



SIBYLS LOGO - ROBYN GOLDEN - HANV 28 MAY 2018

Confinement, enforced stability and simplicity, confront us with our capacity to be simply content with what we have. Many political prisoners like Gandhi, Solzhenitsyn and Mandela attest to this. Monastic life builds degrees of solitude into its programme of spiritual development. Spirituality – however one defines it – begins with the often lonely work of accepting what is. Denial, resistance, rage or violence do not change reality to match our preferences. Eventually reality wins. It teaches us and we have to obey what is. Only then can we do good work for others. Until then, our efforts to change things are largely projections of fantasy. And so, at this basic level of accepting life itself as a spiritual journey, the crisis has been an awakening for many. Confinement and loss have been a deeper call to acceptance, self-knowledge and a spirit of service. *Laurence Freeman OSB*

Newsletter 92 – Summer 2020

Dear Sibyls

I hope that you have stayed safe and well during these months of pandemic. For those who have lost loved ones, on behalf of the Sibyls I extend our deepest commiseration and our prayers.

As I write we are slowly emerging from lockdown into an uncertain future. We must all hope that some of the positive features of lockdown, the kindness people have shown to each other, the sense of social solidarity, the way many have welcomed a simpler, slower sort of life, a re-discovery of what is truly important in life, may persist and that we don't just revert to a way of living that was becoming ever more harmful and unsustainable. But of course for many lockdown has also been a huge challenge. For most people isolation is highly unnatural and a serious threat to

mental health. For some trans people, gender dysphoria might be triggered or intensified, treatments harder to access and waiting lists at gender identity clinics already cruelly long likely to be extended into an ever more remote future. With churches closed, spiritual support and community has shifted into online forms, for better or worse. Those without online access will have felt their isolation more keenly than ever. For those able to go online, new sorts of community have formed (see Diana's account below of how her Cambridge parish has adapted). We Sibyls had our first zoom service on 11 June with 24 participants and have committed to repeating this for the next 3 months at least. We shall also be holding regular social meetings by zoom – see below for details. Zoom has become an important part of many people's lives and has the potential to be a very useful tool for the Sibyls who, thinly scattered apart from in London and the South East, may find difficulty meeting each other in person.

As if the pandemic weren't bad enough, the Government appears to have signalled an intention not to proceed with reform of the Gender Recognition Act and has needlessly and rather shockingly allowed rumours to spread about measures that could make the lives of trans people actually worse. But let's see what they come up with. It has been encouraging to see the support we have been getting from many quarters including what seems to be the vast majority of ciswomen who see no conflict between their rights and those of trans women.

As usual, let me remind you that any views expressed in this newsletter (including my own!) are those of the individuals concerned and not of the Sibyls as a whole. There may be links to external material that people will disagree with or even find offensive. They are there so that members can be fully informed across the whole range of trans issues.

And it's always great to get feedback – what you like or don't like about the newsletter – and, best of all – your own contributions! I have included a poem of my own about the lockdown experience – I'm sure you can do better! But it doesn't have to be a poem: do feel free to share with other Sibyls your experience of living in lockdown, how it might have changed you, your hopes for the future.

Currently we are still hoping that the Purley Chase weekend in September will go ahead (see below) and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Last year's event there was highly enjoyable. Otherwise I hope that by the time of the next newsletter lockdown restrictions will have greatly eased and life, if not back to "normal", will be safer and better for everyone.

With best wishes and prayers for all my fellow Sibyls and their families.

Pauline

M 07581553357

pauline.fleck@btinternet.com

Contents

Introduction to Sibyls, website and Facebook – P 4
Chair's message – <i>Yvonne</i> – P 5
Sibyls events by zoom – P 6-7
Sibyls weekend at Purley Chase – P 8-11
Metropolitan Church in Manchester and North West (by zoom) – P 12
Unique and Transform zooms – P 12-13
Conference of European LGBT Christian Groups <i>Elaine</i> – P 14-15
Life in a Cambridge parish <i>Rev. Diana</i> – P 15-17
Lockdown Blues <i>Pauline</i> – P 17-18
Lockdown reflection <i>Pauline</i> P 19
News from Sibyls committee <i>Pauline</i> – P 19
Trans faith P 20-21
Trans corona P 22-23
Trans health P 23
Trans politics and law P 23-25
Trans world P 25-27
Trans life P 28-30
Trans research P 30
Trans books P 30-33

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.

Chair's message from *Yvonne*

Glorious solidarity

Nothing I say about trans applies to all of us. It is easy to generalize, but some of us will be left out. Trans is a term of convenience for other people to refer to us – many of us do not personally relate to the term ('I'm just me'). But we accept Trans as an umbrella for our diverse community, and in our campaigning work. However, under the umbrella, some of us are less noticeable. The umbrella is currently dominated by the transman and transwoman; while third gender, bi-gender, non-binary, intersex, non-transitioned transsexuals, closeted people are less visible or invisible. This is partly because of intense current rights issues, and partly because media and people-in-the-pub can only cope with binary 'this or that' understanding.

But of course, this is to misunderstand completely what being under the umbrella means, being in this special community. In the quiet, in our own space, in prayer, we do not define ourselves by a category or hierarchy; we all share a personal experience of difficulty and resolution – to be complete in our own way. We each go through our unease, realisation, decisions; talk painfully with family; do what we do, to attain equilibrium, maturity, rightness. We grow, we love ourselves better. This peace enables us to give. The friendships we have, however few, are the friendships we want, without pretence and bluster. We join the community of the ordinary. The T does not just stand for trans, it stands for truth. And we uphold each other.

Inglorious confusion

We have all heard about the brief comments made by the Women and Equalities minister Liz Truss about the GRA, and about the leak reported by the Sunday Times, and the Mermaids and Trusstme campaigns to write to MPs. Did any of you respond to the government's GRA consultation in 2018? Well done, it was 36 pages long. It was not a yes/no poll. I don't know where '70% in favour' comes from. We all know that campaign groups sent thousands of standard letters; they are easily counted and put to one side – believe me, I have worked on planning consultations!

I would strongly recommend you read the 36 pages again – it is very, very clear about all the issues, including what the government was not considering, or leaving to do later. If the government is scrapping the consultation, it may be because it is too complex and there are no civil servants available.

We all want to keep our MPs alert to this. I have written to my MP simply asking for a copy of the report on the 2018 consultation. I feel this may be more effective than joining the scramble to object to what we don't know for sure – the kind of chaos Prime Minister Cummings wants, to muddy and obfuscate issues.

Sibyls' Events

At the time of writing we are still hoping it will be possible to hold the residential weekend at Purley Chase retreat centre (see below) but we cannot confirm until nearer the time. It has not been possible to hold the usual London meetings or other regional meetings. However, on 11 June, we held our first on-line (zoom) service in which 24 people participated. Zoom has been a valuable way of staying connected for many people during lockdown and the Sibyls' committee feels that we should continue to hold zoomed services (to which all members, friends and supporters are invited) each month, together with informal social meetings every two weeks for members only, perhaps even after lockdown making this a permanent feature of Sibyls' life - apart from the cluster of members in London and the South East we are thinly scattered, so becoming "virtual" may be making a virtue of necessity.

The dates of the services and social meetings will be published on the website, at:

<http://sibyls.gndr.org.uk/online/index5.htm?fbclid=IwAR3Z1j4D2W27i8qBUTjaYa4vrBYKDZdH9PaiousckWSouUzM7z7d0TKo1KVo>

Sibyls Online Meetings

Drinks and chat on Zoom at the Sibyls Bistro
(bring your own drinks and refreshments)

Sibyls Services and Meetings

NEXT EVENING SERVICE AND COFFEE ON ZOOM

Join us for a Taize style service with music led by the Revd. Diana Johnson from Cambridge on zoom followed by a chat and (virtual) coffee afterwards on

TUESDAY 14th JULY at 18:00

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL TRANS PEOPLE, FRIENDS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SIBYLS TO COME

Look out for your zoom invite by email.

SIBYLS EVENING SERVICES AND MEETINGS ON ZOOM

14 July 2020

13 August 2020

16 September 2020

All at 18:00

SIBYLS INFORMAL MEETINGS ON ZOOM

1 July 2020

28 July 2020

3 September 2020

All at 19:00

Check the website for more details.

Please keep an eye on this as dates/timings may change. Of course not all Sibyls have access to the internet and those without may well feel especially isolated. We are mindful of the needs of such members who are encouraged to use the Listening Service if they need a chat. They are very welcome to call:

Jenny-Anne – **01745 337144 & 07500 74195**

Yvonne – **01279 833499 or 07595 087207**

Pauline - **07581 553357**

WEEKEND AT THE PURLEY CHASE CENTRE, The Midlands, CV9 2RQ
www.purleychasecentre.org.uk/

25-27 SEPTEMBER 2020

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE WEEKEND
AT PRESENT WE ARE HOPING THAT THIS EVENT WILL STILL GO AHEAD
SEE THE LAST PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR BOOKING INFORMATION

FRIDAY

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

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:(YW)

10 p.m. Compline (DH)

SATURDAY

8 a.m. Breakfast

9.30 a.m. Rev. Alex-Clare-Young (chair YW)

Revd. Alex Clare-Young is a minister of the United Reformed Church and a member of the Iona Community. Alex is passionate about people and uses their experience as a transmasculine person to advocate for trans and non-conforming people and to help communities to process change. Alex is currently undertaking doctoral research exploring theology with trans/non-conforming people. He is currently involved in the Church of England Living in Love and Faith process

Reconciliation within the Churches

This session may focus on how the churches include trans people, not specifically in the context of the Church of England and its Living in Love and Faith Process, but with all denominations in mind.

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

11.30 a.m. Rev. Alex-Clare-Young: (chair YW)

Reconciliation with the World

How do we share this reconciliation with the world? Personal and local stories could be shared

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. Dancing etc

10 p.m. Compline (SG)

SUNDAY

8 a.m. Breakfast

9.30 a.m. Sibyls Together (chair YW)

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

11.30 a.m. Service with Holy Communion in the Chapel led by Rev. Diana Johnson

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.

If you wish to register your interest please complete the form below and email it to sibylslink@gmail.com or send it to

**Dr S. Gilchrist
8 Greenways Drive
Maidenhead
Berks
SL6 5DU**

AS THE PURLEY CHASE CENTRE IS PRESENTLY CLOSED WE ARE UNABLE TO PROCESS ANY BOOKINGS.

AS WE UNDERSTAND IT THE CENTRE IS DUE TO OPEN ON THE FIRST OF SEPTEMBER AND ALL BEING WELL, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE BOOKINGS FROM THAT TIME. IN THE MEAN-TIME WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT CONFIRM PRICES.

THE PRICES FOR LAST YEAR ARE SHOWN AS A GUIDE PRICE ONLY. WE WILL CONTACT YOU RE PRICES AND PAYMENT ONCE WE KNOW IF THE WEEKEND IS/IS NOT GOING AHEAD

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 **Guide Price from last year. Do not send any payment** £125 full-board per person

Adapted facilities with wet room **Guide Price from last year. Do not send any payment:** £125 full board per person

Name of other occupant in room or willing to share with

_____.

Standard dormitory accommodation with shared bathroom **Guide Price from last year. Do not send any payment:** £105; full board per person

(There are 3 double rooms and 2 adapted room with wet

Not needed – staying off site-Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner **Guide Price from last year. Do not send any payment:** £38 per person,

Lunch & Dinner . **Guide Price from last year. Do not send any payment:** £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? _____

Invitation from Jenny-Anne Bishop OBE

The Metropolitan URC LGBT Congregation is active during lockdown:

<https://metropolitanchurch.org.uk/community/trans-people>

We continue to run a weekly Sunday service at 4.30pm but now by Zoom with some online involvement for everyone.

To Join the weekly Zoom Service; please Check for the Zoom link on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/MetropolitanChurch> ,

our Twitter feed on a Sunday Morning

https://twitter.com/Metro_Church

or please subscribe to our weekly Newsletter here:

<https://metropolitanchurch.org.uk/community/subscribe-to-news-by-email>

We also have a URC Daily Devotional here:

<https://us13.campaign-archive.com/?u=8958e2851d933a7a389a9f51c&id=99fe4caf1c>

We are running our Support groups every Thursday Evening and Saturday afternoon rather than once a month as follows:

Announcement from the Unique North Wales and TransForum Manchester Transgender social and support Groups

During these testing times, physical distancing does not have to mean total social isolation. **Unique** and **TransForum** are working with our associated trans support groups in North Wales, Manchester, Crewe and Cardiff to facilitate a number of on-line meetings using Facebook Messenger and Zoom.

Please join us to socialise and to raise any trans issues you might have. As we are on Zoom you are most welcome to join us from all over the UK (and beyond)

Currently **Unique** is hosting a meeting every Thursday evening from 8.00 pm till approx 10 pm, and **TransForum** hosts one each Saturday afternoon from 3.30 pm to approx 7.00 pm.

Unique Zooms Thursdays 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm

If you would like to join the Unique Zoom meeting just click on the link below to be admitted (you may be asked to download the Zoom app onto your computer or phone if you do not already have it):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77583683876?pwd=TW9sc2ZRZ0Y2ZEdOazJjenhNWGs4Zz09>

If you log in from your own Zoom Account:

Meeting ID: 775 8368 3876

Password: 130237

TransForum Zooms Saturdays 3.30pm to 6.00pm

To join the TransForum Zoom meeting on Saturday afternoons from 3.30pm just click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87067354753?pwd=SnVZSElud1ZUUmM4ejJQbDIRemNEUT09>

If you log in from your own Zoom Account:

Meeting ID: 870 6735 4753

Password: 704566

Usually our friend Andrew who is a Trans Man co-hosts the Saturday meeting with me.

Any difficulty please contact Jenny-Anne at jennyannebuk@btinternet.com or 07500-741955

Annual Conference of European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups Budapest 2020 – now online October 9 - 11

Like many events this year, the annual conference had to be cancelled because of the pandemic, and a postponement until October was considered, but then abandoned. In its place there will be an online conference, organised by the Hungarian planning team, and this will take place on the weekend October 9 – 11.

The likely timetable will be:

Oct 9	Friday evening	Opening ceremony
Oct 10	Saturday morning	MozaiK presentation (the hosting group)
Oct 10	Saturday afternoon	Workshops (several running concurrently)
Oct 11	Sunday morning	Worship service and Closing ceremony

The Forum website lgbtchristians.eu has not been updated with the online conference as yet, but you can check for conference information nearer the time. You will need to register for the conference in order to receive the joining links.

I encourage you to come to this conference and should point out that for the first time ever there is no fee for attending (possibly a small admin charge) and no travelling expenses! It would be good if many Sibyls members took this opportunity to attend, as it will give you an insight into the work of the Forum and the variety of other member groups we have from all over Europe – in fact it would be a good taster for next year's conference in the Netherlands!

Trans* Pre-Conference October 2 - 4

In addition to the main conference weekend, we plan to have a trans* pre-conference on the preceding weekend, October 2 – 4. This will consist of two or three sessions, with speakers and content to be decided. The trans*pre-conferences are a great way to meet people from many countries, share their stories and experiences and build friendships. You can attend this event even if you don't wish to attend the main conference.

Forum AGM 2020

Rather than occupy time during the main conference with a fairly long AGM, this is being held separately in two sessions. The first part has already taken place on 20th June, during which voting for new board members took place. Pauline and myself attended and represented the Sibyls in the voting, having discussed our voting intentions with the committee. It was good to note that the new board member for Central and Eastern Europe is Mark Kandolsky from Russia, who identifies as trans*. It means that the Board has had a trans* member for the seventh consecutive year (preceded by Shanon Ferguson and myself). Mark was very happy that one of his two sponsoring groups was the Sibyls, the only specifically trans* member group in the Forum. I have now stood down as Co-President, after four years on the Board. I

have enjoyed my time of service, but am also happy to be handing over to a very capable group, old and new.

The second part of the AGM will take place on Saturday September 5th. You are welcome to attend but, as with most such gatherings, they can be tedious!

Please pray for:

- the work of the Forum throughout Europe
- the six members of the Board, old and new
- a successful conference, in spite of the limitations imposed by Covid-19
- new funding grants becoming available
- Bishop Szymon from Poland, who continues to have a criminal charge hanging over him and his colleagues for holding a service for Pride last year
- Increased involvement of trans* people in the Forum membership

Elaine Sommers

Rev. Diana Jones ministering to her flock:



Life in a parish, in lockdown, was very different to what we had experienced before, as you may well imagine – or even have experienced yourselves. After all, we have

all been through it and if you are reading this, you have come out of the other side. For that, we thank God. I thank God, too, that we lost none of our congregation. It's a typical Church of England parish on the edge of Cambridge. Trumpington is growing like anything and is set to have a population of 26,000 by 2026 (a neat set of numbers). Even now, at 17,500 it is one of the biggest parishes around here. I am coming to the end of my curacy and so I'll be looking for a new job before the end of this year.

Someone not at all linked to the Sibyls recently asked me to tell them about the difficulties I had experienced during lockdown – the assumption was that being transgender brought with it extra difficulties. I had to say that I experienced few difficulties myself, perhaps because I live in a supportive community and Cambridge is a tolerant sort of place. I have, though, encountered friends in the LGBTQI(+) community and elsewhere who are lonely during lockdown and for some I may have been a support.

One issue, familiar to many transwomen, is that using the telephone, and by extension video calling, is rather a 'gold standard' test: it is common for people to call me 'sir' on the phone, whereas I seldom get that with personal interactions. Lockdown has exacerbated that issue and it is hard to avoid it becoming something over which to be defensive. Quite honestly, if that is the limit of the problem, it is pretty trivial, though I am wondering how a job interview, if I am shortlisted, will go. Face-to-face and personal is so much easier.

I've been able to maintain contact with friends and local LGBTQI(+) community. I've travelled the world on Zoom: USA, Germany, Crete and Tasmania. We have a fantastic congregation at one of the local churches - not my own - which is just for LGBTQI(+) people and they have been amazingly active in finding on-line ways to interact.

The lockdown affected how the parish team (the Vicar, two Churchwardens and me) coped with the crisis. I was tipped in at the deep end with this, as we all had to learn - very quickly - just how to maintain our community and meet all the needs of people who were locked down and in many cases shielding. We had to take early decisions on hardware, copyright and streaming licences, what social media to use and who was going to do what. As you can see from the photo, by Easter morning we were well settled into streaming our services. Being a trans woman did not stop me celebrating (fronting up) the early Communion service.

Being involved and privileged with a leading role meant that I felt part of the team. My gender was not commented upon at any stage, at least not to me or the team, even when we had people joining us from other countries such as India and Canada.

And the future? Well, there are things we have learned in lockdown that I think we shall carry on to the months and years ahead. Practical stuff, like Zoom groups which work for older people and will be a much better offering for bible study groups in the cold, dark days of winter. And streaming services even after we are back in church: we are installing a proper broadband cable to the medieval building so that people who are sick, immobile or still shielding can access our services. The thing we have gained most, though, is a deepening of commitment and strengthening of

the ties that bind our congregation. We've shared so much online and, whisper it quietly, with Zoom you get a name label, so we know more of one another than we did at the start. Praise God.

Diana

[Editor's note: when plague caused the theatres to close, Shakespeare turned his hand from plays to writing poems, some of them amongst the greatest in our language. Thus inspired, your editor thought she'd have a go. I'm afraid Shakespeare it ain't....]

Lockdown Blues

The pubs are shut, the churches too
We're stuck at home, what shall we do?
I've been down on my hands and knees
Scrubbing nooks that no one sees
The sink is shining, so's the loo,

I've cleaned and cleared in every room,
Each speck of dust has met its doom
I've painted, gardened and repaired
No task undone, no labour spared
Until it's time to skype or zoom

With people that one hardly knows
The camera pointing up one's nose
A background that you must inspect
Arranged with care for best effect
Your eyelids droop, you start to doze

You mute the mic, you make the tea
As talk becomes desultory
You start to think, when will this end
When can I leave and not offend
So say on chat you need to pee

With much relief you slink away
Perhaps to read, perhaps to pray
You settle down into your chair
The place it must be said that's where
You now spend nearly all the day

You know there's no excuse to laze
All through these endless lockdown days
Now's your chance, it needs but will,
To write a book, to learn a skill,
Improve yourself in many ways

Go running, cycling, lose some weight
But still I see you hesitate
Your mind has slowed, it's gone inert
And running causes knees to hurt
Best just to sit and meditate

On what to do when lockdown ends
When once more you can see your friends
Go back to church, catch up on prayer
All your lockdown tales to share
For months of absence make amends

Did we do stuff to inspire us
Or just for friends to admire us
For what we did inside our home
For what we wrote, e.g. this poem
The gifts that came from the virus

We ask ourselves what have we missed
Hoping it is the Eucharist
But lockdown showed us that we can
Have mass streamed from the Vatican
We might as well just still desist

And virtually participate
Spiritually communicate
Do all our worshipping on-line
Imagining the bread and wine:
Is this the Church's future fate?

I really hope it won't be so
And back to church we all will go
And once more to ourselves be strict
After the viral interdict
And ask that mercy God will show

Pour out on us Her love and grace
Revealed in each and every face
We all must searchingly review
The way we live, all that we do
In one united human race

So when at last from plague we're free
We may be given grace to see
The reckless way we all lived then
Must not be how we live again
We must be one humanity

Susan Gilchrist has written reflections and poems relevant in the time of the pandemic:

<http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/247P-PandemicThoughts.pdf>

Another reflection from your editor

It's good news that some churches at least re-opened for private prayer from 15 June and perhaps for public worship later in July. For Catholics and Anglo-Catholics this might be particularly important. For all of us though we have had to adjust to the reality of streamed liturgies and remote on-line gatherings. I have found it quite difficult to feel I am truly participating in a streamed mass. This sense of detachment, almost of exclusion, is reinforced for me by the sight of a male priest celebrating mass alone. Though not of course his fault, this seems to underline the culture of clericalism, of a priesthood set apart from and above the people, that has caused so much harm. It also brings into focus the complete absence of women. Before lockdown, though you could not see a woman celebrating mass in a Catholic church, at least women were present, as readers, intercessors and as Eucharistic ministers and of course as the majority of the congregation. Pope Francis, sadly, has done little to advance the cause of women (let alone trans women!) in the church. I fear that the sense of exclusion many women feel can only have been increased by lockdown. More positively, the availability of mass and other services streamed from all over the world does provide a sense of a world-wide worshipping community.

News from your committee

The Sibyls committee has continued to be active during lockdown. We held a zoom meeting on 17 June. For some time we have been aware of the need to re-structure and re-populate the Sibyls' website and to change the hosting – Susan Gilchrist, the website manager, currently personally hosts the website. She has done fantastic work on keeping the website going as an important resource for members. The grant we have received from the Jim Cotter Trust enables us to have the website redesigned by a designer and make it more user-friendly, colourful, informative and up-to-date. We are currently obtaining quotes for this work.

We are also developing other publicity materials to make the Sibyls more widely known including leaflets which we shall send to churches and retreat centres around the country. The best form of publicity of course is word of mouth and personal recommendation so do please help to spread the word about Sibyls by any means available to you.

Trans faith

Rev. Alex Clare-Young stars on Songs of Praise:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hk9n>

...and comments on their appearance and some disagreements with what they said:

<https://transgenderchristianhuman.com/2020/05/03/disagreement/?fbclid=IwAR0LYcGaqZaRjnPE-ZaBoSjoHIV1pZ9BpHXQk3kKWA9mGMEFzmcOb2YflvE>

Alex's trans memes:

https://transgenderchristianhuman.com/2020/05/13/churches-must-take-responsibility/?fbclid=IwAR0TBS949d_ukF66O9IPfD5z7I7BsKhWYTxCqXX7m1p9OiidTr5hFowaSc

Living in Love and Faith report postponed:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/living-love-and-faith-update-light-covid-19-pandemic?fbclid=IwAR0yrqW35OQonnzZXEhWg3abtqi90xbZ0wml9CKidjXpRIZyVwWnUTiC9zo>

Living in Love and Faith teaching resources to be published in November:

https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/house-bishops-living-love-and-faith?fbclid=IwAR2cctPaMjS6M1oFmTkTc58Cz2jGmRmMxF_hkhtST9MPZB36xF-LUCnMHBA

Wonderful words from a Canadian Baptist minister who came out as trans:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/25/transgender-pastor-baptist-coming-out-sermon-church-lorne-park-mississauga-junia-joplin/>

Trans people and resurrection (Jo Inkpin):

https://www.transspirit.org/blog/glimpsing-resurrection-between?fbclid=IwAR2skBdycPt4w_sTf-sN7VK36JKT-yvxBFSR4epnRrnLmGfqmh2vgVhPIo0

My body, broken for you:

<https://www.queertheology.com/my-body-broken-for-you/>

Agape meal – liturgy for use during the crisis:

http://tgdr.co.uk/documents/Su90606a%20Sibyls%20Agape%20Service.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0ek8ZRlib_XjB94tRjdMlqIYSteJRic_muvrQ5bcOUa18gXxKW6GmTrqE

A Queer Theology look at how we make God in our own image:

<https://www.queertheology.com/all-theology-is-contextual/>

Bishop Paul Bayes' hopes for the post-Covid world:

https://viamedia.news/2020/04/24/we-cant-go-back-remember-these-are-early-days/?fbclid=IwAR1duCRxzZXkLXa-2mA5nO6MFMSjGrLPhh_RIQL-PZkl7DK4LHCPWDFsWN4

Extraordinary story of Abby Stein who grew up in an ultra orthodox Hasidic community before she transitioned. She had a small part in the brilliant Netflix drama Unorthodox:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-51928077>

A novelist imagines an Irish, intersex – and pregnant – pope:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/04/25/new-book-features-pope-who-is-intersex-and-pregnant/>

Transmission Ministry Collective – a new American on-line group for trans and gender expansive Christians:

<https://www.transmissionministry.com/>

A mother's theological journey with her transgender son: **Youtube**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=412&v=KvsMh3q8V1U&feature=emb_title&fbclid=IwAR32jogNaWiDrc76WJJW8rjhH6y-V7pJ0yc6GkG2goVk-TrAAoeulW6slP8

Chrissie Chevasutt shares her extraordinary story of suffering and redemption as a trans woman on Radio Sheffield (starts at about 34 mins): **BBC Sounds**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p089k8lq?fbclid=IwAR3imNxSnITtVzohaCFP5mFTOJRbxVMQgztJrf4C62Hg6Ejt8pjQNGUE4C8>

Pope Francis sends Cardinal Almoner to help trans community (emphasizing once again the gap between praxis and theory in his papacy):

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/04/30/pope-francis-sends-almoner-to-help-transgender-community-affected-by-covid-19/>

Madre Juana de la Cruz – queer/trans abbess and potential LGBT saint:

<http://qspirit.net/madre-juana-de-la-cruz-queer-saint/>

Anniversary of *that* Vatican document on gender – New Ways Ministry comment:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/06/10/revisiting-vaticans-lgbtq-negative-gender-document-on-first-anniversary-of-its-publication/>

Jo Inkpin's reflection for IDAHOBIT:

https://www.blessedimp.org/blog/idahobit-is-30-but-when-will-churches-also-mature-fully-affirming-lgbtq-people?fbclid=IwAR0ucYRyziyhynid5cP_S09-ijkd5RGFG3Y7zwV4Ux_Grljo61UvR2ieih70#

Trans inclusive churches:

<https://www.inclusive-church.org/directory?fbclid=IwAR2GcSfOaiYCPbIAjK44tSGabv0UMGBua8iWNFIN7HeMzDpziVI9MhzJk4I>

Trans corona

Prayer for hand washing:

https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10221004563400988&set=a.10203401051764199&type=3&eid=ARDBtluGrijZLGMs3wDS97ReDhMngq0DX_1g71ZMp99hGfAlleSP-PerNzCYhtu5rvSJ4e2hlc206yN9

Zoom dysphoria and 7 other ways the lockdown is hurting trans people:

<https://medium.com/@ashleyjaybrockwell/zoom-dysphoria-and-7-other-ways-lockdown-is-hurting-trans-people-6a86d69a1967>

Trying to get a GIC appointment during lockdown....and possible hope for the future:

https://www.vice.com/en_uk/article/935a73/coronavirus-transgender-people-nhs-treatment?fbclid=IwAR00DTStkz7tajPdqnGb_BImPandhHnx9-lZ-NqYmwwn7YJYIXBFWzYM7vU

Usual nonsense from Christian Concern about trans people and corona virus:

https://christianconcern.com/comment/the-coronavirus-crisis-on-transgender-issues/?fbclid=IwAR1U6lCHKSEq_mb8qIGxAfP-9ywU7TC2-fdATxpQjz5spDf5yP9rjUS9Cw

How a trans woman in India is helping people during the crisis:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/18/trans-woman-veena-s-free-meals-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-india-bengaluru/>

Advice from Dr Evadne Hinge (remember Hinge and Bracket?): **Video**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUONgilkHGw&fbclid=IwAR0kmlGDPJ1SHXU1z3TBcVaRL9J4DMYB2VBquPvhCFZT7MzPRbD59BBmqwg>

Trans men in Kenya and USA reflect on how the virus is affecting them:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-52457681>

Trans corona virus doctor faces transphobic attacks in USA:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/28/dr-rachel-levine-pennsylvania-trans-transphobia-bigotry-support-coronavirus-respect4rachel/>

Men being given oestrogen to fight virus:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/28/coronavirus-oestrogen-estrogen-cis-men-trans-women-healthcare-science-gender-dypshoria/>

Michelle O'Brien, co-author of Sibyls' book This Is My Body, reflects on the lockdown:

https://dartonlongmanandtodd.blogspot.com/2020/05/for-some-self-isolation-is-form-of.html?fbclid=IwAR3LRvWL5vmio9QyPbSaFO_p1_gRMAHy0w1PYLaTrk1Bc3OsYkrN8ihoJPE

...so does Tina Beardsley, the other co-author:

https://viamedia.news/2020/05/12/we-cant-go-back-but-we-can-say-sorry/?fbclid=IwAR0rLEvMP9hG_invs_EP5NbKy4-Mh17_m9alxxvoe_-J2HkRFEWeVOFuAjU

Lockdown fears of trans people:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52690931>

Trans health

Trans fats (OK it's a joke- and a plug for veganism!):
https://www.theguardian.com/advertiser-content/upfield-2020/todays-guide-to-trans-fats-and-how-to-avoid-them?utm_source=offsite&utm_medium=FB-keywee&utm_campaign=Upfield&kwp_0=1625655&kwp_4=4838051&kwp_1=2050515&fbclid=IwAR2w0Xu0FwdHw01n6gSPbme9rRgRNwh0iPwYq8z4r8-19ZbCbHpCkFgktIU

Study finds nearly a third of trans and nonbinary people have attempted suicide in past year:
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/26/trans-non-binary-young-people-suicide-mental-health-study-trevor-project/>

Update from Welsh Gender Service:
<http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/wgs?fbclid=IwAR3QOEYVRbaPsvtNlo-eWGPdJpJArhZQJrSHZfcnEJ-p6jnSf1aYHe4WFiQ>

York University survey/research on impact of COVID-19 on older LGBT people:
https://york.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_agBwpSnmEzfrThP?fbclid=IwAR04tHK9ffVC4QS9r72nOqr_0mmjuybbUGGEBG_7vJGK8daJ7X8q0CdQLdo

Are puberty blockers experimental drugs?
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/26895269.2020.1747768?fbclid=IwAR2k_2Lk1joDlnx71GKClmPM3tg7KODnIGwBQJdfwEovLniGriiC4x5VXPo

Governments must act urgently to provide health care to trans people during the pandemic, say scientists:
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/24/trans-health-coronavirus-medicine-uk-government-nhs-oxford-university-de-montfort/>

Trans politics and law

Liz Truss (Equalities Minister) makes worrying statement on reform of GRA:
<https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/uk-launches-unprecedented-attack-on-trans-rights-will-ban-transition-before-18/>

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/why-were-worried-about-government%E2%80%99s-statement-trans-rights-legislation?fbclid=IwAR0mgotHy9ox4iSVYJ_Bbj_bsRAIaYaF2q953C-Sp-S7xNkZdinAKIOgKjU

https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2020/04/uk-moves-ban-trans-youth-getting-gender-affirming-health-care/?utm_source=LGBTQ+Nation+Subscribers&utm_campaign=a930096fcc-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_23_04_54&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c4eab596bd-a930096fcc-

[430343669&fbclid=IwAR1jqO2d_BVbUg4L9BihhtH0ZqClujHqHytgvXw6Yf-isx8auMAs4dXl_A](https://www.facebook.com/430343669/?fbclid=IwAR1jqO2d_BVbUg4L9BihhtH0ZqClujHqHytgvXw6Yf-isx8auMAs4dXl_A)

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/23/liz-truss-trans-rights-gender-recognition-act-reform-healthcare-puberty-blockers-backlash/>

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/19/liz-truss-equality-act-gender-recognition-trans-rights-baroness-nicholson-marsha-de-cordova/>

Listen to Liz Truss discussing her views (about 8 mins 22 secs in) **Video**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpyST2bnfuY&fbclid=IwAR0_SPdLwziF_FQRV2IJuoVi7_3kn08k-liieePxCW-ctQrCpNLbF-jmEDA

Government apparently planning to drop plans to reform GRA:
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/14/trans-rights-government-reported-to-be-dropping-gender-self-identifying-plans?fbclid=IwAR3myniWmSgsqbNOsIbVeOikUZdBIJnTsxhCh0pyoqatEGJ5uJYuT1r_wjl

Helen Belcher writes well about it:
<https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/uk-governments-attack-on-trans-bathroom-use-will-drive-people-underground/>

New Stonewall CEO speaks about her stance on “gender”:
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jun/27/stonewall-new-boss-gender-transgender-rights-nancy-kelley>

Write to the prime minister – here is a template:
http://genderedintelligence.co.uk/trusstus/write?fbclid=IwAR3zqXaWSVXixESVG-G0JWwa3J05IBDqRHdrslaLL1A2_S5zNEOryGFcSrE

Thousands of cis women write letter of support for trans people to Liz Truss:
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/22/liz-truss-cisgender-women-trans-ally-open-letter-gender-recognition-act-sex-gender/?fbclid=IwAR1WmHC1LNAL9i2FRrcdshdYgO8OUYpnxElinkGjl8Jfl11ewmJia dx2QsM>

Government “mandating state-sponsored violence” against trans people:
https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/transgender-gender-recognition-act-transphobia-liz-truss-boris-johnson-a9565416.html?fbclid=IwAR0AZTufUh73Rj_I2P_FBI_t_P12AX4FCdVTMdnTeVOXnH_KIMkZGnWpBtyuw

Fears growing of Section 28 history repeating itself for trans people:
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/24/section-28-uk-scotland-what-was-anniversary-history-trans-rights-margaret-thatcher-liz-truss/>

Leading conservative complains about govt’s cruel” treatment of trans people:
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/25/john-cope-lgbt-conservatives-government-culture-war-trans-gender-recognition-act-liz-truss/>

Keir Starmer's views on the issue:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/29/keir-starmer-trans-rights-gender-recognition-act-bbc-radio-4-today-labour-party/>

Jayne Ozanne and Rabbi Elli Tikvah Sarah comment on the gov't's "silence":

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/01/trans-people-prejudice-gender-recognition-act?fbclid=IwAR12-wvOfWPoYNraD_U8a4nncxctib-Tjb5pSnmzCdVRCrR4r8wF8cp628

Debbie Hayton writes about trans rights:

https://unherd.com/2020/06/trans-people-dont-lack-rights/?fbclid=IwAR2dBFIrFmw8ebHTXKfp48coB0Jitc9KHsJ3hv54_uNxaTGp9u31ZYjyvDg

Scottish government says trans women are women:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/05/scottish-government-transgender-trans-women-gender-representation/>

Those wishing to read or be reminded of the issues involved in the GRA and the Equality Act may wish to see Susan Gilchrist's in-depth exploration:

<http://www.tgdr.co.uk/documents/243P-DivisionsSelfDeclaration.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1VAj9GdokHg61RLUq7S7b7PIUKyUj0Vfnoar3qusFVv2QTE7rscVsMpBY>

Fearful trans women preparing to leave country:

<https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/trans-people-are-preparing-to-flee-uk-after-government-threatens-new-bathroom-law/>

Freddy McConnell loses appeal and will now seek to take the case to the Supreme Court:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/29/transgender-man-loses-appeal-court-battle-registered-father-freddy-mcconnell>

Trans world

Somewhat disappointing results from European survey of LGBT harassment:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2020/jun/26/nine-points-up-on-europe-data-shows-uk-increase-in-lgbtq-harassment>

Plight of trans people in Tamil Nadu – can you help?

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fpsi-trans?fbclid=IwAR18ZyuvnyEPSxt6leoxRzzMvmcB7qzj1tswdfeUxiLiXMdv4o3_q58XyLg

Anti-trans agenda in USA continues:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/10/trans-women-sport-school-idaho-brad-little-them-unscientific-puberty-dr-vinny-chulani/>

US bishops side with Trump in ending trans health protections:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/06/20/u-s-bishops-side-with-trump-administration-on-ending-transgender-protections/>

Moving coming-out story by trans woman radiologist:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/18/mayo-clinic-trans-doctor-evelyn-carroll-minnesota-gender-identity-dysphoria-twitter-viral/>

Dictator Orban cracks down on trans rights:

<https://smombiegate.org/brussels-first-major-city-to-halt-5g-due-to-health-effects/?fbclid=IwAR0-pLZtKQra3dMTS4RgpulydiTXrXrU-a-b2JYnaFE3quNlmyOQocJCjNI>

.....trans rights legally erased:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/24/hungary-viktor-orban-trans-law-transphobia-coronavirus-gender-sex-ivett-ordog-adel-onodi/>

.....sign this petition to protest:

https://action.allout.org/en/m/e9cae516/?utm_campaign=mgp-e9cae516&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwAR1pNI0sCQvpSOYqxsSEnPddrre-SmccocZjJEVcesovMjxKfWooCcjkhwDE

....the story of one Hungarian trans woman:

<https://inews.co.uk/news/i-wont-even-be-allowed-to-use-my-name-now-that-hungary-has-scraped-all-rights-for-trans-people-2860793?fbclid=IwAR2muZuagUPyPI7E1cc8UksBugQeJ8pNOENbqpTk37PmWCEL eDOh0Zvw61E>

Michelle Telfer wins Australian gender clinic battle:

https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/health-and-wellness/staying-on-her-feet-how-michelle-telfer-won-gender-clinic-battle-20200416-p54kjf.html?fbclid=IwAR00Yp0EyJCcV3MiopTAq7eO44tw88lVovzLZzbi8iac_S97VU0pov9uFYU

Chris Mosier, trans masculine Olympian, on transphobia in sport:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/21/trans-athlete-chris-mosier-lgbt-sport-transphobia-sexism-racewalking-olympics-team-usa/>

Trans sistas of color, Detroit stand up for black trans women:

<https://www.hourdetroit.com/community/trans-sistas-of-color-project-detroit-ahya-simone/?fbclid=IwAR08-HvB0Kfu1vTe0Ed2ZC4qkWBtvsF24LphiRDusctRrw-lxm-sAwoGQ3A>

Life in Panama for trans woman:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-52668174>

How media in Australia views trans people:

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/nov/10/the-australian-medias-portrayal-of-trans-people-is-a-betrayal-of-their-human-rights?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR0OL1CMEFqo7xRC2yGldcNh5WZ-gbAWIMsGQY9_Vj7cH5XuCToNP_5T_o

Life for trans sex workers in Brazil (it's a horror story):

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/may/21/if-i-dont-have-sex-ill-die-of-hunger-covid-19-crisis-for-rios-trans-sex-workers>

First trans mayor elected in France:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-52795973?fbclid=IwAR3WUQsMXO4gQxE7iOyDIbW4dXn3ekK8hoq4SXJuJX0UvxZhFTwmt6CgDpk>

Trans rights go backwards around the world:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/26/trans-rights-world-health-organization-gender-identity-disorder-lizz-truss-viktor-orban/>

Black trans lives matter:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/02/black-trans-lives-matter-stonewall-inn-ianne-fields-stewart/>

HRC says BLM movement should do more for black trans women:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/09/black-trans-women-murder-lives-matter-movement-hrc-tony-mcdade-iyanna-dior-america-protests/>

Black trans lives matter:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/33ab8fbd-792f-44ee-85de-5dd3894f60bf>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-53192703>

Billy Porter's message to America (I hope the whole world listens): **Youtube**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNXIOegVL4w&feature=emb_logo&fbclid=IwAR1VWQ6QGNAAE0s7kIThDRjrvlWybN4gLYymR8csvBJrfdtjAf1nhtlgC8Q

Marsha Johnson, the "Stonewall Saint":

<http://qspirit.net/marsha-p-johnson-stonewall/>

Trump rules to allow discrimination in healthcare against trans people:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/13/joe-biden-donald-trump-trans-healthcare-protections-pride-month/>

Vietnam's first trans dad gives birth:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/23/vietnam-trans-man-dad-birth-pregnancy-hormones-minh-khang-minh-anh-thien-an/>

Trans life

Ruth Hunt on transphobia and “gender-critical feminism”:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/31/ruth-hunt-baroness-stonewall-transgender-trans-rights/>

How Mr Spock and other Star Trek characters helped one trans man to accept himself:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/07/star-trek-spock-morman-trans-man-transgender/>

No one way to be a woman: helpful reflections from a trans woman:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/27/meredith-talusan-trans-woman-makeup-femininity-fairest-new-york-times/>

Stephen Appleby: cross-dresser:

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/apr/05/stephen-appleby-why-i-felt-liberated-when-i-started-dressing-as-a-woman->

Proud mum of trans daughter:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/28/gender-reveal-party-trans-child-daughter-parenting-identity-dysphoria-zoe-avery-lynn/>

What does non-binary mean – and look like?

https://www.them.us/story/this-is-what-gender-nonbinary-people-look-like?utm_brand=them&utm_social-type=owned&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR1fNHj-U5mQd9dwEhRAI1Gmy8Y-wuOSYbVzaLwRdDGC8bujdW7fzouNNIE

Trans couple Jake and Hannah have first baby:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/17/trans-couple-jake-hannah-graf-first-baby-daughter-twitter-family-parents/>

Trans men on T just as fertile as cis women:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/04/16/trans-men-testosterone-fertility-boston-ivf-study-hormone-therapy-cis-women-egg-yield/>

Ruth Hunt comes out as introvert! But continues to fight for trans people:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/18/ruth-hunt-introvert-stonewall-house-lords-oxford-university-trans-rights-homophobia/?fbclid=IwAR0I9Hu3vPXICtBgTTMuGeIYQo_b_pZ42JVN8k4MJRvi4FuAweRxNckYipA

Trans woman in Mastermind final:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/05/05/mastermind-trans-stonewall-riots-bbc-two-emma-laslett-twitter-marsha-p-johnson/>

11 trans prisoners sexually assaulted in prisons last year:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52748117?fbclid=IwAR0MKJQN0UzBpPN7oUa9poYfHJOHx8pHrQMZPMv6AHyYS>

[9jfZ6ZMdkHDkxs](#)

What is transphobia?

https://www.transactual.org.uk/transphobia?fbclid=IwAR3imptvtBCpDdEiGoX433_xx cCDpDWbmiPjipjoqzYiPD3PdCXUfd8p8_o

Powerful poem on what it's like to be trans by black trans masculine person: (Video)

https://www.ted.com/talks/lee_mokobe_a_powerful_poem_about_what_it_feels_like_to_be_transgender?fbclid=IwAR2fPgVUk7FHOTPPeWHkm3xzFKUSH8SIRWHTDpS cQLskusnhIqMqxMjvGo8

New York trans children support project:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jun/15/trans-transgender-children-gender-family-project>

Growing up trans: (Video):

<https://www.wgbh.org/program/frontline/growing-up-trans?fbclid=IwAR0PaSx4IAUD6PMFtdSYyxtzdAcGDYDvftMoNnnY4HbZii9uFoOyU Jbk6yA>

“Seahorse” dad Freddy McConnell on queer families:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/21/freddy-mcconnell-trans-dad-bbc-pride-joy-queer-families/>

Trans companion for Dr Who:

<https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/doctor-who-gets-its-first-ever-trans-companion-in-new-audio-series/>

Black trans lives matter march in London:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/gallery/2020/jun/28/black-trans-lives-matter-march-in-london-in-pictures?fbclid=IwAR2bjG5LAMiwnot74KCQyy8dqM-OV0kYHQaaZatROcKYxVxQ7naXLVXrICY>

Forgotten women – Roberta Cowell (YouTube)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6z555adbGA&nohtml5=1&fbclid=IwAR3PJJaUa3WugRB6db-oyN-J7cje9jWC28iFLh_PTohLMEvxKf9BpqhGv8sM

Debbie Hayton in Spectator on Graham Linehan’s Twitter ban:

https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/how-graham-linehan-fell-foul-of-the-transgender-mob?fbclid=IwAR3qCOt_2eUscYvVDVd7SPPb-n9vGkA3gc6izmhLt9YBCbw_4DBLAI6mGz0

Trans cartoons:

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2020/jun/30/it-takes-away-the-stigma-five-of-the-best-cartoons-with-transgender-characters>

78% of trans 18-25 year-olds have come out only online:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/01/transgender-trans-gen-z-queer-tinder-dating-internet-sex-education-orientation-coming-out/>

Trans woman on transitioning later in life: (YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bk7XZio686Q&nohtml5=1&fbclid=IwAR13jSNN9CvWNTQEImwg5OW7oYcu4iTmtgVi8pasyJcc5PMtK2TFF0RZVzs>

Trans research

<https://www.gires.org.uk/gender-recognition-reform-project-at-exeter-university/?fbclid=IwAR0uXE6bN6OnTe8GcyBqdnJM1rY17qjS9p1PKUwCclrWmyS1vNrcPOnC4>

Here is a request from Lat Blaylock, the editor of REToday. It's self-explanatory and in terms of confidentiality he would be guided by the participant. His email address is Lat@retoday.org.uk and I will add a link about him.

I'm the editor of RE Today magazine - read by about 10 000 teachers of RE. I am planning an issue on identities for teachers of RE for January 2021 (we are only termly). I want to find a person with a transchristian identity who would do an interview (email questions) with me, that might be turned into a resource for the 300 000 young people who study Christianity to GCSE each year, and I wondered if you would be able to help me find such a person? I'd be very pleased to send a sample of the magazine if you give me an email address. Good wishes to you. Lat Blaylock

<https://www.retoday.org.uk/about-us/our-re-adviser-team/lat-blaylock/?fbclid=IwAR0Ie1NmtZExhtUSUcs4KxE7Pke14XRAkoPU4uH1MCGK1OdRpVWjQTpXGI0>

Welsh study on ageing in trans people ("I'm going to live my life for me"):

https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/C2450868C889315BC8B6E509543B960B/S0144686X20000604a.pdf/im_going_to_live_my_life_for_me_trans_ageing_care_and_older_trans_and_gender_nonconforming_adults_expectations_of_and_concerns_for_later_life.pdf

Trans books

Tina Beardsley reflects on how *This Is My Body* came to be written and developments for trans people since then:

https://dartonlongmanandtodd.blogspot.com/2020/05/feeling-unsafe-by-christina-beardsley.html?fbclid=IwAR1DV-cgMNLJYTM_DiJXK2GLmqmDIMYwTs3gJc7_IA8BIKy7ooC5RnvebEQ

Juno Dawson takes on J K Rowling over transphobia:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/07/juno-dawson-jk-rowling-anti-trans-tweets-harry-potter-periods-transphobia-backlash/>

....as does Daniel Radcliffe (read this if you feel guilty for enjoying Rowling's books):

https://www.thetrevorproject.org/2020/06/08/daniel-radcliffe-responds-to-j-k-rowlings-tweets-on-gender-identity/?fbclid=IwAR0POOa6gN1ciQOV3yvw_0pW65RtmkMDAwLLgAg6lscnVrg-DJgQC2RO2zA

JK Rowling explains her views at length:

https://www.jkrowling.com/opinions/j-k-rowling-writes-about-her-reasons-for-speaking-out-on-sex-and-gender-issues/?fbclid=IwAR3opnkLI7qKnKes29JDKW7KoqEntUC_1cuPRnwp1cDZvQ7OqEc9_rE1_vg

....Pose stars reply to JKR:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/06/11/pose-indya-moore-jk-rowling-trans-rights-dominque-jackson-mj-rodriguez/>

....JKR's obsession with trans men:

https://slate.com/human-interest/2020/06/jk-rowling-trans-men-terf.html?fbclid=IwAR1ynbSQHfb2gMG_SemygETSdNZDjIW-2y7VrOd-IXAhwUjbFoX21_xvre8

...JKR's "reasonable bigotry":

<https://medium.com/@june.tuesday/jk-rowling-and-the-reasonable-bigotry-43bc2c6d3c2b>

....excellent, comprehensive response to JKR from Mermaids:

<https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/news/dear-jk-rowling/?fbclid=IwAR3Muvf4ApgCxyGXXazobGLLSVo9uooTc5w0w9wPe4wjWB34sA499353UgE>

...powerful response to JKR from trans woman who was greatly helped by the HP novels growing up:

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/jk-rowling-transgender_uk_5ee23f15c5b69fb03b5c1615?fbclid=IwAR0OAQjGRdN-rkFICesDjrC7HGWUQQcu0wjXsFGbJYVBVrSz610Jvn1-hA8&guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZmFjZWJvb2suY29tLw&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAINUoWlo6Lnm-kfAYqyOTEBIzrb4cCY9WCGh81ZoOxRk-5Fzan8ygUUCHkmjz4iuUxZGw8Yu0Lf3KCdDfY-JninHoXmm4sTviK6LePF1jqYF2o-y5e-J0OjV7DGs_cskIm5q1uD_T3joiV2hQKH1V2wOqhVgKpY10IP5sr5blpM

Trans Alice in Wonderland – a YA novel by Juno Dawson:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/may/11/juno-dawson-trans-alice-wonderland-interview-spice-girls>

Book review

Transgender. Christian. Human. Alex Clare Young

This is a short book but has a lot packed in it – aptly, as it is a record of a life which in a short span – the author is still young - has already encompassed more change, more learning and more transformation than most of us manage in an entire life time.

Alex, assigned female at birth, grew up as a child of the manse in Scotland, their father being a Church of Scotland minister. The account of the painful journey of self-discovery has, like most such accounts, features familiar to many of us and those that are individual and unique. Alex is a talented musician and overcame the

challenges of gender dysphoria to graduate from the Royal Northern College of Music. Their instrument is the harp. Alex describes several horrific instances of abuse they suffered. One of these, however, was a crossroads, a pivotal moment, leading ultimately to transition. As they write “New life can only come out of death.” Having previously been hurt by an oppressive, patriarchal church, something prompted Alex to seek healing in an inclusive church serving the student population. They found there welcome and acceptance and mirroring friends including a trans man who invited them to come along to an LGBT youth group where suddenly they were “neither alien or alone.” From this point, Alex was firmly committed to the path of coming out and transitioning.

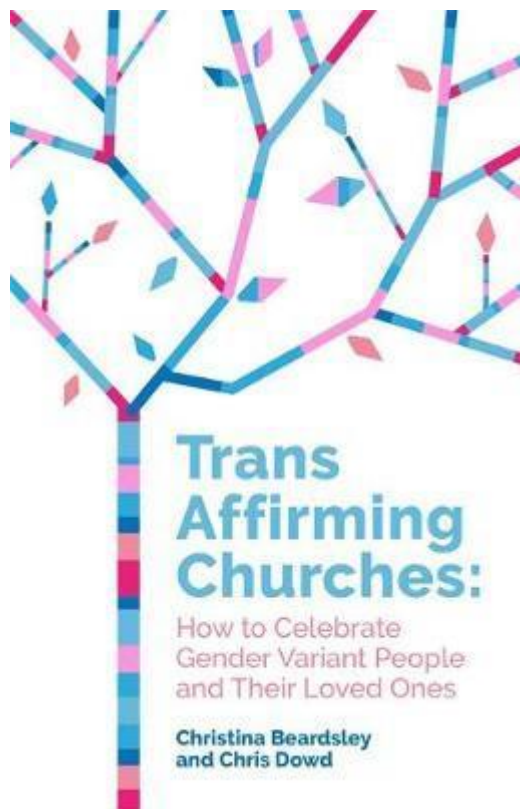
At the same time as setting out on transitioning, Alex was also answering the call to ordained ministry, soon becoming the first openly trans ordinand in the URC. At theological training college, Alex found not only acceptance and diversity but romance with Jo to whom they were soon married. They found themselves pondering their calling: was it to ministry, pure and simple, or to ministry specifically as a trans person? They discovered a passion for trans theology, wrote a dissertation on translations of gender in the Genesis creation narratives and a thesis on “Towards a transgender theology of personhood”. Clearly the twin callings to transition and ministry have been highly fruitful and mutually beneficial.

Transitioning was by no means the end point of Alex’s journey. Like many of us, in the early stages they felt drawn to a highly-gendered, binary form of gender identity and expression, slipping even, as they say, into a “lazy, at times, toxic masculinity.” Now they are “listening, waiting for the next transformation. And that is good.”

Alex concludes this challenging section of his book by suggesting we all really question our binary thinking. “I wonder what chains are holding you captive?”

Alex is representing trans people on the coordinating group of the CofE Living in Love and Faith project, having replaced Tina Beardsley.

Trans Affirming Churches – *Chris Dowd and Tina Beardsley*



This, the third part of what has become the Sibyls' "trilogy", has recently been published. It is an excellent guide to helping churches to become genuinely inclusive and welcoming places for trans people. It draws heavily on the experiences of trans people themselves. [Editor's note: rather than review it myself, may I invite any Sibyl to write their own review and to send it to me?]