all just words for others – the background is I was never really male.

I have nearly gone to the doctor many times. But I don't really know what the problem is or what I want. I do know I don't want to just be waiting: for appointments, for possible disappointments. For months, for other people's assessments, for recognition. So I when I did finally go to the doctor, it was for a minor skin complaint. I saw three doctors, didn't say a word, they gently held my hair back to look, and I felt stronger.

'I live as a woman'. I don't like that phrase. I live as truthfully and hopefully and respectably as I can. Not as.

As if. I am aware that people might see me as a pretence – because of my masculine tells - build, voice, gait, mannerisms. I hear ‘thank you sir’. The pretence comes crumbling down so easily. What I am is already real. There is no pretence. I forget my own lessons:

‘you are not trans, you are a rounded person and that is what you must convey.’

‘If someone calls me sir, fair enough. If someone calls me ma’am, well, thank you.’

‘You don’t need affirmation by café staff, you already have affirmation deep inside.’

Whatever I am, I am content, fortunate and privileged. For me, transition was years of anxious questioning and challenging while trusting in divine leading. Transition for me started the moment I grasped this unnameable thing about me and the feminine. For me, what comes first is most important: gender realisation and normalisation. Much of this is not visible to others, much of it is shedding, unlearning masculine habits and ways I didn’t relate to and don’t want. And much of it is powered by spirituality, inward assurance and faith.

I have often felt hopeless and without confidence. But what self-knowledge has done is take me deeper and more able to give myself up to God. Alongside the knock-backs, stares and self-consciousness, gradually things fall simply and naturally into place, and Love is my guide.

Other committee members

Jenny-Anne Bishop OBE



I'm Jenny-Anne, an older married Trans woman, living with my partner Elen in North Wales.

A graduate in Industrial Chemistry and an Analytical Chemist, I retired from being a sales and marketing manager in scientific instrument in 2008, So that I could engage in voluntary work for the Transgender, gender diverse and LGBT communities.

This includes being a lay Pastoral leader (Elder) of the Manchester Metropolitan URC LGBT Congregation, a member of the Westminster Parliamentary Forum on Gender Identity, the Welsh Strategic equality plan board for the Welsh Government, The National Trans Advisory Board for HM Prison and Probation Service, and advising many public service providers in Wales and England on Trans inclusion & Equality and I'm a trustee for several LGBT organisations.

I chair Unique, the largest Transgender social and mutual support group in Wales, and TransForum Manchester, a large Trans Support and Activist group in Manchester, which gives me daily contact with the Trans community. For 10 years I was part of the Sparkle Manchester organising team, and a Sparkle Trustee for 3 years. I also worked on several Equality and Charter mark steering groups.

My core interests are the inclusion and recognition of full rights for all gender variant & gender diverse people, the reporting, prosecution, management and reduction of Transphobic and Homophobic Hate Crime; improving the NHS health care pathway for gender diverse people, particularly in Wales, fair and equitable health and care provision for Older LGBTIQ+ people in social care & care homes and the inclusion of Christian gender diverse people in the life of UK Churches. I particularly enjoy providing Trans Awareness and Equality training, which I have presented for more than 17 years to over 140 organisations in over 700 courses, supporting parents and children of Trans people, and the use of performance art in transgender education and awareness training, and the Diversity Role Models work we do in Schools,

I played a key part in projects to detail and record LGBT history in Wales (Welsh Pride) , the April Ashley Trans History Project in Liverpool and the "Gender Fluidity" project in Wales, which produced information leaflets for all Trans / gender diverse people and their supporters. My partner Elen and I also run a community house for gender diverse people; help support Trans Offenders and have appeared many times on various radio stations, over 15 national and regional television programmes and in many magazine and newspaper articles, as we do much work with the media to raise trans awareness and to work for fair treatment and the accurate representation of all gender diverse people throughout the media. I'm one of the original founders of Trans Media Watch

I was awarded the Homo Heroes Volunteer of the year Award in 2014 and an OBE in HM the Queen's 2015 New Year's honours list for services to the Trans community in Wales. I was also in the Welsh Pink List at no.13!

My hobbies include a lifelong interest in railways and travelling the world in search of operating steam locomotives, listening to a diverse range of music and walking in our local area and visiting Snowdonia.

Jenny-Anne Bishop OBE

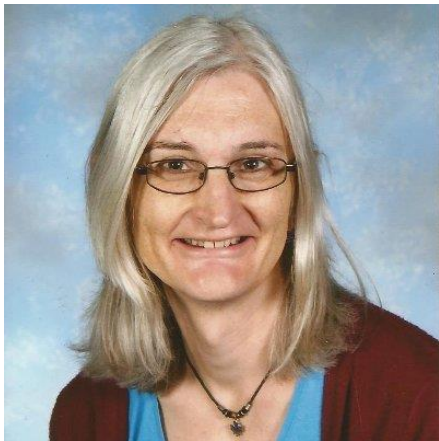
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www.uniquetg.org.uk & www.transforum.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/jennyannebuk>

Debbie Hayton



Debbie is a physics teacher and an active member of her trade union. She currently sits on the National Executive Committee, with specific responsibility to support members in schools across the West Midlands. She also represents her union on the TUC LGBT+ Committee, a role that brings her into contact with key people across the trade union movement.

She became a Christian at university and became comfortable in the evangelical tradition, though these days considers herself an “intellectually honest” evangelical and worships at a church with a more traditional outlook in Birmingham where she lives. She became involved with the Sibyls in 2011 when she was asking herself the question, “do I need to transition?”

Over the past few years, Debbie has also become involved in transgender politics, taking views on the issues that society is grappling with. Sometimes controversial but always willing to engage with others to build respect and understanding between people with different opinions, whether that be in the pub or the bear pit of social media. Given the choice, though, she prefers the pub.

Susan Gilchrist

Susan Gilchrist has taught in higher education for nearly 50 years. From 1969 she has also been involved in the work of reconciliation in tribal conflict situations. She has engaged in studies and research into the driving forces behind tribal conflict, identity formation and the interactions that are encountered. She has undertaken similar research on gender dysphoria. Susan writes poetry and she has documented her journey in an anthology of poems. Details of this are on her website www.tgdr.co.uk. Through her counselling involvement she aims to help others who may learn from her experiences. Susan is actively involved in Church of England activities and in ecumenical work. She is currently a committee member and has been secretary of the Sibyls, a Christian Spirituality group for transgender people, their friends, families and supporters. Susan is closely associated with work to promote the full inclusion of LGBTI people within the Anglican Church. She has acted in an advisory capacity in the context of the Church of England “Shared Conversations” and the “living in Love and Faith” processes. Together with members

of clergy and others she was involved in the organisation of a conference in Birmingham in 2010 on "Sexuality and Human Flourishing", the proceedings of which can be accessed through her website. She has served on the executive committee of the LGBTI Anglican Coalition, and is also a past co-chair of the Coalition. Susan has served on Government and NHS Advisory panels. She is a member of the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland and is an active member, both in her local Church, and in the congregation of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

Susan's own research into the areas of personality development and identity crosses two disciplines. The first of these is a neurophysiological and psychological study into the early development of self-identity and personality. By taking account of the recent advances in neuroscience and brain development; new insights are obtained; and it is shown that a continuous pattern of development can be traced from early infancy into late adult life. The second theme in her work is an extended social, historical and theological study on the implications of this scientific research on the Christian Church. An overview of her work can be found in Gilchrist, S. (2016): "Taking a Different Path": Chapter 10 in: "This Is My Body: Hearing the Theology of Transgender Christians", Ed: Beardsley, T. and O'Brien, M. Publisher: Darton, Longman and Todd. Presentations have been given to NHS Senior Management. One parliamentary submission concerns the topic of gender care pathways. Other papers which have been presented include one on "Deuteronomy 22:5 and its Impact on Gender and Sexual Variation in the Christian Church": this was given to a Trans* and Faith Symposium in the University of Warwick. Further papers and a presentation on "An Overview of Science and Theology in Gender and Sexual Variation and Its Impact on the Christian Church" were given to the Durham University/Royal College of Psychiatrists Conference on "Science and Theology in Human Sexuality" which was held at St. John's College, Durham University, in September 2016. Details of these and additional papers and presentations which have been made or submitted to senior HNS panels, conferences, parliamentary committees and to other groups are given in her bibliography. In her latest work she has been examining both the feminist and religious viewpoints and agendas on gender and sexual variation, including transsexuality. As an academic Susan is fully aware of the importance of the peer review process. She has been, and is, in discussion with publishers about the publication of a book.



Copies of these papers, the presentation slides, additional information and a full bibliography are available via the website: <http://www.tgdr.co.uk/>

Email contact: sgen4144@gmail.com

Philippa Whittaker



I currently act as Communications Officer and Membership Secretary. As such, I am often the first point of contact for enquirers. Some enquirers are unhappy and confused so I fulfil a pastoral role for which I am trained as a former trade union leader and caseworker.

I have been married for 43 years with 5 children and (so far) 2 grandchildren. I am retired as both a Chartered Accountant and Chartered Public Finance Accountant having latterly been for 22 years a Senior Lecturer in Accountancy, Financial Management and Strategy at the University of Salford. Aware of being different from being a toddler, I felt obliged to adopt a macho male persona (captain of football teams, cricket teams and Territorial Army soldier) moderated by periodic times of expressing my feminine side. I thought I had put my female persona behind me when I accepted Christ as my saviour when at Oxford University and got married to the girl of my dreams— I was confused that I was actively heterosexual even though I had a yearning for femininity that did not sit with my sexuality or my evangelical faith. After decades of struggle my core personality burst through the veneer and I transitioned with the (costly) support of my family. I was kicked out of my church, and moved naturally to a nearby church characterised by love rather than mental gymnastics to sustain fundamentalist positions.

I regard myself as a normal person who just happens to be trans. I am involved in the Church of England on my PCC, as a Minister of Communion in Manchester Diocese, and also being elected to Deanery and Diocesan Synods. Nonetheless, I feel a strong call to be leaven in the community so I am involved in the secular world as an active Christian, who whilst not ramming my faith into people's faith I am pleased to take natural opportunities to talk about both my faith and my gender identity. I am involved in the Living in Love and Faith Project, and have broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on gender issues in a personal capacity having been approached because of my Sibyls' role.

I tend to get on with being me in a variety of contexts – Walking Group leader, Chair of local Neighbourhood Watch, Signaller and Signalling Trainer on East Lancashire Railway, Tenor with Oldham Choral Society, U3A speaker on historical topics (Modern History was my first degree), Heartstart CPR trainer, long-suffering Oldham Athletic season ticket holder and Director of Trust Oldham (Supporters' Trust), Labour activist and active member of the Committee of the Manchester Branch of the Oxford University Society. I mix with many people who are often socially

conservative – who have just had to get used to the reality of trans* people because I am there in their lives. Our Lord sent us out into the market place, didn't He?

Judith Elizabeth Dene



Christianity has always played a major part in my life which is one of the reasons I joined the Sibyls as I feel we need to stand together and support each other in our respective journeys. Also a volunteer with Scottish Transgender Alliance, focusing on working with various denominations and faiths and offering support to all parties where there are difficulties. The Church of Scotland recently produced a booklet to assist Vestry and church congregations understand about LGBT issues and as part of that process I was interviewed as a case study and also helped proof read the booklet

My religious upbringing was a mixture high church and low church depending on where I went for service and was confirmed into the Church of England in February 1958. My introduction to church duties was as a sidesperson at around 18 years of age, also assisting when required with services as an acolyte or server. Having spent most of my life as a member of the Church of England I became an Episcopalian 5 years ago when we moved to the Scottish Borders and am a member of Vestry and a Server for my local church.

I have been gender-dysphoric most of my life but due to family events have not progressed down the surgery route. However, I am lucky in that my wife and close family are aware of my need to be Judith and they are very supportive of me.

My working life has been mainly in electronic and electrical engineering with management roles as well as roles in design and marketing, including sitting on national committees for low and medium voltage cable joints and terminations. At 60 I turned my hobby of wildlife watching into a career and became an ecologist from which I have only recently retired in April of this year.

Over many years I have devoted time to help charitable organisations, mainly wildlife biased, by working in the background on committees using my business and

personal backgrounds and experience to help them move forward. These organisations have included Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Natural History Society of Northumbria, and Northumberland National Park as a volunteer warden, chair of the wardens and also sat as a member of the SDF Fund panel where we provided grants for small businesses in the Park. Am currently chair of a small specialist group looking to protect Badgers in Northumberland and am a court recognised expert witness. In what spare time I have I relax by game fishing and photography in addition to my wildlife interests

Elaine Sommers



I am a retired orthopaedic surgeon, married, with three children and two grandchildren. Realising at the age of twelve that I had a female side as well as my biological male one, I kept my secret for many years.

In my late teens I became a Christian and my newfound belief immediately conflicted with my gender identity. For decades the only person who knew about Elaine was my wife. In the end I couldn't tolerate living in secrecy any longer, and came out as a trans person. The reactions were on the whole accepting, apart from my conservative church friends, who were horrified. My wife and I decided to move to a more accepting fellowship.

I have no desire to transition to female, and live my life in both male and female presentations, which I describe as bigender. Since retirement I have become involved in LGBT+ activism, much of it in Christian communities, representing Sibyls, Accepting Evangelicals, Christians at Bristol Pride and the European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups. I love encouraging those with conservative views to consider a more inclusive approach to sexuality and gender identity.

When I can find the time, I enjoy looking after grandchildren, singing, playing guitar, travel and long-distance cycling.

Pauline Elanor Fleck



I joined the Sibyls some 5 years ago and am currently the secretary and newsletter editor. I am divorced (two daughters, one grandson), Catholic and live in Leeds. I retired from the Department of Health in 2017. As a volunteer, I am involved in support of the LGBT community in Leeds, especially through the Sage project which aims to reduce loneliness and social isolation amongst older LGBT people. I am also involved in the Age Friendly Leeds project which aims to make Leeds a great place to grow old in. I never thought I would live to see my face being used as one of the faces of older Leeds....I am a member of Quest, the Catholic LGBT group and seek to aid their efforts in the Sisyphean task of bringing about change in the Church. I attend a trans support group in Leeds which has brought me some rewarding friendships. I do like sometimes to forget about being trans and just get on with life, both at my church (where to be fair it has never been much of an issue) and in playing table tennis, cycling and attending meetings of the Tolkien Society.....and occasionally, when I feel particularly in need of atonement, watching Newcastle United.

Sibyls Weekend at Purley Chase - Pauline

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2088347908127624&set=a.1558117451150675&type=3&eid=ARBZxcVhL60xnBlvdZ7f1aUrpWgNocRtow7MGhUXOL8UsKihn3Qk0-Zqz1jGbr7nhOnoh69oMYvXwy8B>

This weekend in Warwickshire was a delight from start to finish. We had exclusive use of the Purley Chase Centre where the staff could not have been more helpful and welcoming. After the introductory, informal session on Friday evening, Peter led us in thankful prayer at Compline and I for one slept well. On Saturday, Alison Southcombe, the spiritual director at the Centre, initiated us into some of the mysteries of Emanuel Swedenborg's thinking, based on a system of "correspondences" which reveal the inner, spiritual meanings of scripture. She used

as an example the story of Namaan the leper whose seven-times immersion in the waters of the Jordan symbolised our journey of complete spiritual development. Few of us I think are likely to become Swedenborgians but it was stimulating stuff. The rev Priscilla White then addressed us about the machinations around the Blackburn motion at Synod and Tina Beardsley picked up on the Machiavellian theme in talking about both the trans liturgy controversy and her leaving the Living in Love and Faith coordinating group. She affirmed that the bishops were not willing or able to engage fully with the reality and lived experience of trans people. Priscilla spoke of the positive relationships even in disagreement that had characterised the discussions that has preceded the introduction of women priests and bishops but this seemed harder to do in the areas of gender and sexuality. There was general agreement that at grass roots level much progress was being made which gave some hope for the future.

Saturday afternoon saw some people visiting the battlefield where Richard III met his end while others preferred to visit the Battlefield railway line. A few stayed put and enjoyed the peace of the Centre and its beautiful gardens. We re-assembled for the gala dinner – I have not often seen the Sibyls looking so glamorous! After the dinner Susan payed a heart-felt tribute in which we all joined to Tina who was marking the 40th anniversary of her priesting. Tina responded inimitably and graciously and cut the cake presented to her which was layered in the trans colours with a cross on top. Pauline on behalf of the Sibyls thanked Debbie for her work as Chair where she has had a high profile and not been uncontroversial but always greatly respected for her integrity and principles. We then – most of us – drank and danced! It was a joyous evening.

On Sunday morning we had our Sibyls Together meeting and AGM at which a new Chair, Yvonne Wood, was elected, and the existing committee re-elected, with Debbie staying on as a committee member. We had good discussions about how to raise the profile of Sibyls, both on-line and through our new leaflet and mission statement, and to attract new members. Peter reported on our finances which thanks to the grant of £5,700 from the Jim Cotter Trust, are in a healthy state. A number of issues were remitted for further discussion at the next committee meeting which we agreed would be held in Birmingham before Christmas, followed by a celebration meal to which all Sibyls will be invited. If any Sibyl wishes to have a full note of the meeting, please contact Pauline. Tina then presided over a wonderful Eucharist – please see her own account of this below. A fitting end to a wonderful weekend, graced by the presence of our revered founder, Jay, to whom we are all thankful. We are also thankful to Peter Raftery and his wife Pru for their work in organising the weekend and to all the wonderful staff at Purley Chase Centre. We'll be back....

Tina's 40th anniversary of priesting:

THANK YOU

I celebrated my 40th anniversary of priesting by presiding and preaching at the Sunday Mass for Michaelmas at the Sibyls' Purley Chase weekend. After having agreed to co-lead a session with the Revd Priscilla White on the Saturday morning I realised I'd be spending this anniversary with a group of people whose love and support have meant a great deal, especially in 2001 when two bishops were asking me to surrender my licence - now long forgiven. I am so grateful to Jay, the founder of Sibyls, for being there at that time.

Susan's moving speech at Saturday night's dinner took me completely by surprise, and I wasn't expecting a cake, let alone one in the trans colours - thank you Pauline! The Mass was a mix of ancient and modern, with both plainsong and popular songs including Abba's 'I dreamed a dream' ('I believe in angels') and Elaine's wonderful inclusive version of Leonard Cohen's 'Alleluia.' Thank you everyone!

One member of Sibyls asked me afterwards whether, when I was priested in 1979, I could ever have envisaged that I would be celebrating my 40th anniversary with the Sibyls. Well, no. I guess my mind then was mainly on the present moment, taking on the responsibilities of my role, and learning from my colleagues, especially my training incumbent. An organisation like the Sibyls, and my being part of it, would have seemed inconceivable, or a very remote possibility. Perhaps it's just as well that we can't see into the future, and the paths on which life is going to take us, otherwise we might never set out in the first place!

Tina and Chris Dowd's new book has begun to be publicised:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Guide-Including-Trans-People-Church/dp/1785925326/ref=pd_ybh_a_1?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=GW19TVW4B2RHAT58S4BB

Susan's presentation at Euro Forum of LGBT Christian Groups conference:

Expanded version of Susan Gilchrist's presentation at the European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups conference – long and technical in places but the fruit of many years of deliberation, research and experience:

<http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/SuL0627t-EuroforumPresentation2019PartExt.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3a3QaF8VQCBM6EO82td12rmFCfCqc5kGLVgpl e-cOZSwSjdTCdK3rZ4M>

Trans Catholic:

“Male and Female He Created Them” – do read Tina Beattie’s excellent article. Excerpt:

If the Catholic hierarchy could let go of its fear and resistance to any suggestion of gender fluidity or diversity, it would discover that the Catholic tradition is in itself gender fluid. The language of Catholic theology and particularly of devotional and mystical texts opens into a poetic and prismatic array of gendered relationships, weaving the human and the divine into intense relationships of erotic, maternal and filial love and friendship which elude all sexual binaries. I use Pope John Paul II’s *Mulieris Dignitatem* to teach theology of gender. I can identify at least five different genders in that document, based on various appeals to nuptial ecclesiology and sexual difference.

....If the document produced by the CCE is an accurate reflection of the level of understanding and engagement which the hierarchy is willing to bring to the table of dialogue, then it would be better for all of us if they simply keep quiet, for they lack the competence, the respect and the knowledge to contribute meaningfully to that dialogue.”

<http://www.catholicethics.com/forum-submissions/gender-theory-and-catholic-education>

“The Coronation of Our Lady of the Transvestites” – Brazilian Archbishop is offended:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/08/09/brazilian-archbishop-forces-cancellation-of-performance-led-by-transgender-artists/>

Fr James Martin: to stop hate, churches need to get their own houses in order:

“What does such tacit support for prejudice by church leaders end up doing? It excuses hate. It fosters hate. It blesses hate. And it unintentionally encourages the violence that this hate leads to. And make no mistake: Some Catholics who treat LGBT people with contempt think they are doing so with the church’s blessing. Thus, these people think they are being prophetic. They don’t see themselves as haters. They see themselves as prophets. Because they feel the support of their churches. . .But any actions or speech that mock, stigmatize, dehumanize or otherwise target specific persons or groups of people is completely opposed to the Christian worldview.”

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/08/13/fr-james-martin-to-stop-hate-faith-communities-need-to-get-their-own-houses-in-order/>

Trans woman leaves Catholic priesthood, but not the church:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/07/22/former-priest-shares-journey-of-being-a-transgender-catholic-loved-by-god/>

Bishops urged to abstain for a year from preaching on sexuality and gender:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/07/17/john-gehring-bishops-need-a-year-of-abstinence-from-preaching-on-sexuality-and-gender/>

Polish rainbow plague:

https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/08/14/priest-seemingly-punished-for-promoting-letter-writing-campaign-against-anti-lgbtq-bishop/?fbclid=IwAR0SjkGbGaitD9uyIOgdq-8iEJJA8nLZkSBmsQZNCDNwGHwPqgR_Bbhq79I

Veterans who fought in Warsaw Uprising condemn Polish archbishop's ant-LGBT remarks:
<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/08/26/veterans-who-fought-nazi-occupation-condemn-polish-archbishops-anti-lgbtq-comments/>

US bishops support Trump:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/08/24/u-s-bishops-applaud-trump-administration-proposal-allowing-anti-lgbtq-employment-discrimination/>

US Archbishop tells trans Catholic “you belong in the heart of the church”:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/08/30/u-s-archbishop-tells-transgender-catholic-you-belong-to-the-heart-of-this-church/>

Pope appoints pro-LGBT cardinal:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/09/05/pope-francis-named-pro-lgbt-bishop-cardinal/?fbclid=IwAR3VAXkcmbKWOHyTVsP94JHPHZFCxnX3mk9_nH6WPO0wWzaQ4nw6aPUU_S0

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/09/04/lgbtq-positive-clerics-among-pope-francis-list-to-create-new-cardinals/>

In the Closet of the Vatican (Review by Pauline):

Many words have been expounded on this lengthy and sensational expose of the culture of hypocrisy in the Vatican with regard to the “gay issue”. Forgive me adding a few of my own, having just ploughed through all 550 pages. It should come as no surprise that a large proportion of the Catholic priesthood is gay as it is always been a safe refuge for gay men unwilling or unable to live out their sexuality in any other way. What is rather shocking is the large proportion, even amongst the Cardinals, who are *practising* as gay men. Martel lays down the general rule that the more stridently homophobic a prelate is, the more likely it is that he is gay, even actively so. This culture of hypocrisy makes for hard reading for a Catholic such as myself, especially when the hypocrisy goes hand in hand with a lifestyle of considerable opulence and narcissistic self-indulgence and grandiosity. Martel suggests it is ok to be “of the parish”, provided you are reasonably discrete about it and keep it out of the public eye.

Martel classifies the different sort of gay man in the Vatican in various ways. One sort he describes as the “mad virgin”, “all asceticism and sublimation”. He strongly suggests that Benedict XVI falls into this category. Despite his relentless crusade against gay people, one ends up feeling a little sorry for this sensitive and cultured man and those like him who exert heroic self-control over themselves, believing it to be the way of the cross and to holiness – which it may well be, but clearly it also can lead to quite exceptional levels of judgmentalism and self-righteousness. (Before I came out as a trans woman, I believe I was well advanced down this route myself with the added torment of vast dollops of self-loathing.) Martel believes the last straw for Benedict was his visit to Cuba when any illusion he may have maintained about the state of the church was stripped away.

So what of Pope Francis? Martel pretty much ends with Benedict's abdication (by far the finest act of his papacy). The jury is still rather out. He has certainly quite

decisively, even ruthlessly, sidelined or dismissed most of the old guard of hard-core reactionary homophobes (also of course privately homophile). He has taken on the task of cleansing the stables of the Vatican with some vigour and has sought in his modest life-style to model the “servus servorum” concept of the papacy. He clearly has no truck with princely prelates and bishops of bling and is working hard to make the church a “poor church for the poor”. But he continues to keep the door closed on the ordination of women, appears to have very little understanding of trans people and delivers very mixed and often quite negative messages on gay people. This is quite depressing. But there is no doubt that the deep freeze in the church under JP II and BXVI is coming to an end and there is now at least the possibility of discussion and dissent without fear of delation and summons to Pope or Prefect. And amongst the faithful there is surely a stirring of God’s spirit and an ever increasing yearning for new life and change. The old ways and some of the old beliefs and cherished certainties are not working any more. John Henry Newman, about to be “raised to the altars”, famously said “To live is to change, to be perfect is to have changed often.” Newman was buried at his request in the same grave as his beloved friend Fr Ambrose St John but as he approached sainthood in 2008 the Vatican ordered Newman’s body to be re-interred separately. It was found that Newman’s remains had completely decomposed – a final, posthumous act of sublimation?

Trans Christian:

What the road to Emmaus can say to LGBT Christians:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yadyn1mHNQ0&fbclid=IwAR2qL3H1-ijorUTNq2t8ALqzYaY82_bHKd94c8-qCJKFUpR-Ev-VYGzaEVM

What does the Bible teach about trans people?:

https://www.thedailybeast.com/what-does-the-bible-teach-about-transgender-people?fbclid=IwAR3lsSbjAccIQAPAOpBLFXnv8U_6nA94DwitXyffqfzBpKy8Luvfm0zqbQ

Some interesting thoughts on the authority of the Bible:

<https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/public/false-witness-untruths-bible/?fbclid=IwAR0xsTG1gNqXyIBJ9IIfB7F8hCwhJBTj3D1Ht-x0ABDuX-iA7oBopG0cBFM>

Attempted exorcism of lesbian woman:

https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/jul/26/i-tried-to-exorcise-my-sexuality-experience?fbclid=IwAR3K7Y7A3_Wv8KKG1TvKQgFa6lWjvU30wnN37HK5sUZ0vAZly_3OVQKJTHg

Jo Inkpin is flourishing with a trans-ing God (excellent podcast):

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/rev-jo-inkpin-is-flourishing-with-a-trans-ing-god/id1450661574?i=1000445177967&fbclid=IwAR0Ly9fq8ueir7wo14nIDarwao9ZtK1nYs7ByfcL7lof4NCLo6TbJF8oNE>

Video of lecture given by Tina Beardsley: from affirmation to celebration:

<https://gatheringvoices.info/videos/?fbclid=IwAR2OWSYy8dGrLG9jCys5sAS8tIULFYDSGm7RvPnxPPkSWMYPPNbeys-hnuA>

The Transfiguration – significance for LGBTQ people:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2019/08/06/the-feast-of-the-transfiguration-through-a-catholic-lgbtq-lens/>

Saint Marinos – A patron saint for trans people:

<http://qspirit.net/marinos-marina-monk-transgender/?fbclid=IwAR0LtKQfDL-P3VWSKQs25LmN-cTxHTx0C50CzL-MsJGVtiD3zalazjG2zZE>

Listen to trans woman Rev Sarah Jones talk about her life plus a splendid mother of a trans boy:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0008798?fbclid=IwAR0smWFWCdCtLT1FUj7DCJcm79A0rM_WfQSlqUNLqloclaSkAS5bdVVjgA

Trans pastor of US Baptist church:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/09/18/baptist-church-ohio-first-transgender-pastor/>

Queer Theology:

[How Do You Reconcile Your Trans Identity With Your Religion?](#)

Mama bears – churches mustn't mess with our LGBT kids:

<https://medium.com/solus-jesus/they-call-themselves-mama-bears-churches-that-mess-with-their-lgbtq-kids-should-listen-up-7d7a86ae521d>

Trans theology research: Alex seeks help:

Do you identify as trans or gender-nonconforming and Christian? Would you like to share your understandings of God and humanity with others? If the answer to these questions is 'Yes!', you might like to participate in my research into the theologies of trans/gender-nonconforming Christians. As a trans minister, I am keen to explore your understandings and enable others to benefit from them. If you would like more information, please comment on this post or email me on axc1105@student.bham.ac.uk. If you know anyone else who may be interested in participating, please do share this post with them.

Trans sport - Debbie in Times on trans people in sport (never let it be said that Debbie shies away from controversy):

“Trans women are women” is more than a slogan, it’s a demand for compliance. But it’s also vacuous rhetoric that has led us away from truth and into a land of make-believe.

With a sense of entitlement rather than empathy, transgender campaigners have demanded access to status, scholarships and bursaries in sport and politics that were previously reserved for women. By carrot and stick — appealing to their good nature while denouncing dissenters as bigots — women have come under pressure to accept trans women like me not as allies but as actual women. Objections based on biology are dismissed as unkind in a world where feelings take precedence over facts.

However, inconvenient truth is still truth and in sport, biology matters when segregating the sexes. Whatever female hormones trans women might take, we are still on average taller, faster and stronger than women. We keep our larger hearts and male muscles, and we do not lose bone density. Last month The Times reported the case of Maxine Blythin, a transgender

cricketer who averages 15 runs when facing male bowlers and 123 runs when facing women. Blythin is targeting one of the 11 places in the England women's team. Good for her; not so good for the woman she displaces.

In other disciplines the inclusion of trans women is not only unfair, it's unsafe. The Welsh Rugby Union allows a trans woman, Kelly Morgan, to play women's rugby if her testosterone is suppressed below a certain level. Lots of men have similar hormone levels, such as those being treated for cancer, but nobody is suggesting they play women's rugby.

Research backs up my own experience: we trans women maintain a competitive advantage over women when we transition, despite hormone treatment. Jessica Minty-Madley, Morgan's team captain, recalled the time Morgan folded an opponent "like a deckchair". Morgan sees the problem and asks the right question: "I feel guilty but what can you do? I don't go out to hurt anybody, I just want to play rugby."

The answer to this problem is staring us in the face. We trans women should compete against, and alongside, men in open competition. We can campaign for separate facilities to protect our dignity — and distinct record-keeping that recognises our success — but let's leave female sport to female people. We owe it to our daughters."

IOC struggling with this issue:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2019/sep/24/ioc-delays-new-transgender-guidelines-2020-olympics>

But are trans women biologically male? Are you sure?:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWVRzGMVXbM&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1RCwYdu68K0iN5klhDb7p57ZMS-0N1VyjzrxCXTtEyRgRuOlcQs4-G37Q>

Trans cricket down under:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/08/09/australian-prime-minister-attacks-transgender-inclusion-policy/>

Trans Nigerian footballer:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-africa-49851991/james-johnson-my-struggles-as-an-intersex-footballer>

Trans politics

Trans Jeremy: JC speaks out in support of trans people:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/05/jeremy-corbyn-horrible-anti-trans-campaign-op-ed/?fbclid=IwAR1OZM_7gu-ip5jgsBlel1LQkgwMpwIyVi3XZCSb-zeGspfPV1_CaxNN1r0

Scottish trans councillor says SNP is transphobic:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/08/13/scotlands-transgender-politician-gregor-murray-isolating/>

Scottish Green Leader threatened with being outed as trans:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/08/07/scottish-greens-co-leader-threatened-with-being-outed-as-trans/>

.....and she wants to get more non-binary people into politics:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/08/02/scottish-greens-campaign-more-non-binary-people-politics/>

Brexit Party candidate wants to be first trans MP:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/08/06/transgender-mp-brexit-party-candidate/>

Boris Johnson appoints Andrew Gilligan (anti-trans Sunday Times journalist) as adviser:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/31/boris-johnson-appoints-anti-trans-rights-journalist-as-downing-street-advisor/>

No trans MPs yet but another trans person is trying (for the Brexit party):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/09/05/the-brexit-party-just-revealed-its-second-transgender-candidate-for-the-next-general-election/>

Queer AF vs WPUK at Labour Party conference:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/09/24/trans-activists-chant-drown-out-transphobic-meeting/>

Rainbow wave of trans US politicians:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-49336529>

Trans law

Majority support self-identification of trans people:

https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/transgender-people-lgbt-self-identifying-protest-pink-news-schools-children-a8986506.html?fbclid=IwAR1Ykr98xpl6dIS6IKL-YouGjIBPGQar42S_ggSb4zZP5poXfgOsfqSYI8Y

Govt response to GRA reform later this year:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/04/government-response-gender-recognition-later-this-year/>

Labour mayors urge Govt to hurry up with GRA reforms:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/18/gender-recognition-act-reform-sadiq-khan/>

Equality Act failing:

https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/equality-act-role-of-ehrc-report-published-17-19/?fbclid=IwAR0ssMbo2wADNte3p_174Z8eX_sFD-N0pXvgStu8sV2hoGXUugoUrESB_O4

LGBT groups and celebrities call for gender law reform:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49145408>

Sea Horse dad Freddie loses in court (but will appeal):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49828705>

Trans health

Scottish Parliament to hold inquiry into trans health care:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/06/scottish-parliament-launches-inquiry-transgender-healthcare/>

Welsh gender service to start:

<https://gov.wales/new-welsh-gender-service-announced?fbclid=IwAR0RsCBbgkniuVI0E4tH5XrzurjkUGOVYulB8QCdyo9Y52o714Fmw9dheQ>

Christian doctor won't use your correct pronoun:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-48924966?fbclid=IwAR2RsLQWci41QIdG-bB4y6VokN488QMZ6PDV1ducYvSfqGtYLxskk046DgU>

Puberty blockers study under investigation:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-49036145>

Enbees now make up 11% of referrals to Gids:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/19/non-binary-patients-london-gender-clinic-increasing/>

UK children's gender identity services most cautious in the world:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/18/uk-gender-identity-services-trans-kids-cautious-painstaking/>

Shortages of HRT:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/08/29/hormone-replacement-therapy-shortages-devastating-trans-women/>

Trans pride

Trans inclusive lesbians lead London Pride march:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/06/trans-inclusive-lesbians-lead-pride-london-march-anti-trans-protest/?fbclid=IwAR0W9-dUweKp4m0Q2dOAMTAhPasmw2OzT9W4vJJg_5DKrH7CUsW_6YW4GAM

https://www.dazeddigital.com/life-culture/article/45177/1/lesbians-cis-women-trans-rights-london-pride?fbclid=IwAR3R8AKIq8BgWcv1eyi-wnzXd_otQG3V5yD-ayrpbA69TKj_3SnlyO29lxc

Trans Pride in London:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-49447918>

...and in Bristol:

Elaine Sommers interviewed on radio about Bristol Pride (skip to 2hrs 45 mins):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p07d3td7?fbclid=IwAR3K9XhRRAZFy6ieUaOS->

[TpoaGJUwpRRBdfmJy1q7pQsnzPJy6OiW_xpnHs](#)

Trans death:

Misogynoir – describes the experience of black trans women:

https://www.vox.com/first-person/2019/6/18/18679295/black-trans-women-murder-violence?fbclid=IwAR0I7DKRTCePxjVJxM1QAHrFo-oo99LNtG5YtqednefluFL_PWX88orSzCo

Black trans women in US (life expectancy 35 years):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/09/22/black-trans-woman-murdered-travel-fund-devin-lowel/>

Trans Pakistan: father arrested for murder of trans daughter:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/01/protests-pakistan-father-murder-transgender-daughter/>

Trans conversion therapy (trigger warning):

Nearly 200,000 trans Americans have experienced conversion therapy:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/08/17/transgender-people-undergone-conversion-therapy-us/>

Carolyn's story: trans conversion therapy survivor (read and weep):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-49344152>

Horror of trans conversion therapy:

<https://www.out.com/transgender/2019/9/11/study-conversion-therapy-danger-trans-lives?fbclid=IwAR2ZGXn2g-X8DsuNepUxJP7rEh8qZfG2SeXA15roMN0QLN90jn2aCCaSrME>

Trans media

Vicky Beeching calls for more LGBTQ people of faith on TV:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/08/12/activists-beeching-lgbt-eastenders-tv/?fbclid=IwAR1qEyJv8AEuNyRBqqWleKW9T2XK0EmkEL8EHYC7vIBXY8Ygy91oAG_VwqM

Seahorse – film about a trans dad:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/22/seahorse-review-documentary-dad-giving-birth-trans-family/>

Seahorse dad Freddie McConnell's "super power":

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/09/10/freddy-mcconnell-trans-man-seahorse-bbc-the-guardian/>

Anti-trans Australian newspaper:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/08/12/australian-newspaper-condemned-introducing-anti->

[trans-section/](#)

Trans phobic Guardian:

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/patrickstrudwick/two-transgender-employees-quit-guardian-transphobia?ref=hpsplash&fbclid=IwAR3SfvMWcTtc0ODyGBpJPVGBpWDvh6Mbo3dsAZTqKYHPCRgEJeX9MJcCJI0>

...but a trans sports journalist writes for the Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/aug/16/im-nicky-bandini-and-im-still-a-sports-writer>

Trans Neighbour:

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/aug/30/neighbours-first-trans-character-might-not-change-the-world-but-she-could-change-lives>

Trans life

Non-binary trans woman:

https://everydayfeminism.com/2017/01/man-or-woman-and-still-non-binary/?fbclid=IwAR3r_1QWK7AuOoUKWhPRgr1GBwrjpboltd06_9kiYm9ebhId5DgsPqGEsHI

How to come out as trans at work:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/07/20/how-to-come-out-as-transgender-at-work/>

What it's like when you don't look trans:

https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/vb99dm/transgender-women-explain-what-its-like-when-they-dont-look-trans

Trans woman in battle with bank which says she sounds like a man:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/08/01/trans-woman-battle-bank-she-sounds-like-man/>

Murray Hall – early trans pioneer:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-49291971>

Older trans Welsh:

<http://trans-ageing.swan.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Trans-ageing-and-care-research-briefing.pdf>

Trans pickle:

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