



SIBYLS LOGO - ROBIN GOLDEN - HANV 28 MAY 2018

The final stage of birthing labor is the most dangerous stage, and the most painful. . . The medical term is “transition.” Transition *feels like dying* but it is the stage that precedes the birth of new life. After my labor, I began to think about transition as a metaphor for the most difficult fiery moments in our lives. In all our various creative labors—making a living, raising a family, building a nation—there are moments that are so painful, we want to give up. But inside searing pain and encroaching numbness, we might also find the depths of our courage, hear our deepest wisdom, and transition to the other side. . . *Valarie Kaur*

Newsletter 93 – October 2020

Dear Sibyls

I hope this newsletter finds you all as well as can be hoped for during this testing time of which there is no end in sight. While being tested we are also being blessed if we are open to being changed. The pandemic has given us the opportunity to review our lives and perhaps to understand better what is really important and what is trivial and superficial. To be sure it has been miserable to be deprived of the personal contact so necessary to our human flourishing. It was especially disappointing not to be able to get together at Purley Chase for our residential weekend. Instead of that we have....zoom. It's not everyone's cup of tea and of course of no benefit to those without access to the on-line world who are more disadvantaged than ever at the moment. But we would have been far worse off without it. We held an on-line event to replace as best we could the residential weekend and it was attended by a number of people who would not have been able to get to Warwickshire. And yesterday we held our AGM by zoom which also gave far more people the chance to take part. We have held regular acts of worship and social gatherings and during the discussion that followed the AGM there were some excellent ideas put forward for what we might do during these zooms to help people feel at least to some extent connected and supported. We shall be following this up.

The support we can give one another feels more important than ever during this time when there is not much to encourage one in the public and political sphere. Many – not all – will have been gravely disappointed by the government’s decision to ignore the results of their own consultation and reject any meaningful reform of the Gender Recognition Act. Personally I found it especially distasteful that the government earlier in the year allowed rumours to circulate that they were proposing to roll back some of the legal rights of trans people so that the eventual decision not to change anything was actually welcomed by some as a kind of victory. But that is my personal view and it is a great strength of the Sibyls that we are primarily a pastoral support and spirituality network and not a campaigning organisation and we can continue to work together as colleagues and friends when our opinions sharply differ. For my part, I have written to my MP expressing my deep regret and bitter disappointment about the message that the government’s decision sends out about trans people.

I hope you will find much of interest in this newsletter. As ever, inclusion of something in the newsletter does not imply any endorsement by the Sibyls of the views put forward. Please do let me know what you like about the newsletter and what you don’t like. It would be great to hear from you – please do call me or write to me. I hope to see many of you at forthcoming zoom gatherings.

With best wishes and prayers for all my fellow Sibyls and their families. The next newsletter will be at Christmas!

Pauline

M 07581553357

pauline.fleck@btinternet.com

Contents

Introduction to Sibyls, website and Facebook – P 3
Sibyls and other on-line events – P 4-6
Invitation from Jenny-Anne Bishop OBE – P 4-5
Gathering Voices Conference – P 5-6
Chair’s report – P 6-10
Sibyls AGM – P 10
Not the Purley Chase Weekend – P 10
Hildegard of Bingen *Richard Rohr* - P 11-12
Sailing – a Windy Story *Sibyl Lorraine Milford* - P 12-15
Art and *Thomas* – *Sibyl Jack Simmons* P 16-18
Trans survey – P 18
Trans faith P 18-20
Trans politics and law – P 20-23
Trans life - P 23-28
Trans health – P 29-30
Trans sport – P 30
Trans Affirming Churches – review by *Pauline* – P 31

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.

Invitation from Jenny-Anne Bishop OBE

The Metropolitan URC LGBTIQ+ Congregation is active during lockdown:

< <https://metropolitanchurch.org.uk/> >

We continue to run a weekly LGBTIQ+ Sunday service at 4.30pm (London Time) 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 **LGBTIQ+ congregation weekly Newsletter** here:

< <https://metropolitanchurch.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=3546eacfecb20036d5679ebcc&id=d956811cdd> >

We provide a **URC Daily Devotional** here:

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

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

We running our **Trans & Non-Binary (TNBI) Support groups** every Thursday Evening and Saturday Afternoon by Zoom rather than once a month as follows:

During these testing times, physical distancing does not have to mean total social isolation.

Unique(< www.uniquetg.org.uk >) and **TransForum** (< www.transforum.co.uk >) 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 **TNBI** 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 (London Time), and **TransForum** hosts one each Saturday afternoon from 3.30 pm to approx. 7.00 pm (London Time).

Unique Zooms every Thursdays 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm (London Time)

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 every Saturdays 3.30pm to 6.00pm (London Time)

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

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.

If you have any difficulty please contact Jenny-Anne at [≤ jennyannebuk@btinternet.com >](mailto:jennyannebuk@btinternet.com) or 07500-741955

Gathering Voices

Gathering Voices are running an online half day conference on Saturday 17th October 2020 between 2pm and 5pm (BST).

2020 Vision: Seeing more queerly - Breaking false binaries in gender and sexuality.

In this online conference we address some key questions:

- * What does it mean to see more queerly?
- * What false binaries do we encounter?
- * What difference does it make if we challenge and break those false binaries?

We are delighted to be joined by Lu Skerratt, Alex Clare-Young, Rachel Mann, and Jude Macaulay and invite you to explore these topics with the aid of our keynote speaker and panel.

To help create a safe space, we need people to pre-register for the event using a free Zoom account.

More information is on the Gathering Voices website

(gatheringvoices.info/gvox20)

Note for editors:

Gathering Voices is a collaborative network of Christian organisations that encourage churches to be fully inclusive and affirming of all people without regard of gender and sexuality. We aim to run a conference around October each year and where possible we work with grass-roots organisations within the locality of the

conference. The 2020 conference will be virtual as a response to the continuing pandemic.

Gathering Voices was formed in 2017 by members of Evangelical Fellowship of Lesbian and Gay Christians, Accepting Evangelicals, Open Table Network, and other partners (including Stonewall, Sibyls, Oasis UK,

Chair's report from Yvonne (as delivered to the AGM)

This is a report of group activities and committee decisions over roughly the past 12 months.

Introduction

The spirit of the Sibyls is loving support of each other. We are all different, we are all at different stages of self-acceptance and social acceptance, but we share common experiences of family and church. The spirit of prayerful upholding and social enjoyment was established by Jay Walmsley, and this is fundamentally what we wish to be at the heart of Sibyls - albeit with a constitution and GDPR responsibilities.

Constitution

So this year, we have been working to a constitution adopted at last year's AGM / Sibyls Together meeting. It is a decision-making structure ensuring accountability, financial correctness and protecting role holders and members. It is never simple to agree a constitution, where some members may feel it is too formal and obscures our spirit; some find contradictions and omissions, some see endless typos; but to have it in place gives our group resilience and members can propose amendments at AGMs to keep it relevant.

Our members

We have 88 members at present. 7 joined during 2020.

5 members are allies and supporters. The regional distribution is as follows:

North East	1
North West	9
Yorkshire and Humberside	9
North Wales	4 (one member moved from SW)
South Wales	1
West Midlands	4
East Midlands	8
East	5 (one member moved from London)
South West	13

South East	17
London	13
Europe	1
Australia / NZ	4

We have no members in Scotland, and disproportionately few in the north and Midlands compared to the south.

About 60% of enquirers join after an initial email or phone call.

Data Protection regulations resulted in a loss of some members who did not return consent forms, some of whom were upset by the formality required.

Committee members

The committee comprises:

Yvonne Wood *Chair*
 Pauline Fleck *Secretary*
 Peter Raftery *Treasurer*
 Philippa Whittaker *Membership and communications*
 Susan Gilchrist *Website*
 Elaine Sommers
 Debbie Hayton
 Jenny Anne Bishop OBE

Committee meetings took place at the Birmingham LGBT Centre on 11 Dec 2019, 11 March, and by Zoom on 17 June.

Newsletter

The Sibyls quarterly newsletter is the most important direct means of communication with members, providing information about activities, personal contributions from members, information about inclusive worship and church policy. It also contains many links to information and articles relating to transgender and faith. We thank Pauline for the major effort she contributes to make the excellent newsletter, even though there is virtually no feedback.

Events

The residential weekend is the focus of Sibyls activity. The 25-27 Sept Purley Chase Centre booking was cancelled due to Covid-19 but is booked for the same weekend next year. A Zoom event took place on Sat 26 Sept, with 17 attending, with a chance for some friendly sharing and the presentation Alex Clare-Young had prepared for the weekend, on the theme of conflict and resolution. Thanks to Peter, Susan and Pauline for extensive efforts to organise the weekend.

Alternate monthly services continued to be held in St Anne's church, London until February, with Revd. Simon Buckley leading services and providing huge support for Sibyls, always followed by a meal out.

Two restaurant meet ups were arranged in Birmingham following committee meetings.

After Lockdown was introduced in March, Zoom services and get-togethers were arranged and have been highly successful in bringing us together from all parts of the country, despite the limitations of Zoom. Alternate monthly services have been led by Susan, Diana, Jenny-Anne, Shanon and Simon Buckley on 8 October, and services will continue into 2021.

In between services we have had informal Zoom get-togethers for chat and sharing, which have been well-attended.

Continuing efforts for friendship and support

Committee members each coordinate regional members, but it has not been possible yet to get members to meet up locally. We wish to identify churches or centres in the north, midlands, and south-west where regular, safe gatherings might be arranged in future.

We will link up with regional Open Table meetings which bring together all LGBT people of faith.

Committee members will support very small get-togethers if and when members request (and if Covid permits), in the spirit of 'when 2 or 3 are gathered' for safe and confidential sharing and informal chat.

Listening service

Sibyls has always offered a listening service, and the phone numbers of three committee members are on the website. The calls are rare, but occasionally a call is received and we can listen, offering some comfort, reassurance and signposting.

Recognition and celebration liturgies

We plan to compile a set of liturgies for blessings at significant occasions such as naming, celebrating transition, committed relationships, etc.

Retreat centres and welcoming churches

We are compiling a list of welcoming churches and retreat centres by region. This is for both signposting to members and as places for our publicity, in order to reach people seeking our community.

Logo

This year we adopted a new logo designed by Robyn Golden-Haan, which gives us a stylish and appropriate new image.

Website

Susan Gilchrist has developed the existing website over several years into a rich resource. The committee has embarked on a refresh, with new web hosting and new design. After seeking competitive proposals we appointed Northern Web Designs to do the work for us. They will make the website accessible on all devices, easy to change content, modern, colourful and attractive.

Leaflets and banners

The committee has been motivated by the need to recruit new members. New leaflets are to be produced:

- An A4 poster / A5 leaflet for noticeboard display in welcoming churches and retreat centres, including a quick response (QR) code
- A folded leaflet with information about the group for people enquiring about us.
- We also have a small card for handing out at events.

Publications

Early this year, Tina Beardsley and Chris Dowd published *Trans-affirming Churches*, the third book on transgender theology, pastoral care and worship inclusion that has been supported by Sibyls members. We are very grateful for the royalties that are received by Sibyls.

Sibyls affiliations and networking

Euroforum

Sibyls is the only trans group in the European LGBT Forum. Elaine Sommers has completed four years as co-President. Shanon Ferguson is chair of the trans working group. The planned conference in Budapest in May was cancelled, with an online event in October instead where Elaine will give a speech, and Shanon will lead a trans-focussed event in the conference programme. We have offered prayerful support of Bishop Szymon and Christian LGBT campaigners in Poland who are suffering discrimination. Elaine wrote to the *Church Times* about this.

Networking

Several members are associated with regional trans support bodies, in north Wales, Manchester, South Yorkshire, the south-west. Individual Sibyls have links with

Inclusive Church, Diverse Church, Gathering Voices, Accepting Evangelicals, Quest, Quaker GSD Community, One Body, One Faith.

Social media

The Sibyls confidential Facebook group has 23 members and only occasional interaction. The TransChristian Facebook group, set up by Susan, is a public group with some 300 members.

The year ahead

The committee will wish to increase members, making it as simple and welcoming as possible to join. We will try to increase member engagement in fellowship and mutual support. Trans people still face serious challenges of acceptance in churches and in society generally. We will focus on our primary role as a friendly, Christian support network, secondly on our advocacy role within the church, while not being a trans campaigning group – even while individual members choose how to contribute to ongoing campaigns.

Sibyls AGM

The AGM was held by zoom on Thursday 1 October. The minutes of the AGM are being circulated separately.

Not the Purley Chase Weekend

Such a shame – the Sibyls weekend at Purley Chase in Warwickshire was yet another Covid casualty. The event was rapidly transferred to a zoom on Saturday 26 September attended by some 17 participants, including guest speaker Alex Clare-Young and his wife Jo.

Yvonne was our charming hostess and kept us in some kind of order. Alex gave an entertaining and thought-provoking talk on conflict and resolution in the context of gender identity including a delightful re-interpretation of the story of Adam and Eve which led to much discussion on gender roles and identities in the Bible and in Britain today.

A number of Sibyls read poems or showed pictures, including Pauline's reading of her poem in memorial of the late and much-missed Sibyl Deirdre. Elaine sang "We'll Meet Again" accompanying herself on guitar. We assuredly will – Purley Chase has been booked for the same weekend next year. So this year no gala dinner, dressing up, cream teas, dancing or speeches (so not all bad!) but still a pleasure to meet remotely and affirm our solidarity and care for one another as Sibyls.

Hildegard of Bingen and *Fr Richard Rohr*

“Speak and write!” the voice from Heaven commanded.

But Hildegard of Bingen, medieval visionary nun, remained silent.

Hildegard was forty-three years old when her visions finally became so insistent that she could no longer contain the secret she had harbored since early childhood: the Holy One, identifying itself as “the Living Light,” spoke to her. It spoke to her regularly, its voice emerging from a swirl of spiraling light. . . .

“Oh mortal, who receives these things not in the turbulence of deception but in the purity of simplicity for making plain the things that are hidden,” the Holy One said that day in 1141, “write what you see and hear.”

It was not doubt that held her back, Hildegard assures us. The voice carried such authority that she was convinced its origin was divine. It was not a case of low self-esteem either, she says, nor a matter of worrying what other people might think. It was, she tells us, simple humility. Who was she, an uneducated woman, to proclaim God’s message to humanity? . . .

[But] the more she resisted, the more seriously ill she became. “Until at last,” she writes in her introduction to the *Scivias*, the first chronicle of her visions, “compelled by many infirmities . . . I set my hand to writing . . . and rose from my sickness with renewed strength.” . . .

We are not all prophets. It may not be our job to challenge authority and expose corruption. We may not be the ones to penetrate the code of sacred scriptures and feed the spiritually hungry. It may be up to others to sound the clarion call of impending doom, calling on humanity to change its ways.

Ours may be a modest awakening. We may simply refuse to participate for another moment in a life against which our hearts have been crying out for years.

It could be time to observe some version of the commandment to “keep the Sabbath holy” [Exodus 20:8] and begin to cultivate a daily contemplative practice. It could become imperative to curtail a pattern of overconsumption and make a concrete commitment to voluntary simplicity. It could be a matter of identifying the subtle and insidious ways in which we participate in a culture of war and take a vow of nonviolence in everything we do, in every relationship we forge and maintain. . . .

Speak out, Hildegard says. And when you do, when you recognize that inner voice as the voice of God and say what it has taught you, the sickness in your heart will melt away. The fatigue you have lived with for so long that you did not even notice how weary you were will lift. Your voice will ring out with such clarity and beauty that you will not be able to stop singing. To speak your truth, Hildegard teaches us, is to praise God.

Sailing – a windy story with a wind up *Sibyl Lorraine Milford*

The boat: Galaxy of Down (abbr. GoD), Westerly Corsair 36ft long, she can accommodate eight.

Owner/skipper/all round good egg; Sarah

When did my flirtation with the sea start?

I was born into a naval family; my father was an officer in the Indian Navy, working his way up to the rank of Commander; he resigned at that point in order to enable our family to emigrate to the UK 50+ years ago. His career brought him to the UK on several occasions during the fifties, for courses and to take ex-RN ships back to India. Two highlights of note;

being a member of the crew for INS Rajput (formerly HMS Rotherham), present at the Spit Head review as part of Her Majesty's coronation celebrations,

working with the UK Mediterranean Fleet commanded by Lord Mountbatten (photographic evidence available).

Our family travelled to the UK by sea on RMS Himalaya, a P&O passenger ship that did the run between the UK and Australia, our leg, Bombay to Tilbury took sixteen days! Fortunately I was old enough to remember that voyage. My first experience of 'proper' sailing was whilst I was serving in the army; my corps possessed two sailing yachts used for adventure training. An opportunity in 1984 came up to spend a week out of Gosport, sailing to Cherbourg and then onto Guernsey. I signed up.

Fast forward to 2015. A trans friend had bought a sailing yacht, she was looking for crew; no experience necessary, life jackets provided, as were oilies. Shared costs for weekend sails initially on the Solent; trips to France later. I signed up, and have continued to!

I am a member of the Sailing and Cruising Association, which is a LGBT club; Sarah has done a lot of good work promoting sailing, especially for women, Trans and Cis. I find her extremely generous with her knowledge and dare I say, trusting the likes of me with her boat.

What is it about sailing that makes it attractive? Is it the kudos, the glamour, the adrenaline rush, making friends, being active, stress testing yourself, team building,

preparing food in a very small galley, laughing, time to talk about our lives? All of the above and more (including a wind up).

Kudos, I never thought I would ever crew a sailing yacht, that surely is for others?

Glamour, I will skip that, ha ha. Not so when fully kitted for bad weather; yachties do not do glamour, there is very little space in smaller boats to have the luxury of a wardrobe for clothes; those are reserved for life jackets and oilies! With five on board, space is at a premium, especially on longer trips. We usually manage a set of nice clothes for a meal in a posher restaurant. Crease resistant essential.

Adrenaline rush, oh yes, definitely. Sailing can be incredibly relaxing; when the sea is flat and there is a steady breeze for sailing or, with the iron sail operating; alternatively, it can get pretty manic in the cockpit when the wind is blowing a hooley, boat heeled over at 30° and a few waves over the bow and adjusting sails.

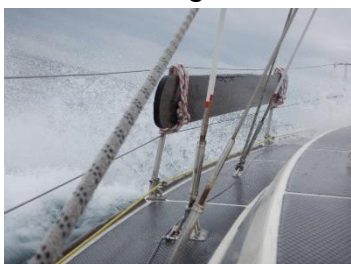
Making friends; yes. Not just on the boat, but beyond. It can be taken to any level one wishes, as for me, I have not embraced the sport to a level much higher than being a crew member on just one boat. I am not a very competitive person, leaving others to race around the oggin; happy to watch in awe.

Being active, certainly when grinding a winch to get the mainsail lofted to full sail; usually full on or not at all; it is much easier with two, one 'tailing', that is pulling the free end, whilst the other is winching. Moving around the boat, particularly below deck when the heeled over, is challenging. Using the heads (loo) when the boat is moving shall we say enthusiastically, takes being active to a different level.



Stress testing oneself; for me is taking the helm. When under sail, keeping the sail(s) full and the boat heading in the right direction; can be exhilarating if the boat is in 'the groove', but the slight loss of concentration can lose that, leading to a pirouette or gybe. My scariest moment? Just out of Portsmouth harbour, in the Solent; we think it was a mini twister that out of the blue, spun the boat around, heeling her over to the point the gunwales on the port side were underwater! My thoughts were, sorry Sarah for sinking your boat; it was that intense! And then it was gone.

Team building; in a small boat in the middle of the English Channel, working together is the only way to get across safely; personality clashes have to be put aside when there is work to do. There is no room for the alternative.



Taking turns to prepare food in a very small galley. There is a two burner gas hob, oven and grill; the cooker is mounted on a gimbal to keep it level, as far as is possible

at sea. Biscuits and crisps ensure a top up of energy. The accepted protocol is that the chef does not wash up. Bacon butties, ahh, yes please. A much looked forward to boost after a long stint on watch. Alcohol is not consumed at sea, and in moderation the night before departing port.

Laughs; yes, although not so much of that when everyone is hunkered down if the going is a bit rough; however, there is still room to laugh at ourselves, huddled together, lost in thought.

The following photographs on the way back from Guernsey; the video clip is just outside Deauville.



DSCN1530_Trim.mp4

Talking about our lives/journeys; plenty of that. People's experiences are so varied and interesting which I love listening to; it does help pass the time, especially during a twenty two hour crossing, as is the case between Portsmouth and Hornfleur or, the much shorter twelve hour sail between Portsmouth and St Vaast.

Much of the time, sailing weekends are on the Solent however, France / Channel Islands for longer holidays require crossing the two shipping lanes across the channel; it can be busy. Day or night crossings require a good lookout using the mark 1 eyeball, the night crossings rely on a knowledge of the meaning of lights displayed on ships, the most important are the red (port) starboard(green), the mast head, stern and forward navigation (nav) lights are white and at different heights; the light pattern indicates the direction of travel. The old adage of ships giving way to sailing vessels is not workable when a ship's stopping distance is measured in miles. It has been known to happen though, usually, the tiddlers are expected to take collision avoidance decisions.

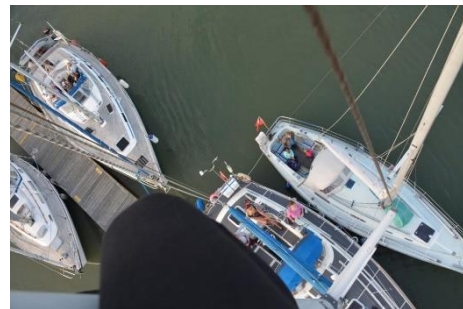
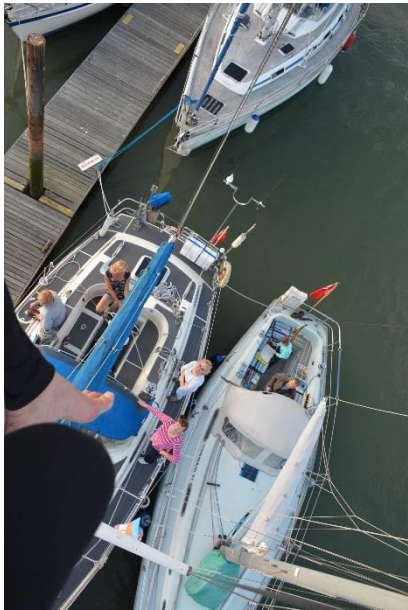
Another very effective tool is AIS (Automatic Identification System) that all larger vessels are required to use. AIS is computer based, it transmits the vessel's name, its course, its speed and destination port. It is not a requirement for smaller vessels however, it is worth its weight in gold when fitted. Vessels are displayed as arrows on the laptop screen. Smaller boats with AIS, use VHF to transmit and receive, ships may also use satellites to transmit, particularly useful if a long way from shore.

Navigation is mainly using GPS, with more than one system on board to mitigate a system failure; even smart phones can be press ganged into service. The ability to use astro-navigation is not dead,

Safety is paramount; GoD is very well equipped with life jackets and tethers, life raft rated for ocean use, flares, fire extinguishers, life lines and a Dan bouy, which when thrown overboard, shows where the person is. Also, on the plotter on deck, there is MOB button, when pressed, records the position.

Qualifications; the basic one to operate safely is the Day Skipper, which is two part; theory and practical. A VHF licence to operate the radio. Visiting foreign ports, requires the skipper to hold an additional certificate.

The wind up; from sea level to the top of the mast is fifty feet. At the top are nav lights, a tricolour only if only actually under sail, and white when riding at anchor. Also, are the pulleys for the main sail and assorted other sheets/lines. To get to the top, ideally the lightest volunteer sits either in a bosun's chair or climbing harness and is then winched up to wherever up the mast



Art by Jack Simmons



Thomas – Once the Doubter, now the Shouter – Jack Simmons

Right from my childhood Thomas was special.

My dear father was Thomas (Tucker). I had securely ‘christened’ my two wooden soldiers ‘Thomas’ and the mightier one ‘Tucker’.

On reflection, Dad’s initials were A.T.S (Arthur Thomas Simmons), which could have firmly stood to represent ‘All Through Scripture’ Now schooldays are long gone (yes, I am 21!), the word Fascination still lingers within me.

Students known to me are keen on art 3D style, which leads us (in my up, down, in, out type of thinking, at times slightly confused mind) close to 3B.

‘B-B-B’ reminds me of a saying, ‘Bring-Back-Bible’ and definitely closer to our precious volume, ‘Bit-By-Bit’.

“Wow!” and “Golly!” Our volume attacked to read and understand by following this ‘Bit-By-Bit’ menu could produce in each us a great way in which to follow - whether a young-at-heart Christian, or an anticipating more ‘further on’ follower of our Fascinating Friend-of-our-future.

(I advise you to turn away, as my fascination with words has engulfed my mind with 4 letter 'F's – a Fascinating Friend of Our Future Forever! Therefore, 4F...).

Thomas's saga produced a sign that this once Doubter failed to find? Life seemed as if Our Lord knew past and present wrapped up in one, yet Thomas the Doubter, bone-by-bone – could simply turn away for home. Yet the Father told Thomas to put hand in his side.

"Wow". That's it. "That's just as 'it should be". In glorious truth it provided 'youth' in his mind – away from himself and into a 'host' of moments, peace and joy. Thomas, once full of doubt, could turn his face – full of grace and wonder at HIM now 'face-to-face'

THOMAS – don't DOUBT!

THOMAS – just SHOUT!!

Praise the Lord. We will never doubt.

Poem by *Jack Simmons*

Hark, I'm amazed

Prior to this -

Prior to that –

Not daring to live in the light of Christ –

Clinging to illness. Ah! Even when 'well'

Hold on tight – just hide that face.

Why on earth dare not fight?

Shake off this cloak and allow God's grace, for His insight and peace.

And measures of trust cease that which is bad.

Just how long have you shuffled, head hanging down?

Dare you not smile and look at His crown?

Around and around, not daring to raise from the ground: then

Hark, I'm amazed

A new friend and new face – Thomas the twin,

Yes, the Doubter sprung out of His Word (before never heard)

He does doubt MY word

How speedily the Bible transforms, brings blessings and joy

And retracing rusty tracks where old head touched the path

I'm gazing – amazing
eyes never leave, ears hear so clear.

I raise a chuckle: late father was a Thomas
and my home is 'St Thomas House'
and "Wow!" Now it's the doubter, a hard working chap
"Hey! what about me?" I'm following His word (before never heard).
My dark face is lifted to light.

Trans survey

The Ozanne Foundation has teamed up with Mermaids, Stonewall, Gires and others to understand the impact of conversion therapy on trans and non-binary people so that we can end this harmful practice, including working for legislation to ban it.

If you are over 16 and living in the UK, whatever your gender identity, please fill out this short, anonymous questionnaire on conversion therapy before midnight on October 11th

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GICT2020>

Trans faith

Nancy Ledins – trans RC priest (arguably only female priest ever in the church: a great story courtesy of Q Spirit):

<http://qspirit.net/nancy-ledins-transgender-priest/>

Do Pope Francis's actions towards trans people mean more than his words?

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/08/20/in-new-letter-pope-francis-again-affirms-nuns-ministry-to-transgender-women/>

Catholic liturgy can be vehicle for parents to embrace their trans children:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/07/25/catholic-liturgy-is-a-vehicle-for-parents-to-embrace-transgender-children/>

Bishop Paul Bayes and Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner support trans community:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/03/bishop-liverpool-senior-rabbi-reform-judaism-transgender-ideology-times/?fbclid=IwAR3rjC6xDlyWE2-CJ81Iq5ZZwKMO7k-3RIcUJdiTYS DALh119Q4Fyo0raBU>

Franciscan theologian calls on church to abandon "bogeyman" of "gender ideology":

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/07/15/franciscan-theologian-church-must-abandon-boogeyman-of-gender-ideology/>

Pride 2020: Churches' apology, repentance and transformation (YouTube):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFcWKK4UtM4&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3QBjXMTdMay8vKzHWqf8-QqRq1GUz43zCb7_rHUapeoHjJ0yAUfFwS4xc&app=desktop

A theology of survival for black trans people (YouTube):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2e3VWIHNb88&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2eSA-ro2L7C8JKSq3z7zLbmJHxueh4AAIUo0AOg9VQA5pFK1q_GsmvG_k

Exchange at General Synod about trans people:

<https://www.facebook.com/jayne.ozanne.1/videos/2920717451488961>

Pauli Murray: trans saint:

<http://qspirit.net/pauli-murray-queer-saint/>

Queer Theology: Transgender people must survive:

<https://www.queertheology.com/transgender-people-must-survive/>

Queer Theology: if God doesn't make mistakes, why are you trans?:

<https://www.queertheology.com/if-god-does-not-make-mistakes-why-are-you-transgender/>

Queer theology: I am a deviant:

<https://www.queertheology.com/i-am-a-deviant/>

Jo Inkpin reflects: transformative celebration of trans people not just a place at the table:

https://www.transspirit.org/blog/transformative-celebration-not-just-a-place-at-the-table?fbclid=IwAR1VI776YrktP_ICOuxhS6HDB_MBbz9GJEbjreohWHsAWLyNuTNbmKmHcb4#

...another great reflection from Jo on the story of Jacob and wounding:

<https://www.transspirit.org/blog/jacob-and-wounding?fbclid=IwAR1OCFM2YiUUhYkY06FvPlfADzFc53yG7s1JPBrQ8lQG17iQ0Ki3Kqx5UTE>

Christian parent of a trans child speaks movingly of their journey

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mkg73gt_cWI&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1xHmPsupkEFbtIrLg03mfRkMghCVuNbVeJLhNyeV5mgQgLmU27ULckdnU

Gender neutral B mitzvah:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/03/bnai-mitzvah-gender-neutral-jewish-ceremony-ruby-marx-bar-bat-rabbi/>

Trans woman describes horrific experience of "conversion therapy" by "Christians":

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/06/conversion-therapy-trans-woman-jk-rowling-survivor-abuse-suicide-transphobia-jo-brydon/>

Anti-LGBT Lee Gatiss to preach official CofE sermon:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/07/church-of-england-sunday-service-sermon-lgbt-lee-gatiss/?fbclid=IwAR13wy0XCcWisjJ6GLphltO_3E8SJR7eDr5wAKcGm_uPtzseApDT_PT-sC0

Love letter to trans people from trans priest:

<https://www.queertheology.com/transgender-priest-community-love-letter/?fbclid=IwAR0Uhy6IFCUC8JCoL1edz2UX6NMXzZT4Wo7Phh6jDk141Wz1Z2DpUC9wTWO>

Baptist minister sacked for transitioning:

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/23/world/canada/junia-joplin-transgender-lorne-park-baptist.html?fbclid=IwAR2twiN5jtvJvGwPqFY7Qk-BOg0AkjYv4hD6MmJ8_ydyNmpRDtXrD517r-E

.....Junia tells her story here:

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/coming-out-trans-religion_uk_5f3682a7c5b69fa9e2fa4c72?guccounter=&fbclid=IwAR0fx0z2jsy8qaDSW3cHFHu3c619TnZTFLFE_IM38dM2giquXVlq25QF45M

Catholic church hangs giant rainbow banner:

<https://novenanews.com/catholic-parish-germany-rainbow-banner-lgbt-church/?fbclid=IwAR0j2T-xilM-FwLRW2Ze0hXjetaBIQos952pou9MmGaroyQMbcUN0TzUe6c>

US Archdiocese issues atrocious guidelines on treatment of trans people:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/08/27/catholics-criticize-new-archdiocesan-guidelines-against-gender-transition/>

Joseph's "princess dress" (by kind permission of QSpirit):

<http://qspirit.net/joseph-queer-biblical/>

Coming out as your authentic self: a call to prophecy – and to the Cross:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/08/30/the-two-sides-of-being-prophetic/>

Trans Catholics criticise retiring archbishop's letter on "gender ideology":

https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/transgender-catholics-criticize-retiring-archbishops-letter-gender-ideology?fbclid=IwAR1szU6BLBK75Mek4cU28QdT2r7OGYKFuc-K_TqrefioVAS0TEiA31i7D-U

Pope Francis meets parents of LGBT children:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/17/pope-francis-lgbt-gay-transgender-parents-love-vatican-god-parenting-catholic-church/>

Transsexual (sic) pilgrimage to black Madonna:

https://novenanews.com/pilgrimage-transsexuals-black-madonna-montevergine/?fbclid=IwAR2WHNrrcUHgvgrIr4O0QbT1qEN2vbbaaQ90F5wFpPUPM_V0Uz2sj8s2G0-9o

Trans politics and law

Govt's response to GRA consultation:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2020-09-22/hcws462?fbclid=IwAR3cr3wcZTjY3Aftp2lv-104gnVCZDr3IuAe0xtXcsayXpHQvIHZzxOogSs>

What exactly are the three “new” gender clinics? Are they even new?

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/24/liz-truss-gender-clinics-recognition-act-reform-abandoned/>

Hansard report of Commons questions to Liz Truss on GRA reform:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-24/debates/9A57DC36-172D-40CF-98D6-502F1B9A78F0/GenderRecognitionActConsultation>

...or watch it here:

<https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/f63a02f0-0018-4a77-b8d4-037dc41e3558?in=10:38:15>

Tory MP says Liz Truss lacks empathy and should be sacked:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/24/liz-truss-sacked-crispin-blunt-tory-mp-empathy-gender-recognition-act/?fbclid=IwAR1g8IolOzYWxtl5zAPDMhdQQX-OqbywsB2h-GihscOXV7zdykn5KBr7Dm4>

Comment in Guardian from Juliet Jacques:

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/sep/24/liberals-stand-up-trans-rights-transgender?fbclid=IwAR3LecFmgZLr_nJx52938jPGXsN2ckN-BXUECZOy7d5n5W3oWaKlIOn8eAg

Labour and Lib Dems vow to support self-ID:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/22/gender-recognition-act-labour-marsha-de-cordova-lib-dems-wera-hobhouse/>

Debbie Hayton writes about Lib Dems’ stance on trans people:

https://unherd.com/thepost/lib-dems-squash-internal-revolt-on-trans-rights/?fbclid=IwAR3XUWjHeyUxo-gMdw9aXHuZ_3iW-OXG9KjUK33DOwuHFCJXGVwGgzHJcLs

House of Commons Library briefing paper on GRA reform:

https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8969/?fbclid=IwAR1_yyoh2vtl-q7OvmOgRVeruT7dAyMxJHT8TyJ22JFHyaIdkjXH0QyWbPw

...it looks like bad news for trans children:

<https://www.transiness.com/post/uk-government-documents-and-nhs-advice-changed-and-it-s-not-good-for-safeguarding-trans-children?fbclid=IwAR1l-p2Ua5sZuZg39n3i5O4R2K4ZrmNTMSUTPTRKKkla8MbHmfURgXoEgB8>

Some conservatives do get it:

https://www.conservativehome.com/platform/2020/07/crispin-blunt-and-sue-pascoe-its-time-to-correct-the-stoking-of-alarm-and-spreading-of-misinformation-about-trans-people.html?fbclid=IwAR2oBh4jy1kmE755tABQDYIAW_DE6WlVDSrWpd4X4t0OO5e7mWOqei5FKM

Mermaids comment on new DfE guidance on LGBT lessons in schools:

<https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/news/understanding-school-guidance/>

Alex Clare-young on Sunday Morning Live on TV:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000n22m?fbclid=IwAR2XLBf6ma_c7unBJxOeO8_gt0Hoe3H3OIEJWvetVYubcxRZIs-Sz-iWFzk

What do non-binary people want?

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/23/non-binary-gender-recognition-act-abolish-c-benedict/>

Welsh Government's statement of support for trans people (and disappointment with UK govt):

https://gov.wales/written-statement-statement-support-wales-trans-communities?fbclid=IwAR3QaBN909JGNWQURf5TMOKSMU_m90LF42bwTDtiQ84LJS EqTH8UI_dGbGc

Open letter to Boris calling on him to honour pledges to reform GRA:

<https://pinknewsaction.com/petition/bbad8803-ask-boris-johnson-if-he-still-agrees-with-his-own-and-the-tory-promises-on-trans-rights>

The way trans rights are discussed must change:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/09/transgender-people-equal-rights-self-identification-gender-recognition-act?fbclid=IwAR2CkjdImTkqN4Z8fzQqJ8JuX64z0RckP4MUyDr1ypQUeeHyLfvQ2SATAWE>

Lynne Featherstone on trans rights:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/15/lynne-featherstone-trans-rights-self-id-transphobia-gender-recognition-jk-rowling-liberal-democrats/>

Debbie Hayton's view:

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/07/britain-comes-close-to-defeating-trans-overreach/?fbclid=IwAR2GUdN-C7Ip0nDztd26BFAOMqRwg5-DqpQd2gX6jD1jkvDa0EGM6ogPRDw>

One trans woman's view of what a GRC does (and doesn't) do:

http://www.azl.me.uk/2018/07/all-in-name-gender-recognition.html?m=1&fbclid=IwAR3OkYe-42B_zG2EmRcN56TZ72CeFfYQMuacmBHZKede4YJHly1j7p8QFUY

Trans people should be heard in the Labour Party:

<https://labourlist.org/2020/08/trans-people-must-be-heard-by-the-labour-party/?fbclid=IwAR0LvisLMtUI8nNtGBsJTrRtO--hCmfXhewS9g9sdcHdvgyo07tTxELr6FI>

Why Keir Starmer should stand up for trans rights:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/06/keir-starmer-transphobia-rosie-duffield-labour-campaign-transgender-rights-torr-robinson/>

EU report on process for obtaining legal recognition of gender damning for UK:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/06/uk-european-commission-legal-gender-recognition-act-hungary-poland-trans-transgender/>

David Isaac calls for less polarised debate on GRA reform:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/aug/08/polarised-debate-on-gender-recognition-is-harming-uk-says-equalities-chief>

GMB union urges govt to progress reform of GRA:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/15/gmb-union-letter-liz-truss-equalities-minister-trans-rights-gender-recognition-act-reform-boris-johnson/>

Poll shows majority of women support self-identifying of trans people:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/09/trans-self-identify-liz-truss-gender-recognition-act-yougov-polling-women-dawn-butler/>

Jameela Jaleel et al discuss GRA reform (YouTube):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRCOqcY_p00&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR260GtdXyw1ZrjxrifJzJoxDrIklsTiq3ZVvSd7wCL5SOu6aBntVcRvvQ

Nancy Kelley upbeat about trans rights:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/04/stonewall-nancy-kelley-trans-mermaids-lui-asquith-mridul-wadhwa-forth-valley-rape-crisis-centre-pinknews-panel-discussion/>

BMA backs self-ID for gender recognition:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/16/british-medical-association-trans-non-binary-self-declare-gender-recognition-act/>

TUC also supports trans rights:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/17/trades-union-congress-tuc-trans-non-binary-rights-lgb-alliance-transphobia/?fbclid=IwAR25ZyV9qxsI3X9koUZSO8V8EzDsWjRA8QfHRRAs0dL0erSkhPA7rNGxxI>

Employment tribunal rules non-binary/gender fluid people protected under Equality Act:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/17/jaguar-land-rover-employment-tribunal-non-binary-gender-fluid/>

Mother in legal fight over dead trans daughter's frozen sperm:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/26/mother-louise-anderson-legal-fight-save-dead-transgender-daughters-sperm-scotland>

Trans life

Lovely article by daughter of trans dad:

https://www.cosmopolitan.com/uk/love-sex/relationships/a9240182/dad-came-out-transgender/?fbclid=IwAR3GzZR94dua0i_T_-F4Led11mdP7oC0a-sPhHieYaz9t6Llp4Rpw4buU_4

The hardest places to transition are in your own head and within your family: great piece by Debbie Hayton:

<https://www.hoodmagazine.co.uk/blog/debbie-hayton-journey?fbclid=IwAR3m73tuoqhsjUHeBaQ5xLAspxxECNbzicySTWINxo7lSN04KiSfRtIX1yc>

....perhaps more controversial piece by Debbie in Spectator:

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-co-op-needs-to-explain-itself?fbclid=IwAR2BIHaSGVIIwBeGGvV5CqhO2z7Y4w72N9IRAlhgro2wglPfMOYrscmYKG0>

OU Trans professor of philosophy Sophie-Grace Chappell:

https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/jul/11/uks-only-trans-philosophy-professor-to-jk-rowling-harry-potter-helped-me-become-a-woman?fbclid=IwAR19mTJAsP5YAAAw9wXlhZrLDkIxDGq1vI_d09HgCyFMbG16zyhXMf-If-0

....and read her open letter to JK Rowling:

<https://crookedtimber.org/2020/06/14/guest-post-an-open-letter-to-jk-rowling-blog-post-on-sex-and-gender-by-sophie-grace-chappell/>

Trans woman changes name from Harry Potter to Ellen Potter – but is heart-broken:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/30/harry-potter-ellen-jk-rowling-chosen-name-trans-woman-twitter/>

Judith Butler on feminism and trans people:

https://www.newstatesman.com/international/2020/09/judith-butler-culture-wars-jk-rowling-and-living-anti-intellectual-times?utm_source=pocket-newtab-global-en-GB&fbclid=IwAR21-0MSQo-3K0uv4QljwjQa8K7GEqxQHg64NXfZgM7_4uMG0qDDa6_VXgg

200 writers sign letter of support to trans people:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/sep/30/more-than-200-writers-and-publishers-sign-letter-in-support-of-trans-and-non-binary-people>

New Stonewall CEO Nancy Kelley's take on trans issues (NB you need to be a Pink News member to read the whole article):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/18/nancy-kelley-stonewall-chief-executive-mental-health-trans-rights-coronavirus-exclusive-interview/>

A film shown at Silver Pride, an on-line event focusing on the older LGBT community. Your editor was involved – she did not enjoy seeing and hearing herself: ([YouTube video](#))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT6IRoUU9iE&feature=youtu.be>

How ciswomen can face transphobia:

<https://twitter.com/BasicBitching/status/1278377502969380872>

No winners in trans culture wars:

https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/jennifer-o-connell-there-are-no-winners-in-trans-rights-culture-war-1.4277535?mode=amp&fbclid=IwAR26LggrTMZa8CEzC-NbKTIGvIWsuacDv4AO-kYe8SYj_7NNbDNfUytkT3E

Debbie Hayton: are we all non-binary?:

<https://unherd.com/the-post/maybe-we-are-all-non-binary/?fbclid=IwAR0DaQM5FM06LY2jVYXQNNNughMKH8TLiX1ZAKVdDYqzh6Mnc857zwdfwzc>

Netflix documentary on trans representation in Hollywood:

<https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/81284247?fbclid=IwAR0Milk7eBt9nx32X0plWwwTnwiXIHKssoK20y5nvuUsYF3CwVfSyHN1diQ>

Disclosure: Netflix documentary on trans representation in film and TV:

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2020/jul/07/disclosure-trans-tv-film-representation-netflix>

“I am the parent of a trans child and will not be accused of homophobia”:

https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/news/support-my-trans-child/?fbclid=IwAR2VzSIP7TZiBlkSycCpekbTCNcedrweSl2QIo722_hjz40zzbudt_VkPeE

Things to consider if you’re ever approached by the media:

http://www.transmediawatch.org/people.html?fbclid=IwAR14MGHEA4azS8FJaOnTbn--504mxVrVK80-qd0ZUGIbFY_rqXltN60vEKg

Poll suggests over half of people would be uncomfortable with trans GP or PM. Women much more likely to support trans people than men:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/15/trans-transgender-rights-ipsos-mori-polling-prime-minister-gp-gender-identity-single-sex-spaces/>

Margaret Atwood supports trans people:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/07/margaret-atwood-trans-transgender-gender-jk-rowling-twitter/>

Trans women and feminists are on the same side:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/07/trans-rights-have-been-pitted-against-feminism-but-were-not-enemies>

Marie-le- Conte agrees: womanhood is messy and has plenty of room for trans women:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/17/marie-le-conte-trans-rights-feminism-transgender-transphobia-self-id-trade-unions-refugee-crisis/>

Rebecca Solnit writes that it’s not trans women who are a threat to women but cis straight men and patriarchy:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/10/trans-rights-feminist-letter-rebecca-solnit>

Cadance Bell writes about how transitioning changed her ability to feel and express emotion:

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/jul/20/i-forgot-how-to-cry-as-a-man-hrt-gave-me-a-range-of-emotions-i-never-thought-possible>

The word “woman” is already taken (Debbie Hayton):

https://blogs.publico.es/otrasmiradas/35022/the-word-woman-is-already-taken/?fbclid=IwAR3B1xpi6bk_VhpgSRIGtQ1nuMaBn0TqPVpc8aY2yuZ-JDwyHQLiHzpVa4A

Debbie again:

https://culturico.com/2020/08/03/the-transgender-debate-needs-clear-thinking-not-muddled-language/?fbclid=IwAR2yYLSF_fN7hS0YXKtaLNFP0dSefIA5yX5ebs9FD0P8VJJOxJJFWOK5hFg

...and again in The Spectator:

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/rosie-duffield-and-the-war-on-women?fbclid=IwAR1nYy6-IUuzNRComUgPIGkthV-ZPOoW7nQVrSieixWDLxtpM1ILmUop3JY>

Courtney Act on her struggles with her gender identity:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/10/courtney-act-drag-race-fluid-tour-pansexual-genderfluid-interview/>

Trans actress Georgie Stone on playing trans role in Neighbours:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/25/neighbours-mackenzie-hargreaves-trans-actor-georgie-stone-surgery/>

Trans academic's fight to change name on pre-transition publications:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/27/deadnamed-transgender-research-theresa-jean-tanenbaum-nature-journal/>

Gender fluidity in indigenous cultures: **Video**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-53573764/pre-colonial-communities-history-of-gender-fluidity>

Yet more murders in US of black trans women:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/29/black-trans-transgender-murdered-queasha-d-hardy-tiffany-harris-brian-powers/>

Inverness or Bust: forgotten trans history from the 1970s:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/30/inverness-or-bust-britain-trans-history-my-generation-fox-fisher/>

Use of gender neutral pronouns increasing amongst LGBT youth:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/30/they-them-gender-neutral-pronouns-lgbt-youth-survey-trevor-project/?fbclid=IwAR2YB-JLF7MUEbJHZGeMALXKUHVi_x0kSlxVWEzAYrp5KZILGa79W_Oaojc

Open letter to BBC protesting removal of trans bodies from BBC LGBT Help Line website:

<https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/news/lgbtq-complaint-to-the-bbc/?fbclid=IwAR1OCFM2YiUUhYkY06FvPlfADzFc53yG7s1JPBrQ8lQG17iQ0Ki3Kqx5UTE>

Teacher fired for repeatedly misgendering trans pupil:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/03/joshua-sutcliffe-oxford-cherwell-school-st-alloysius-catholic-primary-school-transphobia-lgbt-islam-mafia/>

Suzanne Moore on what is a woman?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/03/define-what-a-woman-is-organise->

[politically-suzanne-moore](#)

The Matrix is a trans narrative say Wachowskis:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/05/lilly-lana-wachowski-the-matrix-trans-experience-transgender-gender-dysphoria-red-pill/>

Trans people twice as likely to be victims of crime in England and Wales:

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/jul/17/trans-people-twice-as-likely-to-be-victims-of-in-england-and-wales?fbclid=IwAR3buNw5Lg0e_aDnfv7RO-Zjx24Ucop1-yK9cdHs6yx21G75L4-0FiIs9qE

Gender in the Blender: Bernardine Evaristo:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000lh74?fbclid=IwAR1KNrRnvNUBHyX9S6ryJoqrfcO9WvHHpHRHPyVBbaEwNmDKHHDNp1SIL88>

Gender euphoria: 10 great things about being trans:

<https://transmagazine.nl/gender-euphoria/?fbclid=IwAR0-aIP2W--3QY0HWKu-Xpsf2Bi1gWJyMtlUaS8pNXafENIZ65xiFrzzlU>

Why cis actors should not play trans characters:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/15/annette-bening-cisgender-actors-transgender-characters-son-stephen-ira-lgbt/>

Trans girl plays trans girl in CBBC series:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/20/first-day-cbbc-evie-macdonald-trans-girl-school-bbc-transgender-youth/>

US teen successfully sues school in bathroom rights case:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-53834065>

Why cis women should not exclude trans women:

http://www.deanspade.net/2019/12/10/possibly-helpful-language-for-responding-to-transphobia-in-feminist-groups/?fbclid=IwAR3q8Whv2hP8YHIF9MTzFEcJRKdB0i31YQv9brFQhbsz-o_XyAUb9N2JQ

Suzy Wong lands her dream role as trans women at peace with herself and the world:

https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2020/aug/24/i-finally-landed-the-role-ive-dreamed-of-a-trans-woman-at-peace-with-and-loved-by-the-world?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR3tJHP_kY6y-Vz7Pi3Z5h2e9nPdBTB0gb_OK-WG2l4nrkzi9svY7HvYgw

“Gender critical” activist changes her mind about trans people:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/27/gender-critical-feminism-transphobia-anti-trans-nephew-ally-nora-mulready/>

Trans man a finalist in Mr Gay England

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-53936529>

Further response to J K Rowling from Mermaids:

<https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/news/a-call-to-j-k-rowling/?fbclid=IwAR0BxfJYfgzgSHTeCgX16m9qPomW6Snq0cJN5NgoDxgKqveqUeCy7zxzsJo>

Dr Ash Brockwell on trans rights vs women's rights:

https://www.in-common.co.uk/2020/08/27/opinion-trans-rights-and-womens-rights-have-we-been-asking-the-wrong-questions/?fbclid=IwAR0RIV7qX3xXnDc5Os580dme9UFnuKtntLfXvfB_vsCHI3X-mR12vezvqy8

Gender Identity and Intersectionality with NHS Wales (YouTube):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qK18SIYbVE0&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3Ziv2Y2KNG-GXW4O3J3TM7MjybQDug7ux5q7gLqTPJL1XDFWHilAt-pjs>

Trans/non-binary characters in season 3 of Star Trek: Discovery:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/03/star-trek-discovery-season-3-ian-alexander-blue-del-barrio-non-binary-trans-characters/>

How a women's refuge changed a trans woman's life:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/09/sarah-savage-trans-author-womens-refuge-domestic-abuse-transgender/>

Trans key workers:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/sep/11/meet-the-trans-key-workers-teaching-teaching-and-serving-the-uk>

136 companies show support for trans community:

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/over-100-major-companies-join-together-say-trans-rights-are-human-rights?fbclid=IwAR2dtCXVVIDE4T4Otk4blmFikNB6Ho3H_Z63i5S84LJUHPBCzLIFvL3KmE

J K Rowling's latest book features a cis man who dresses as a woman to kill victims:

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/14/jk-rowling-new-book-cormoran-strike-troubled-blood-killer-dresses-woman/?fbclid=IwAR2dtCXVVIDE4T4Otk4blmFikNB6Ho3H_Z63i5S84LJUHPBCzLIFvL3KmE

An unusual de-transitioning story:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-51806011>

Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre will continue to recruit trans volunteers despite protests:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/27/cambridge-rape-crisis-centre-transgender-volunteers-transphobic-attacks/>

Trans health

Puberty blockers: an overview:

https://growinguptransgender.com/2020/06/10/puberty-blockers-overview-of-the-research/amp/?fbclid=IwAR1XXw9QKSj6tjhHA5Uvz_ri2_D4Pe69yqo7ZmFrwONtyqcnTJ2a8DeZvw0

Surgery on intersex children: a change in approach?

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/jul/14/intersex-children-hasty-operations>

Surge in numbers of children seeking gender identity counselling during lockdown:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/16/childline-young-people-gender-identity-sexuality-counselling-coronavirus-lockdown-nspcc/>

J K Rowling and the Chamber of Trans Youth Misinformation:

https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/political-minds/202007/jk-rowling-and-the-chamber-trans-youth-misinformation?fbclid=IwAR0SkLYSGgTU3boA6_1rzI4HUXeTtBWt27atINwZQaPpIpw0zigQexYUgsw

ABC defends Rosie Duffield's transphobic comments about "people with cervixes":

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/06/rosie-duffield-archbishop-canterbury-defend-labour-mp-transphobia-twitter-cervical-cancer/>

Critique of ROGD (Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria):

<https://www.growkudos.com/publications/10.1177%25252F0038026120934693/reader?fbclid=IwAR2WBMD0sR4wxKcSrPHfyBVxgwgCoJh7d0BZF9JwCsgbtPfU0WlqREwM8CQ>

193 week wait at GIC in South West:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/13/nhs-trans-patients-laurels-gender-identity-clinic-south-west-waiting-list-yeovil-pride/>

A nurse tells why they love caring for patients who have gender surgery:

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/gender-confirmation-surgery_uk_5f3ff377c5b6305f32570719?fbclid=IwAR2sCqU7az2zY2MFyiwT8zsSd40_fRGyziJSoydHliYoui-F2x5ilTiVRg&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9sLmZhY2Vib29rLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAMpgqCUBPifSa-VfbviOmbTy3eds8OyLo6HXnGmrm8OPx7kfi5hPCzspWwxWd2Yds7V6tqRbRBcKPAZdSfBYNXDHbPeGkqrbG2vMnqX5Eqn4g_swZFsuiZOL2Loyx6RXxwVyGeNcpXlqRVubke_cbnEsc7ExLyrPpeb5rgqE8oWT&_guc_consent_skip=1598856999

Disaster of gender clinic waiting lists:

<https://inews.co.uk/news/charities-plugging-gaps-struggling-transgender-wait-four-years-appointments-582934?fbclid=IwAR0DY5yzRcmIp8Q7jSM-UNA3BAoorDXHnYQTOFivICH5SqDXA9rVKt67pVY>

Trans man with cystic fibrosis and Covid safely gives birth:

<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/parenting/pregnancy/coronavirus-australia-transgender-queensland-man-births-covid-baby-breaking-medical-history-twice/news->

[story/0259f9c1dda14af491a91e37f7eba09c](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56914444)

How our medical systems might fail trans people:

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200814-why-our-medical-systems-are-ignoring-transgender-people?fbclid=IwAR0j7zu5nDEeHcC-gElnSrvGrzMrjcvwzucEU0RiSJErTcbutq6DQ4GvDa8>

Report on people's in Wales experiences of trans health services:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/hex.13104>

Trans sport

World rugby considering banning trans women:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/jul/19/transwomen-face-potential-womens-rugby-ban-over-safety-concerns>

International Gay Rugby disagrees:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/26/world-rugby-trans-women-transgender-ban-leak-report-international-gay-rugby/?fbclid=IwAR2dDr11wNK8gPCWnKKg2vBCkW7oXOKKU4J52pTD4cdyNUWlffRBm1kr91c>

...so does a trans rugby player:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/rugby-union/53667683>

Trans woman footballer facing abuse:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-53594466?fbclid=IwAR3WhLYLfDqzsXTmn_fu19eu2BOJqDfbIwaUqPWxGTjdwxrJAO_III CrgF0

Sophie Cook, first trans woman in British professional football, appears on Newsnight and receives horrific on-line abuse:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/09/01/sophie-cook-trans-football-bournemouth-afc-labour-party-bbc-newsnight-online-abuse/>

US footballer Lori Lindsey defends right of trans women to play in women's sport:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/04/lori-lindsey-trans-transgender-sport-idaho-lesbian-footballer/>

Tour de Trans: 1000 mile bike ride to raise money to help trans people:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/08/19/tour-de-trans-british-cycling-pateon-mcguire-callum-lejog-gender-identity-chrysalis/>

Erin Parisi – intrepid trans mountaineer plans to climb Everest – and put a trans flag on top!

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/07/24/erin-parisi-seven-summits-mount-everest-transgender-trans-pride-flag-mounting-climbing/>

Book Review – Trans Affirming Churches *Pauline*

Trans Affirming Churches is the third book in the “Sibyls Trilogy”, following *This is My Body* edited by Tina Beardsley and Michelle O’Brien and *TransFaith* edited by Tina and Chris Dowd. *Trans Affirming Churches* is another collaboration between Tina and Chris.

I cannot recommend this book highly enough for anyone seeking to make their church community more welcoming to trans people. It is endlessly quotable: it begins by saying “This book is not about an issue; it’s about people.” It skilfully weaves the stories of real trans people into a narrative covering the Bible and trans people (it discusses the way in which scripture can be “weaponised” against trans people); the church and trans people (it laments the way in which we “exist within our own theological echo chambers and hurl insults across the theological divide to no good effect” and denounces the church’s culture of “deeply ingrained cisgender heteronormative male privilege”, suggesting that the churches are behaving like the circumcisers amongst the early Christians.)

I was particularly impressed by the material concerning the effect on the whole family when someone comes out as trans. The way in which the trans person is both utterly changed and yet also the same is powerfully and daringly likened to the experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus where it takes time for them to begin to recognise the person they have always loved. The support needed for partners who may often feel that the needs of the trans person has to come before their own is also sensitively referenced.

This book is far from an academic treatise or work of theology. It is rooted in the lived experience of real people. The changes it advocates are practical and attainable. They are “not that radical” but involve listening to trans people and their loved ones with the hope that in the future the “maze of misinformation and hyperbole” will be dispelled and the lives of trans people in churches no longer seen as “exoticised, eroticised and stigmatised”. Chris and Tina are very positive and hopeful about this but they do end with a warning to us all: “Inclusive theology is costly rather than cosy” and “we are not here to be comfortable but to be community”.