



Inclusive Church Newsletter

February 2024

The Inclusive Church Newsletter is a digital publication produced every month. It aims to provide supporters and members with the latest news and information from the life of Inclusive Church and our partner organisations.



From the Chair

Dear friends,

This week, we had a very full but successful board meeting. We approved 27 new church applications! (They are listed below.) This was hot on the heels of a fantastic online book launch of [*How to Build the Church of the Future*](#) the previous week. In a lot of ways, the *Inclusive Church* network is in challenging times. Since our National Coordinator's departure, without an Honorary Secretary, and with fewer trustees than we'd like, the 'centre' of the charity doesn't have the capacity we need to achieve what we want as a network. So the board is going forward with recruiting our next

network of the board is going forward with recruiting our next coordinator and new trustees. I hope both adverts will be ready for the next newsletter, which we shall aim to send on Palm Sunday, 24 March. (Please send copy to office@inclusive-church.org by Friday 22 March.) We are also starting to plan our next network strategy; so this is an especially exciting time to join the board!

It is my delight to publicly welcome and introduce to you our new Clerk. **Divya Dhinakaran** is an experienced professional administrator who has joined us for one day a week, initially on a temporary contract. I and the board have already been impressed by the huge difference her skills are making to our smooth operation at this challenging time. Please bear with Divya as she continues to learn the very peculiar intricacies of how churches work. I will also continue helping with the office inbox while we appoint our next coordinator; and we are planning a survey of churches soon, to get our database in better shape so we can connect with network churches more efficiently.

While our network is flourishing and growing fast — now over 1000 churches strong — the charity at its centre is small. We are proud of our network's 20-year history and we want to keep building on our successes until our work is done. The charity (and therefore the network) is wholly dependent on donations from our member churches and individual members. Please donate using the button below, if you can! And a huge thank you to every one of our regular donors.

Please keep the trustees, staff, ambassadors and church leaders in your prayers. If you have skills you can offer in service of the network, please write to me: chair@inclusive-church.org

Your comrade,

*Fr Dan Barnes-Davies SCP,
Chair of the board of trustees*

[Donate to Inclusive Church](#)

Vacancies

Rector: All Saints Church, Wokingham

We're looking for a leader who will help us follow Jesus better and realise our vision in the community. We're an inclusive church that has just spent 5+ years and £1.5 million converting our medieval church building into a flexible worship space and community hub.

We're strongly into climate and social justice. We want children and youth to be a key part of our church community. We celebrate creativity in arts and culture, hosting a variety of events such as music, poetry, workshops and exhibitions.

Our vision is to be a church full of life, love and energy and where everyone can explore and grow their gifts and faith in Jesus Christ.

Closing date 29 February. More information:

<https://www.allsaintswokingham.org.uk/vacancy>

Vicar: St Luke's York

For over 120 years St Luke's has sought to play a part in God's mission in and around Burton Stone Lane and as part of the diocese of York. People have been drawn to the Church from many different backgrounds and places and have found a welcoming community in which each individual is valued, difference is embraced, and gifts and talents can be shared. Each has their own story, but together we aim to live Christ's story, making the kingdom of God real in this place.

Closing date 17 March. More information:

<https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/job-vacancies/vicar-of-the-parish-of-st-luke-the-evangelist-york/>

Ambassadors and New Churches

Inclusive Church has a network of over 1000 churches, and a list of the new ones who have just signed up can be found below.

We also have a network of voluntary Regional Ambassadors around the country. The Ambassadors act as a point of contact between a region (especially the inclusive churches in that region) and Inclusive Church nationally.

Please get in touch if your church would like to join the network, or if you would like to be an ambassador (if your region already has one or more, don't worry — you can work together!) If you need to get in touch with any ambassador on our list, please just find their email address [here](#).

The role description for Regional Ambassadors was updated during the annual ambassador training in 2022, in collaboration with the ambassadors themselves. It can be read [here](#).

More information on becoming an inclusive church can be found [here](#).

New Churches — February 2024

St John Cononley
Alcester Baptist Church
Haywards Heath Methodist Church
Saint Mary the Virgin, North Creake
All Saints Kings Langley
Holy Trinity Church, Longlevens, Gloucester
St Thomas the Apostle, Elson, Gosport
Central Telford Parish
Shirehampton Methodist Church
St James, West End
Burnham Methodist Church and

Cookham Rise Methodist Church (Thames Valley Circuit)
Trinity URC, Lancaster
Norbury Church (St Thomas, Hazel Grove)
Cornerstone Church, Uckfield
St Mark's Church, Bedford
Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley Benefice
St George's Harold Hill
St Mary's Redbourn
St Mary's Roecliffe and
St James Boroughbridge
St John, Gateshead Fell and
St Alban, Windy Nook
Wesley Methodist Cambridge and
Chesterton Methodist Cambridge
St Bartholomew's Warleggan
St James the Deacon, York

Welcome, everyone; dynnargh!

Events

Not Equal Yet Conference: 20 April

It's time to end discrimination against women in our national Church [of England].

St John's Waterloo on Saturday 20 April, 10:00–16:30. A poster is attached to this email.



It's time to end discrimination against women in our national Church

Not Equal yet

CONFERENCE

20 April

10:00 - 16:30

**St. John's Waterloo
SE1 8TY**

Sponsored by WATCH - Women and the Church

The conference will facilitate some thought-provoking speeches and conversations about the ongoing institutional discrimination against women in the Church of England and why it is now time for this to come to an end.

the Eventbrite link to book tickets is here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/not-equal-yet-conference-tickets-806427094147>

and more details are on the WATCH website

is here: <https://womenandthechurch.org/news/net-equal-yet-conference-on-saturday-20-april-2024/>

WInclusive Winchester Gathering: 25 April

WInclusive is an informal group set up initially on Facebook but meeting occasionally in person. It is loosely based on the geographical area of the Anglican Diocese of Winchester, but we welcome all. We come from a variety of church backgrounds, from evangelical to liberal catholic and all shades in-between! We hold in common an affirming and inclusive view of church, and meet together to support one another and discuss issues of inclusivity.

We are next meeting in person on 25th April at 3.30pm at in Winchester, and Acting Bishop of Southampton, Geoff Annas, will be joining us. All are very welcome —

please [email Gwilym@grstone.me](mailto:Gwilym@grstone.me) for more information.

News

SCM 200 Churches Campaign



We are currently recruiting 200 churches to commit to donating to SCM on an annual basis. Churches in the campaign commit to donating typically £200 every year, often raised in a collection during a service or given from a church's mission allocation. Churches in the campaign also support SCM by praying for our work, offering their time and expertise, and spreading the word about our work. We send our supporting churches regular updates about our work, a bi-annual copy of Movement magazine, and invitations to special gatherings throughout the year.

Why should we join the 200 Churches Campaign?

The hard truth is that conservative youth organisations are well supported by like-minded churches. In more open and progressive

churches, we have much less of a tradition of that kind of support and SCM is going to struggle to keep going if that doesn't change.

Through your regular support, you will equip students and recent graduates to find open and inclusive communities where they can be and belong, explore what it is to live as a Christian in today's uncertain world and put their faith into action.

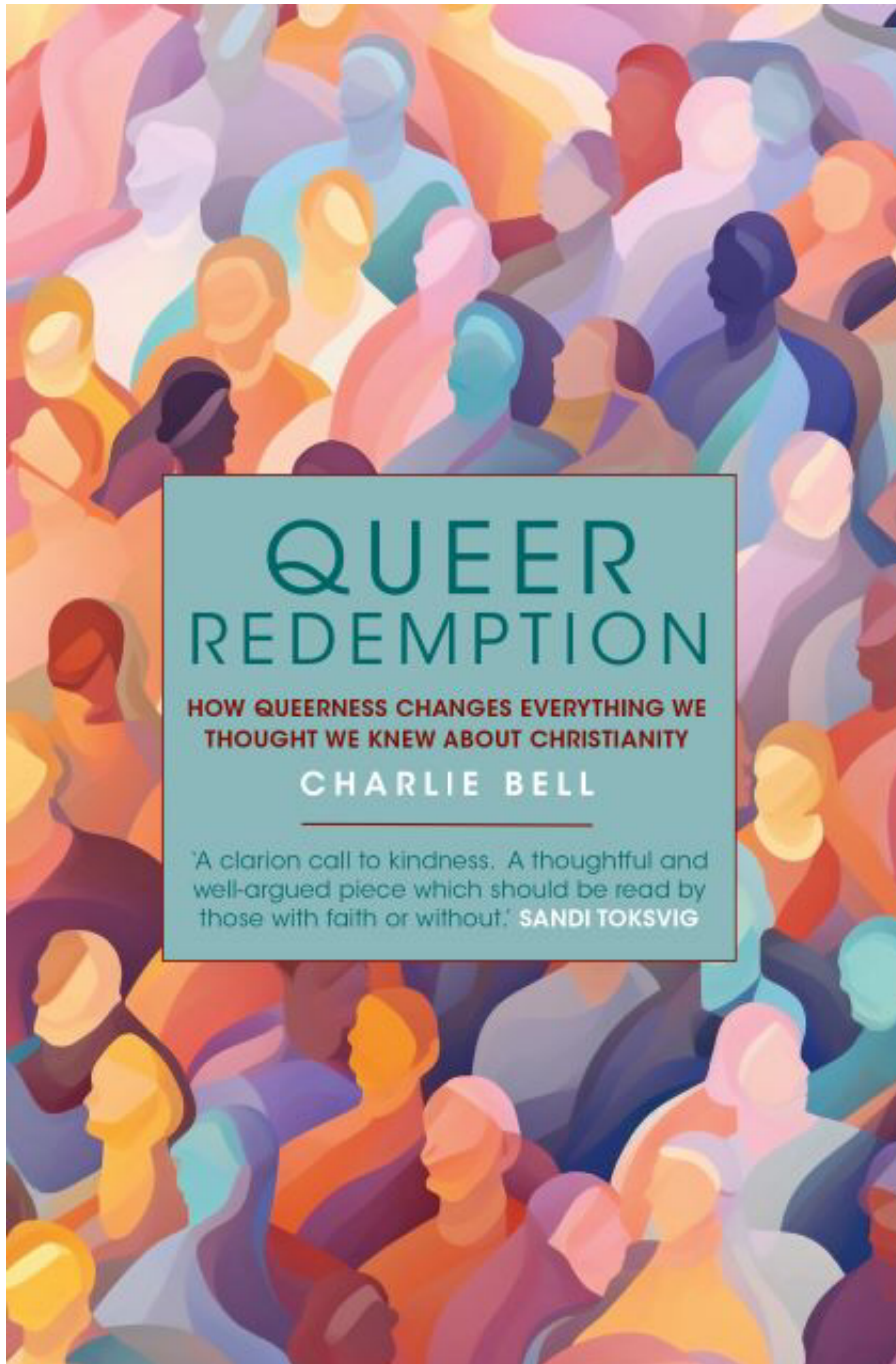
How do we join the 200 Churches Campaign?

If you are a church leader and need some more information or are ready to sign up to the campaign, email fundraising@movement.org.uk and we can organise a phone call to discuss the next steps.

Help us build the next generation of progressive Christian students.

Queer Redemption by Charlie Bell

How queerness changes everything we thought we knew about Christianity



What might happen, asks Charlie Bell, author of the acclaimed *Queer Holiness*, if what we know about queer lives, loves and relationships was taken as read, rather than treated as a matter of debate? From this starting point, how might we do and think things differently in Christian life, our theology, and in the Church as an institution? Following the apologetics approach of *Queer Holiness*, *Queer Redemption* looks to a future when the margins truly define the centre, where queerness is truly liberative for the whole church.

Available now in hardback and eBook from

DLT: <https://www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk/titles/2388-9781915412621-queer-redemption>

office@inclusive-church.org

07375 392285 (Chair)



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