

CHANGING ATTITUDE

ANNUAL REPORT January – December 2006

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 2006, 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 2006 we gratefully received £41,000 income, including a £3,444 grant from Comic Relief. Other income of £37,500 came mostly from supporters' subscriptions and donations.

The trustees spent £45,900 in the year including £26,500 on salaries for four staff, and £19,400 on running costs such as conferences, travel, office overheads and producing information. The result was a deficit of around £4,900 for the year, which was met from reserves.

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

Sally Rogers left Changing Attitude at the end of March 2006 and Brenda Harrison and Nigel Greenwood's contracts finished at the end of May and mid-June respectively. Colin Coward continued to work full-time, unpaid, as Director.

Diocesan Groups

One new group was formed in the course of the year, Southwell & Nottingham, bringing the total to 23, covering 25 dioceses. Groups meet in Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Canterbury, Chelmsford, Chester, Durham, Guildford, Leicester, Lichfield, Lincoln, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle/Durham, Ripon and Leeds, Rochester, St Albans, St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Wakefield/Bradford, Worcester and York. In addition, there are contact people in another 10 dioceses.

Web site

The redesigned web site went online. Feedback on the design and content has been very positive.

Newsletter

Three editions of the newsletter were produced during the year. Two were sent to supporters plus all bishops, Diocesan Directors of Ordinands, Social Responsibility Officers and course and college principals. The final edition was produced in full-colour newsletter for the first time.

General Synod

Representatives of Changing Attitude attended the General Synod meetings in February in London and July in York. Changing Attitude is committed to work for change by engaging with the structures of the church, building networks and relationships across difference. Our regularly updated display stand was exhibited at both meetings.

Inclusive Church

Inclusive Church wrote to Dr Philip Giddings proposing a meeting between IC and Anglican Mainstream. Colin Coward was one of three IC delegates who met 4 members of Mainstream at St Matthew's Westminster. A second meeting was held in November at St Helen's Bishopsgate. Inclusive Church members now meet before each session of General Synod to review the agenda and co-ordinate action.

Media

Premier Christian Radio have invited members of the Changing Attitude staff to participate in various

interviews and phone-ins during the year. Colin Coward participated in a discussion with a member of the Lawyer's Christian Fellowship about the proposed goods and services legislation. We have also contributed to programmes on Radio5Live, Radio 4 and Sporttalk.

Events

Colin Coward attended the pre-conference of the **ILGA International Conference** in Geneva with Davis Mac-Iyalla, and many other delegates from Africa.

Colin attended the **General Convention** of the Episcopal Church of the USA in Columbus Ohio from 10 to 17 June building on the relationships and networks established at GC in 2003.

Sally Rogers and Colin Coward were invited to participate in a consultation from 18 to 20 June at **St George's House Windsor** between representatives of conservative and progressive groups organised by James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool and John Gladwin, Bishop of Chelmsford. Professor Oliver O'Donovan moderated the discussion.

Colin Coward was invited to be chaplain for the **Modern Churchperson's Conference** at High Leigh, Hoddesdon from 11–14 July which addressed human sexuality.

An **Inclusive Church day conference**, 'Transforming the World', was held on 14 October at St Mary's Putney. Clare Herbert delivered the keynote address and many CA supporters were present.

Colin Coward participated in a conference organised by the **Evangelical Fellowship for Lesbian and Gay Christians** at Holland House, Pershore from 20 and 21 October. The conference brought together representatives of different LGBT faith groups: Hannaan Baig (Imaan – Muslim gay and lesbian support group), Edward Teeger (Jewish Lesbian and Gay Group), Jeremy Marks (Courage), Peter Rodgers (Quest RC) and Benny Hazlehurst (Accepting Evangelicals).

Changing Attitude supporters participated in the **Partners in World Mission Conference** at The Hayes, Swanwick from 30 October to 2 November. The theme of the conference was: *Hospitality – a way into understanding mission*.

Changing Attitude Network Nigeria

Following the publication of a press release on 28 December by Canon AkinTunde Popoola, Director of Communications for the Church of Nigeria, designed to destroy Davis Mac-Iyalla's reputation, CA England worked 12 hours a day for the next 3 weeks publishing evidence provided by Davis to prove that the allegations were false. They had and continue to have a very damaging effect on Davis's life and safety. With Nigeria becoming too dangerous, Davis is now permanently resident in Togo where he is developing a West African LGBT leadership forum with members from Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and Burkina Faso.

Archbishop Akinola asked for a meeting with government ministers, many of whom are Anglicans, and persuaded them ban anybody contracting a marriage or having a relationship with a person of the same sex or holding a meeting.

Civil Partnerships

We conducted research throughout the year into the number of Anglicans, lay and ordained, who contracted a Civil Partnership. The results of the research were released on 14 December 2006, the first anniversary of the CP law. The report was quoted by the Church Times and Anglican Mainstream.

Lay Readers

At the beginning of August reports began to reveal major problems for lay readers in some dioceses. If they admit to having a partner, some people are being refused training and others refused licences. Two CA supporters in the diocese of Bath & Wells have been compiling information with the intention that we launch a campaign to challenge the practice of certain bishops.

Don't Throw Stones

At a meeting held with a view to creating a church IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia) day, those present agreed that a distinctive church movement would be more appropriate. Leading evangelicals from Fulcrum have joined members of CA, the Clergy Consultation and the European Forum to develop the proposal.

Lambeth 2008

Changing Attitude England began to develop a strategy for Lambeth 2008 in August 2006 in consultation with our sister groups, Inclusive Church and Integrity USA.

Trustees

Brenda Harrison; Nigel Greenwood; The Revd Dr Christina Beardsley and Max Manin were appointed as Trustees. Susannah Izzard, John James and Sanjay Kumar resigned.

Patrons

The Revd Canon Dr Trevor Dennis, The Rt Revd John Gladwin, Bishop of Chelmsford, The Rt Revd John Packer, Bishop of Ripon & Leeds, and The Revd Canon Angela Weaver agreed to become patrons.

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 2006

Christina Beardsley, Jenny Clark, Irene Cowell, Nigel Greenwood, Brenda Harrison, Max Manin, Jean Mayland, Barry Naylor, David Page, Sister Rosemary, Bob Williams, Andrew Woodward.

Patrons

Revd Canon Marilyn McCord Adams; Rt Revd Paul Barber; Rt Revd Michael Bourke; Revd Canon Dr Trevor Dennis; Rt Revd Michael Doe; Rt Revd John Gladwin, Bishop of Chelmsford; 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; Revd Jean Mayland; Rt Revd John Oliver; Rt Revd John Packer, Bishop of Ripon & Leeds; 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; Most Revd Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town; Revd Canon Angela Weaver; Rt Revd Roy Williamson

Changing Attitude Trust

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