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THE NORTHERN ROCK FOUNDATION

Getting to know each other

A brief introduction to our work
and the resources we can offer

WORKING FOR GAY & LESBIAN
AFFIRMATION WITHIN THE
ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Hidden treasure

How many gay and lesbian people are you aware of amongst your family, friends, colleagues or as members of your church's congregation? While gay and lesbian people are increasingly visible and confident within secular society, sadly, lesbian and gay Christians are often afraid to make themselves known to their congregation.

Yet we have a lot to offer the church. We are, like all God's children, gifted in many ways. Because of the prejudice and hostility we face, lesbian and gay Christians can develop a level of maturity, sense of humour, capacity for compassion and a spiritual depth which is our special gift to the church. Because we often keep our sexual identity secret, we have to think and pray through our lives and faith at a very deep level.

Changing Attitude exists to help bring this hidden treasure to light, by making the church a safer place and developing the confidence of lesbian and gay Christians.

Starting the conversation

Every Lambeth Conference from 1978 onwards has expressed the need for a dialogue in which the voices of gay and lesbian people can be heard. In England, the House of Bishops' reports Issues in Human Sexuality (1991) and Some Issues in Human Sexuality (2003) have re-affirmed the need to listen to the experience of lesbian and gay people. Most recently, the Windsor Report on the on the future of the Anglican Communion reinforces the commitment to listen. Part of the problem it identifies is that the conversation has never really taken place. The Communion has never listened to the voice of our experience. As a result, we do not understand each other.

Changing Attitude is committed to starting, resourcing and continuing the conversation wherever and at whatever level we can. We are committed to building relationships and engaging in true dialogue. When we can see each other's faces and share our wisdom, insight and true selves, all of us will be changed and enriched by the encounter.

What we can offer

WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

We can come and run a workshop or make a presentation on various aspects of the human sexuality debate to your congregation, PCC, DCC, Deanery Synod or Clergy Chapter. We would discuss with you the most appropriate way of engaging your people with the issue of human sexuality. Often, a general introduction from someone with direct experience, a lesbian or gay Christian, is most helpful.

FOCUS ON PARTICULAR TOPICS, INCLUDING

- 1 Welcome to the world of gay and lesbian Christians: who we are, how we experience the church, what we want
- 2 Our vicar is gay or lesbian – how do we feel about him or her?
- 3 Welcoming and Open Congregations - for parishes wishing to affirm lesbian and gay people
- 4 The pastoral care of gay and lesbian people and their families
- 5 The new Civil Partnership law and same-sex blessings in Church
- 7 Homosexuality in the Bible
- 8 How to use the Bible in thinking about sexual ethics
- 8 *Some Issues in Human Sexuality* (the House of Bishops' latest report)
- 9 The Windsor Report and the Anglican Communion - the international dimension

LOCAL GROUPS

We have supporters in every diocese of the Church of England, local groups in 22 dioceses and contact people in a further 10 dioceses. The Dioceses in which we have groups and contacts are listed on the back page. Diocesan groups provide members with support and encouragement and offer educational and personal resources to their diocese. Our Diocesan Groups:

- include gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual members, some of them parents of gay children;
- aim to boost confidence, encourage and support members to become more visible, and engage their own congregation in the debate;
- offer a safe space for vulnerable gay and lesbian Christians, where painful experience can be shared in a sympathetic environment, and pastoral support can be given;

In dioceses with no local group or contact, our staff based at the National Office in London will be able to help.



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www.changingattitude.org

WHO WE ARE

Changing Attitude is a network of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual members of the Anglican churches of the UK, founded in 1995.

We welcome as members everyone whose concern is to work for change in the church's understanding of human sexuality.

A group of trustees is responsible for developing the work and structure of Changing Attitude through Changing Attitude Trust. The National Office is staffed by Colin Coward, the Director, Sally Rogers, the Development Worker, and Brenda Harrison, the Office Manager.

LOCAL GROUPS:

Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Canterbury, Chelmsford, Chester, Durham, Guildford, Leicester, Lichfield, Lincoln, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Oxford, Ripon & Leeds, St Albans, Southwark, Wakefield, Worcester, York

CONTACTS:

Carlisle, Chichester, Derby, Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Peterborough, Portsmouth, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, Salisbury, Sheffield, Southwell

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