

# CHANGING ATTITUDE

## ANNUAL REPORT January – December 2005

### Introduction

*Changing Attitude Trust* is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The trustees are the directors of the company and are also the shareholders. They appoint new trustees/directors, aiming to reflect a wide diversity of experience from among Anglicans sympathetic to *Changing Attitude's* objectives. *Changing Attitude* continued to evolve in 2005, pursuing its objectives of advancing the Christian religion particularly but without restriction through the development of a mature theology of sexuality within the Church of England and the Anglican Communion.

### Finance

In 2005 we gratefully received £108,700 income, including £70,300 grants in total from the Big Lottery Fund, Northern Rock Foundation and Comic Relief. Other income £38,400 came mostly from supporters' subscriptions and donations, including extra donations for Changing Attitude's Tenth Anniversary celebrations.

The trustees spent £126,800 in the year included £72,900 on salaries for four staff, and £53,900 on running costs such as conferences, travel, office overheads and producing information. The result was a deficit of around £18,000 for the year, which was met from income received in 2004 and which has now been fully spent.

The trustees offer sincere thanks to the staff, to all supporters who have generously donated their time and money to Changing Attitude over the past year, and to all for their help in enabling Changing Attitude's work to continue, on a smaller scale, into the future.

### Staff

Colin Coward continued to work full-time as Director, Sally Rogers as half-time Development Worker and Brenda Harrison as half-time Office Manager. We were joined by Nigel Greenwood as half-time Development Worker for the Northern Province.

### Diocesan Support, Information and Advice Groups

Two new groups were formed in the course of the year, Rochester and St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, bringing the total to 22, covering 24 dioceses. Groups meet in Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Canterbury, Chelmsford, Chester, Durham, Guildford, Leicester, Lichfield, Lincoln, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle/Durham, Oxford, Ripon and Leeds, Rochester, St Albans, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Southwark, Wakefield/Bradford, Worcester and York. In addition, there are contact people in another 8 dioceses.

### Web site

The web site continued to be updated regularly. The Trust purchased a lap top computer, enabling new web pages to be created and posted when members of staff are attending conferences and events. The web site saw a great deal of activity when the Nigerian story erupted and during the visit of bishop Gene Robinson. The grant from Northern Rock contributed to the creation of a re-designed web site with greatly improved technology.

### Newsletter

Four editions of the newsletter were produced during the year and sent to supporters plus all bishops, Diocesan Directors of Ordinands, Social Responsibility Officers and course and college principals.

### Inclusive Communion

Inclusive Communion was the name adopted by those meeting at the Manchester Conference in 2003. The group was present at the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Nottingham from 27 to 31 June. A display was mounted in the foyer, members of Inclusive Communion groups based in the UK held banners to welcome the ACC members, and representatives attended the open sessions of ACC and built good relationships with many of the members. We had personal conversations with over 30 ACC members and most of the ACO staff and the journalists who were present.

### Inclusive Church

Changing Attitude continues to be a member of the executive of Inclusive Church. The group focussed energy on a successful election strategy for General Synod which reached its climax in September. Erica Woof was employed half-time to develop a strategy for the elections. Inclusive Church held an

All Day Coffee Break at All Saints' Fulham on Saturday 4 June. The purpose was to introduce each group with a 5 minute profile in slots during the day, interlaced with 30 minute networking slots. A pre-Synod meeting is now being organised prior to every session to analyse the agenda and organise responses by Synod members.

### **Joint Strategy Group**

The group includes representatives from CA, LGCM, the Clergy Consultation and the General Synod Human Sexuality Group. It produced a proposed resolution for the newly elected Synod. It was intended to be tabled both as a private member's motion and as a Diocesan Synod motion from as many dioceses as possible.

### **General Synod**

Changing Attitude supporters welcomed synod members to Church House Westminster for the February session with the Joint Strategy Group banners and the Windsor report launch banner. The largest group ever turned up to hold banners and give out leaflets. On Thursday morning we were there again with the Changing Attitude Windsor banner to greet members arriving for the take-note debate on the House of Bishops report on the Windsor report. There was very strong support for the three gay members of Synod who spoke and for all those who argued in favour of listening to lesbian and gay Christians and to creating a church which is fully inclusive and welcoming to all.

For the July session in York 10 supporters attended over the 5 days of Synod, staying in a hall of residence. We welcomed synod members prior to the Friday evening session with the Joint Strategy Group banners and were mostly greeted with warmth and a positive response.

We congratulate Nigel Greenwood and Sister Rosemary on being re-elected to General Synod, and to CA supporters Stephen Coles, Paul Collier, Susan Cooper, Brian Lewis and others. At the first meeting of the newly elected Synod in November, Nigel Greenwood and Brenda Harrison attended the Fresher's Fair on Tuesday and presented Changing Attitude, and David Page prepared a stunning new display for Synod.

### **Meeting at the Anglican Communion office**

On 1 February, representatives of Changing Attitude, Integrity and LGCM met Canon Gregory Cameron, Steve Jenkins, head of media relations at Church House, seconded to assist in preparing for the Windsor reception reference group, and John Reece, Registrar for the Province of Canterbury and Diocese of Oxford. As important as the opportunity to make our voices heard was the symbolism of lesbian and gay Christians being welcomed, publicly, for the first time, at the Anglican Communion office, and the unprecedented coming together of different gay Christian organisations.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend**

Changing Attitude celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary from 4 to 6 November with a private reception at St Mary's Putney on Friday 4 and Anniversary services at St Martin-in-the-Fields at 11.00am Saturday 5 and in Reddish, Manchester on Sunday 6, both followed by receptions. Gene Robinson, Bishop of New Hampshire, was our guest for the weekend, addressing both congregations and blessing us with a passionate account of Gospel Christianity.

The Changing Attitude staff, together with supporters in Manchester and London and trustees, worked intensively from August to organise the weekend. We put in a huge amount of work, and it paid off. It was an outstanding success, with a wonderful atmosphere, inspiring acts of worship and three receptions that buzzed. We proved to ourselves that we can organise a major event in a very Changing Attitude way, and we fulfilled our goal, offering supporters a weekend which was visionary and inspiring.

### **Changing Attitude Network Nigeria**

One of the most dramatic developments of the year was the formation of a Changing Attitude network in Nigeria at the beginning of August. We have given a huge amount of time to Davis Macllyalla, the director of the Nigerian group, advising, encouraging, learning from him, and discovering how Changing Attitude can translate into a different country and culture. The group organised a first General Meeting in November, attended by 860 people. Publicity about the meeting was widespread in the Nigerian national press. The Saturday meeting was attended by two reporters from the New York Times and one from the Daily Sun Nigeria. The NY Times published a report by Lydia Polgreen on 18 December. This report was the catalyst for a press release issued on 28 December by Canon AkinTunde Popoola, Director of Communications for the Church of Nigeria, under Archbishop Akinola's name, designed to destroy Davis's reputation. Davis denied all the allegations. No evidence was produced.

### **Civil Partnerships**

Following the publication of a pastoral letter by the House of Bishops in response to the introduction of Civil Partnerships, we produced a Changing Attitude Rough Guide to Civil Partnerships, available on the web site.

### **Trustees**

Sister Rosemary, CHN, Jean Mayland and Barry Naylor were appointed trustees.

### **Patrons**

Marilyn MacCord Adams agreed to become a patron.

### **And thank you ...**

Once again, we would like to offer our thanks to our supporters, patrons, funding bodies and bishops, for the many different ways in which they have offered help and encouragement during the year. Some have given very significant practical and financial help and we are grateful. To know that supporters are there, working, praying and often caring passionately, has helped sustain energy and commitment to the pursuit of a holy, just and inclusive Church.

### **Trustees at December 2005**

Jenny Clark, Irene Cowell, Susannah Izzard, Sanjay Kumar, David Page, Stephen Peters, Bob Williams

### **Patrons**

Rt Revd Paul Barber, Rt Revd Michael Bourke, Bishop of Wolverhampton; Rt Revd Michael Doe; Rt Revd Richard Holloway; Revd Bill Kirkpatrick; Sister Una Kroll; Rt Revd Richard Lewis, Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich; Rt Revd Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Hulme; Jean Mayland; Marilyn MacCord Adams; Rt Rev Hugh Montefiore; Rt Revd John Oliver, Christina Rees, Rt Revd John Saxbee, Bishop of Lincoln; Rt Revd Dr Peter Selby, Bishop of Worcester; Rt Revd Robin Smith; Rt Revd Alan Smithson; Revd Dr Anne Townsend, Rt Revd Roy Williamson

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