



SIBYLS LOGO - ROBYN GOLDEN - HANV 28 MAY 2018

## Newsletter 94 – Christmas 2020



Our task too is to give birth to Christ. Mary is the paradigm for doing that. From her we get the pattern: Let the word of God take root and make you pregnant; gestate that by giving it the nourishing sustenance of your own life; submit to the pain that is demanded for it to be born to the outside; then spend years coaxing it from infancy to adulthood; and finally, during and after all of this, do some pondering, accept the pain of not understanding and of letting go. *Ronald Rolheiser*

Dear Sibyls

It's certainly been easy to feel depressed, what with the pandemic, Brexit, the weather, Living in Love and Faith, set-backs of various kinds on the trans front. But let's not. Let's accept the gift of hope that Christmas always brings and that no bubble rules or social restrictions can deprive us of, since it is a free gift, given unconditionally to all, personified in the child born weak and helpless into a world of which He is the King, the light that the darkness could not and cannot overcome.

And let us also accept if we can our being trans as a gift, to be embraced, welcomed, celebrated. It may well at times feel like a gift we'd rather not have as to be trans is to be by its nature subversive, a challenge to social – and religious – norms and assumptions. It puts us outside the mainstream. It can be costly in terms of our families and relationships. It puts us at risk in a variety of ways. We are compelled to learn how to be ourselves, how to fulfil our God-given natures, in ways that may be more complex and harder than for many others. This newsletter includes the stories of how two Sibyls navigated their gender – and spiritual – journeys. Of course none of our journeys is ever over. The baby born in Bethlehem was beginning his own extraordinary journey in which he would become the ultimate outsider, seen as a subversive threat by the religious establishment, rejected by many when he disappointed their expectations of what he was supposed to be. Let's take comfort from that, accept with joy the gift of Godself to us and all, and drink from a glass that is full to overflowing.

May I wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas and my hope for a blessed new year.

Pauline

M 07581553357

[pauline.fleck@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline.fleck@btinternet.com)

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# THE SIBYLS

## *Christian Spirituality Group for Gender Variant People*

**Sibyls** is a nationwide group for Christian transgender, non-binary and intersex people, partners and allies. Sibyls offer companionship along your journey, and supports advocacy work with churches and faith groups on behalf of trans people. Sibyls seek to fulfil the two great commandments of Jesus: to love God, and to love each other as ourselves, which we hope to do by -

*Living faithfully* - accepting yourself as you worship, and in day-to-day life

*Spiritual upholding* – encountering the freedom to pray and to seek God's will

*Fellowship* - sharing with Christians who understand what it is to be transgender

*Listening* – respectfully and confidentially to each other

### **Sibyls' website**

Visit our website [www.sibyls.co.uk](http://www.sibyls.co.uk) to find more information on joining the Sibyls confidential mailing list; planned events, supportive churches and inclusive faith groups; resources, such as books and sign-posted web links.

### **Facebook Groups**

There are two Facebook groups which enable Sibyls and other trans Christians to communicate and exchange views and news. They are:

- Sibyls Members' Group – send a request via Facebook to join this confidential group
- TranschristianUK – an open group, do join up if you are not already a member.

## **Contact Sibyls committee**

*By post* - c/o 10, Ffordd Las, Rhyl, LL18 2DY

*By email* - [enquiries@sibyls.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sibyls.co.uk)

## **Sibyls' Listening Service**

We know that sometimes it is necessary to talk to someone who understands the basics of being transgender and Christian. If a listening conversation could be of particular help, you can call any of the following:

*Jenny-Anne Bishop*

[jennyannebuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyannebuk@yahoo.co.uk) Telephone: 01745 337144 or 07500 74195

*Yvonne Wood*

[Yvonne-wood@outlook.com](mailto:Yvonne-wood@outlook.com) Telephone 01279 833499 or 07595 087207

*Pauline Fleck*

[pauline.fleck@btinternet.com](mailto:pauline.fleck@btinternet.com) Telephone 07581 553357

## **Meetings for personal conversation and sharing**

It is possible that some of you would appreciate the opportunity for more personal conversation on Zoom, rather than the regular large sessions. We can help arrange meet-ups for just three Sibyls - this would enable easier direct conversation and sharing (with some ground rules). If you would like this please email [yvonne-wood@outlook.com](mailto:yvonne-wood@outlook.com) and we will see what is possible.

## **Zoom get-togethers**

We would love others to be involved in future Zoom get-togethers. Would you like to lead worship or facilitate a discussion? Please let us know.

## Sibyls' On-line events

Our current programme of on-line events is as follows:

**7 January** – evening service and get-together (led by *Yvonne*)

**25 January** – informal get-together

**10 February** - evening service and get-together (led by *Pauline*)

**25 February** - informal get-together

**10 March** - evening service and get-together (led by *Jo Inkpin*)

Please note that some of these dates are provisional so keep an eye on your emails and the website for updates.

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## 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](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](http://www.uniquetg.org.uk) > ) and **TransForum** ( < [www.transforum.co.uk](http://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. 11 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 11.00 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

## Chair's Message from Yvonne

Festive greetings to everyone – I hope you each have a peaceful Christmas, whether you are able to be with family or are at home by yourself. Amongst the noise and delight of Christmas day, I always feel reflective and try to give thanks for blessings.

There is one phrase which resonates deeply with me – ‘comfort and joy’. We are so familiar with this from the ‘God Rest Ye Merry’ carol, and it is the C of E theme for advent and Christmas. It speaks of respite and wonder, being safe together and wooly jumpers. But for me this phrase emerged over the years in a different sense: as a way of articulating my gender truth. Amongst the many difficulties and impossibilities of my situation, I found joy deep down (and yes, I was actually surprised by joy), and realised its constancy, even while stuff happened. And if someone curious about my gender identity said ‘well if it is not to do with sex, what is it then? I would say, it is a knowledge, a truth and a comfort. There is no better way to express what I seek and find than comfort and joy.

I confess I sometimes got a bit tired of Jan Morris being the only well-known transwoman, but now she has died, I see how quietly important as a role model she really was – and is. I felt humble watching tribute programmes on television – in the 1970s, she was so exposed and on her own, yet as a famous writer agreed to be challenged on TV by harrumphing men. She gracefully put them in their place: ‘what a ridiculous question, how can I possibly answer that?’ ‘No of course it is not absurd when you find something so true and joyful’. We have seen many of these kind of antagonistic exchanges recently, usually more furious and with a whole new language to navigate. Jan Morris was disarming and completely herself. And in her book *Conundrum*, I think better than anyone, she said what it *felt* like to transition, in her outlook, emotion and relationships, as well as social standing. She says:

‘I myself see the conundrum in another perspective, for I believe it to have some higher origin or meaning. I equated with the idea of soul, or self, and I think of it not just as a sexual enigma, but as a quest for unity. For me every aspect of my life is relevant to that quest, all the sights, sounds and smells of memory, the power of love and of sorrow, the satisfactions of the senses as of the body. I see it above all as a dilemma neither of the body nor of the brain, but of the spirit.’

The day after Alex Clare-Young presented a talk at our Not-Purley Chase Zoom meeting, he was on the BBC Sunday Live programme. He didn't have the chance to say much, but he was asked about the difficult arguments around trans – he just said let us exchange our views 'without fury'. Recent events in Parliament and the High Court relating to recognition of trans lives make us feel fury, in particular for those young and old individuals who await their gender resolution and who feel held back even more. The lack of appreciation of the care and sensitivity at the heart of the Tavistock GIDS was very disappointing. But I found myself acknowledging that these set-backs in equal rights and healthcare are not the trans critics and transphobic views holding sway, but a concern for protecting the most vulnerable being brought into the foreground. For all those of us that are certain, there are others that are not certain, some who are affected by abuse, some misled by social media, and crucially many who want to be recognised as non-binary in their own terms. We continue to campaign and debate with sensitivity and without fury.



## LIKE PANDORA'S BOX

### My Tran-story.

In a subterranean place (let's call it my 'heart of hearts', not my subconscious even though it was undoubtedly my anima) lived a lost and repressed soul (not some Platonic bloodless psycho-bubble, but a driven passionate soul wandering everywhere and anywhere like a wind tossed balloon or a Sagittarian mare of the night).

I was lost alright, and so much so that I kept my soul's existence (my heart of hearts) a secret even to myself. The symptoms I displayed were those of an ADHD (attention deficit hyper-distractible disorder). I could trace it to my earliest childhood memories or should I say those given me by my family - my Adlerian myth.

Played silently on my own for hours on end - did not talk until I was 4. My two older siblings were noisy and dominant. From this developed the vacant spacey face of being out to lunch - my mind anywhere but where my body was. I forgot everything, even my younger brother on the bus on the way home from church.

If I had trusted my own sense of rightness at school, I would have joined the girls' line and entered the school through their door but I was a 'good' child.

[in Enid Blighton's world of the 1950's, children were only good or bad]

Meekly, cowardly and passively I went along with teacher, mother and grown-ups in all matters of external conformity. After all, I had the skill of compensation learned in my nursery room - the art of escape into the world of my head.

There was a terrible price to pay. The protest cry from my feelings being left behind morphed into a morbid depression, unabated for 60 years, not to end until my psychic lid blew off, like Pandora's box, a lid that could never be closed now I was 'OUT'. As I emerged into the light as a woman, like a butterfly set free from its chrysalis, my face lit up with unfathomable smiles.

[Bear in mind, I had had such a blank face at one time that my Connecticut psychiatrist prescribed amphetamine so I could know what it was like to smile. For a while it worked. For the first time it felt like I was walking on solid ground and the colours around me became more intense - until the effect of the drug wore off. When in South Texas, my Mexican psychiatrist noticed that the drug Ritalin had a similar effect that confirmed his diagnosis of ADHD, after all what else could have caused my spacey obsessive-compulsive preoccupation with words.]

To be honest as I look back to my twenties, every so often a niggling awareness came to me, like bubbles coming to the surface from a submerged identity, that I wasn't at all the person I appeared to be on the surface. For a little time after university, I had the courage to break out of the external mould to just be me with unabashed pleasure. To my consternation, I found myself wolf-whistled by inmates at Walton Gaol where I worked. I was walking like a woman and dressing

effeminately without at all being conscious of it. I had to leave the social work job but got so alarmed that I might be gay that I left England in a hurry to live in Kentucky where my parents had emigrated. Ridiculously I was determined to prove I was not gay by marrying a woman as soon as I could and wouldn't listen to anyone, and sadly yet again I blocked the voice of my innermost heart of hearts. In my sheltered religious world, it never occurred to me that a person expressing themselves as a woman could be thought of as a woman, despite genitals being those of a male. I did not notice all my other feminine traits that the mirror could have pointed out.

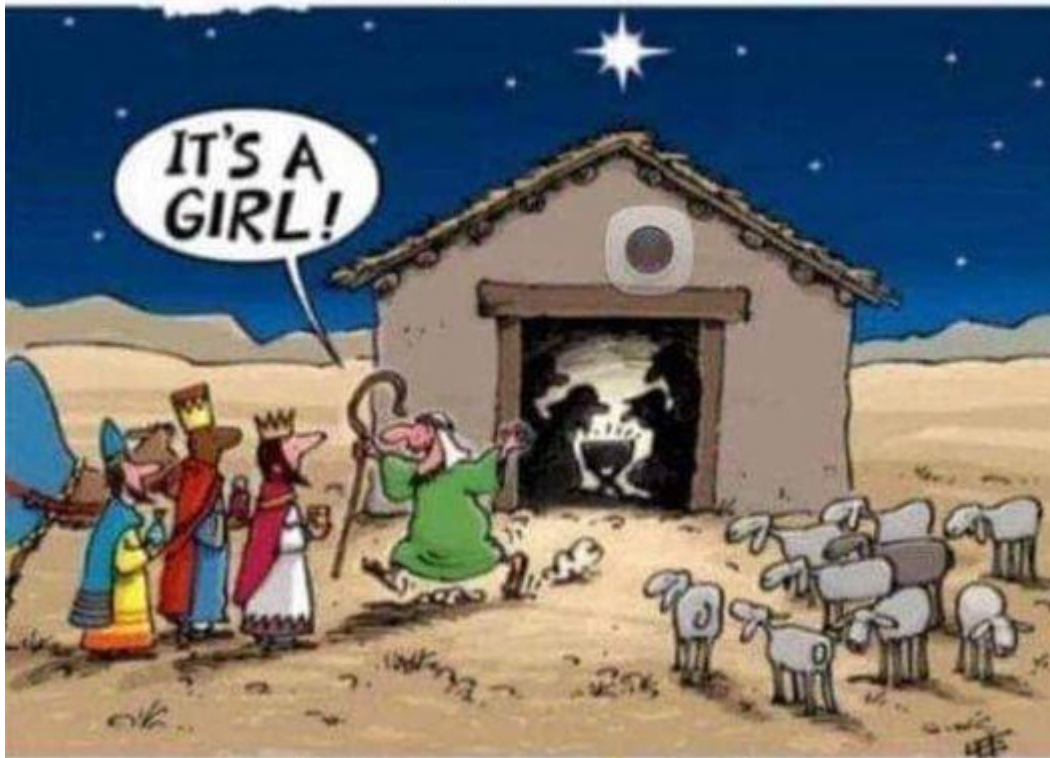
The woman identity started seriously emerging after the collapse of that first marriage and my falling in love with Charlotte. She loved me for all that I was and all for what I might become. It was enshrined in our wedding vow.


At that time, I stumbled across 'Mother Peace' tarot cards written by radical feminists in the 1970's. The cards became a way for me to get in touch with my deepest feelings such that a time came that my mind recognised that I was a woman. I transgendered myself into a woman in a ritual. I was too terrified to outwardly manifest my authentic self.

For a time I called myself 'queer' since I was in a limbo of self-questioning. Was I non-binary? Had I not had the experience of transformation as I put on women's clothing, unconditionally embracing my womanhood as I did so, an experience like Pandora's box blowing open, unleashing my healed self, I might have just stuck with 'queer'.

I am a woman now - my heart of hearts tells me and the joy unleashed tells me too. For the first time I can remember, I know what it means to love myself and find myself able to let others into my heart - me included with them. Not a perfect person but a passionate loving woman. What more could I want? *Grace Oliver*

What else could possibly go wrong this year ?



Christmas  2020

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### **A HARD EDUCATION: LESSONS LEARNT FROM BEING TRANS**

*Offered in this piece is a brief description of two key lessons I learnt through being on the trans spectrum. They are the outcome of a challenging education lasting over the course of five and a half decades. By recounting these lessons I hope to encourage and challenge readers by showing that despite its real sufferings being trans can be a blessing so long as we assume a humble attitude that is receptive both to the teachings of scripture and the proven leadings of the Holy Spirit. In openness to Christ there is healing. A Sapiosexual is an individual who is strongly aroused by intellectual discussion and activities of the mind. It can manifest itself in an obsessive pursuit of knowledge.*

### **A PESKY QUEEN**

As a Sapiosexual on the bigender (or 'two spirit') part of the trans spectrum (which ranges from weekend transvestitism through to intense transsexuality) I was often faced with the question 'Lord what are you teaching me through this?' In application of James 1:5, this question was accompanied by the prayer, 'Lord grant me the wisdom needed to handle it?' My role was that of the Queen of Sheba who travelled a

long distance to visit King Solomon and pester him with hard questions, (I Kings 10:1). In this incident, we see an anticipation of Christ in the role of the good teacher revealing hidden sacred mysteries to his people. The Queen of Sheba is indeed an excellent role model for any Christian transwoman to emulate. Her example offers the hope that being trans can be a challenging but fruitful education. However, to benefit from it we must face the question *'are we willing to learn from both Christ and from our own mistakes?'* In many instances, the real tragedy in being Trans lies not in the making of mistakes but lies in a repeated failure to learn from them. If we avoid the folly of being unteachable, being trans can be a means of becoming the people we were meant to be. We can do this is when we appreciate that much of the Christian life consists of *'asking the right questions to obtain the right answers.'*

### **RELATING TO OUR CREATOR**

There were so many things the Lord taught me through desperate decades of struggle that it is hard to know where to begin. A list of the things I learnt through being on the trans spectrum would be lengthy. Perhaps the most appropriate response is to present two core lessons one of which is to allow being trans to highlight the need to receive as a gift of divine love, a personal relationship with God through a simple faith in Jesus as one's Lord and Saviour. What this involves is summed up in Romans 10:9 that reads, *"If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* Our stance may also be that of doubting Thomas who in John 20:28 declared, *"my Lord and my God"* after Christ had appeared to him in His resurrection body. If these words genuinely reflect our stance then we have begun relating to our Creator in a deeply personal and loving way. That truly is good news!

However, our faith is not simply a matter of intellectual consent, emotional attachment or an effort of will although it does include these things; rather, it is a humble, childlike trust that leads to an ongoing commitment and faithful obedience to the will of God to the degree we understand it. We can see this in the original Hebrew word *'Emunah'* which can be translated as either *'faith'* or *'faithfulness.'* In scripture, the two terms are used interchangeably. This means that the famous statement of Habakkuk 2:4b *"the righteous shall live by his faith"* can be amplified to read *"the righteous shall live by his faith expressing itself in a committed, dependent, humble and obedient faithfulness"* without twisting its original meaning. Incidentally, the term *'righteous'* refers to those who enjoy a right relationship with God. It is assumed that such a relationship will always express itself in right conduct. It can never be earned through pious works or religious devotion. Any attempt to do this would be as futile as trying to walk to the Moon backwards.

For many trans people this may sound academic – but not if they realize that through relating to their creator by faith, they can receive all the resources needed to handle the often horrendously complex issues involved in being trans. They can also receive the resources to lead good and useful lives that please their maker. Through placing our trust in Jesus, we can receive the forgiveness of sins, the fulness of the Spirit, peace with God, the experience of divine love and eternal life. The number of blessings is endless, but even this partial list shows that being united to Christ through faith is

something to be enjoyed. It is the best antidote to despair, and it has the potential to remove all guilt and shame. In Christ we can find true freedom. (John 8:32) Hallelujah!

### **MAKING A LIVING SACRIFICE**

Early April 2014 was a month when some of the first same sex marriages were being conducted; it was also a time when my borderline transsexuality was erupting with such immense force that I was completely at a loss of what to do. It seemed as if a female body was bursting through my male one and something within me was re-ordering both my emotions and thought processes in a feminine direction. It finally became clear that all my half century long attempt to suppress that side of my personality had completely failed. The cork had blown off the bottle and all its contents were now fizzing out. In desperation I concluded, *'I can't cope with this anymore. All I can do is give it to God and let him deal with it in whatever ways he sees fit.'* So down on my knees I went and said, *"Lord Jesus Christ I dedicate my transsexuality to you as a living sacrifice. Please redeem and do with it whatever you see fit."* By making this heartfelt prayer, I was hoping that Christ would bring good out of my situation. Quite deliberately I was applying Romans 12:1b which reads *"present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* Immediately following this cry of desperation, a sense of calm pervaded the bed room and the conviction emerged that the matter was now firmly in God's hands. There was nothing more I could do. Whilst I still felt endowed with phantom breasts and other female parts, the fear had suddenly evaporated. I decided to wait and see what the outcome of this prayer would be. There was sense that my sacrifice had been accepted, but I did not guess how astounding the effects would be. Something had happened but no realization that this desperate act of dedication would change the direction of my whole life. This would begin within the next few days when I was unexpectedly called to engage the LGBT sector in what was a Damascus Road type conversion.

Inwardly, it paved the way for a series of other dedications. During the following summer whilst on a moorland walk, I asked the Lord to use being trans to glorify His name and honor the Gospel of His Son. In early 2015 I applied Luke 11:1-11 by asking Him to send His Holy Spirit to fill both the male and female aspects of my personality. Accompanying these successive dedications was an immense mental unravelling. Emerging was a clearer sense of boundaries concerning how far I could express the feminine side of my nature. A further result was a firestorm of internet research. This enabled me to gain access to various psychological tests that enabled to gauge with precise accuracy my position on the trans spectrum. I gained a clear idea of who I was, whilst learning an immense amount about trans issues from every conceivable viewpoint. Also found were a couple of helpful transwomen social media commentators who I still refer to. The sense of arousal I gained from exploring a completely new area of knowledge was phenomenal. As my wife remarked I seemed to come alive. At long last grave clothes were coming loose. However, a great deal of painful rethinking was needed. During much of 2014 to 2017. I was required to reset my attitudes towards LGBT people. (This highly challenging process is best described elsewhere.) However, it led to the integration of the male and female parts of my personality. No longer were they at war with each other rather they were partners

working harmoniously in a highly creative way. Given where I had been that was a miracle.

Outwardly, the most noticeable initial effect was a renewal in my marriage that commenced in February 2015. My wife first noticed the difference when I allowed most of my books in the living room to be moved upstairs to the office area in the back bedroom. This allowed her the space she needed to store her own items. As a couple we were able to resolve long standing issues. For reasons I am not at liberty to disclose it turned out that being trans had probably saved our marriage. We exchanged many private jokes although I am not quite sure being called '*a fat moo cow*' exactly fitted in with my desired body image! The peak of this marital renewal came during our holiday in Lake Balaton in August 2016. As we shared many intimate things standing in the water holding hands, I seem to recover the girl I had fallen in love with during March 1978. Until the visit to Israel three years later that was the peak of our marriage. Pure bliss.

Second only to this was the gaining of new friendships first on the internet (where one continues to this day) and then in the flesh. Ultimately, I would establish a friendship with three trans women who I came to fondly know as '*my eccentric sisters*.' There was much humour and sense of community in the LGBT area. My wife's flap jacks became a legend with gay men. One surprising feature was a strong sense of belonging – attending a variety of LGBT activities felt like a homecoming to something I had always really been a part of.

Decisive vindication that this dedication was being honored by Christ came during my sixtieth birthday on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016. That day I discovered through e-mail exchanges I had been able to dissuade a highly distressed American transwoman who felt their life was being threatened from committing suicide. When I realized this, I kicked my slippers of, sat against a living room chair and was lost in awe. I had received the best imaginable birthday present. Coming into mind were Christ's words in 2 Corinthians 12:9 "*My grace is sufficient*" and with that person, it had been '*sufficient*' to save a life. Wonderful!

### **TREASURES OF DARKNESS**

What the above incident highlighted was the importance of surrendering both our Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation to the Lord Jesus Christ. Such an act of sacrifice acknowledges divine sovereignty. Without it, being trans risks becoming an idolatrous obsession that could ruin our lives and the lives of those around us. Whether being trans becomes a destructive or constructive influence depends upon whether we place it into the Lord's hands. Sooner or later he brings those who profess to be Christian to the point where they must make an active choice one way or the other. He drags us (sometimes kicking and screaming) into the valley of decision to test us and refine us. In relation to our transsexuality we can be confronted with the question '*what am I to do with it?*' Admittedly, this can be an agonizing process, but such testing is God's way of turning us into better, more caring people. During it I was reminded of the promise made to the Jewish people in Zechariah 13:9b, "*I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name, and I will answer them.*" These words were certainly applicable in my own experience.

In the end, I am left with the question *'can I honestly celebrate being trans?'* The answer is *'no.'* Too much suffering was involved for it to be otherwise and quite frankly, I would not wish even my comparatively mild gender dysphoria on my worst enemy. However, what I do gladly celebrate is the many helpful lessons the Lord has taught me through being on the trans spectrum and the way his wisdom has helped me apply them to benefit others. Amply vindicated is the promise of Isaiah 45:3 which states *"I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who calls you by your name, Am the God of Israel."* Ultimately, being trans turned out to be an extremely trying but highly enriching experience. Consequently, I no longer have any regrets about it. I am Sapiosexual, I am Bigender and it has all been given over to the Lord for Him to use in whatever way He sees fit. He is now in control. Hallelujah! *Richard Smith*

***Please Note***

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HAVE A CHRISTMAS, BUT DON'T HAVE A CHRISTMAS.  
UNLESS YOU NEED A CHRISTMAS, IN WHICH CASE  
ABSOLUTELY DON'T NOT HAVE A CHRISTMAS.  
STAY ALERT. BE MERRY, BUT DON'T ACT MERRY.  
EAT TURKEY IN SMALL GROUPS IF YOU MUST.  
WASH YOUR CRACKER, BLEACH YOUR BAUBLES  
AND HELP SLOW THE SPREAD OF GLAD TIDINGS.





## Christmas in the Time of Covid

A Covid Christmas coming near –  
Are there glad tidings we can hear?  
We know we'll be in great trouble  
Unless we stay in our bubble  
It seems the vaccine's come too late  
For us to properly celebrate  
We can put up the Christmas tree  
That no one's eyes but ours will see  
A shimmering, twinkling gaudy sight  
Will shine there just for our delight  
And if we hang up mistletoe  
There'll be no one to kiss below  
The festive table will look bare  
When only you are dining there  
Just one cracker with no guest  
To share the awful corny jest  
The paper crown in brightest red  
Will just adorn a single head  
And if your presents come too late –  
Well, Santa's had to isolate!  
That sound of bells on Christmas day –  
It isn't Rudolph and his sleigh  
The lack of magic's a regret  
But still we have the internet  
And surely it is quite a trick  
To buy our presents with one click  
One thing I'm sure we all can say –  
For Bezos each day's Christmas day  
So if at Christmas you're alone  
You can be happy on your own  
It is the season of good will  
So to yourself be kind and chill  
A glass or two will do you good  
And sit down to your favourite food  
It matters not that dinner's late  
It's only you that has to wait  
And after lunch and several drinks  
Who cares about your 40 winks  
You can be quite inebriate  
But wake up for our head of state  
And raise a glass for her good health  
Our country and the commonwealth  
Solitude is so relaxing –  
Families can be quite taxing  
So though with friends we cannot meet  
Our Christmas still can be a treat  
And let the things we go without  
Remind us what it's all about

Let's remember if we're able  
The baby born in a stable  
Just for one day let us recall  
The message of good will to all  
And whether cis, trans, straight or gay  
I wish you joy on Christmas day.

*Pauline*

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## **Trans faith**

Alex Clare-Young's reflections on the Living in Love and Faith process and documents  
[https://transgenderchristianhuman.com/2020/11/09/llf-call-response-prayer/?fbclid=IwAR1paGVEgi5\\_ECcr7eucj3NhZR9SI0A41EkSmkPyvZhLzpcT7ZH\\_ewdfOTQ](https://transgenderchristianhuman.com/2020/11/09/llf-call-response-prayer/?fbclid=IwAR1paGVEgi5_ECcr7eucj3NhZR9SI0A41EkSmkPyvZhLzpcT7ZH_ewdfOTQ)

..and Colin Coward's:

<https://www.unadulteratedlove.net/blog/2020/11/10/llf-its-long-complex-and-fails-lgbt-anglicans?fbclid=IwAR01LiRbVmwdVIjeRD3NQMJvzkPnuypgMhi9KjoYbX1H12NjLJg4ZCC4DXI>

...and Bishop Christopher Cocksworth's (Chair of Coordinating panel):

[https://viamedia.news/2020/11/13/living-in-love-faith-my-journey/?fbclid=IwAR2wzuiSAf2ijY8\\_gOtIZAohK163iHPjuU8CAzTKiSYeSHepVCsD3AoiNY](https://viamedia.news/2020/11/13/living-in-love-faith-my-journey/?fbclid=IwAR2wzuiSAf2ijY8_gOtIZAohK163iHPjuU8CAzTKiSYeSHepVCsD3AoiNY)

..and Jayne Ozanne's (read what she says about gender identity conversion therapy):

[https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/13/church-of-england-lgbt-jayne-ozanne-foundation-living-love-faith-sexuality-identity/?fbclid=IwAR0dZFyQcT6kkGQ1GQJPr\\_cjewsrDhtHDur8uVixTiMkP2c5YHh1\\_8gUW7Q](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/13/church-of-england-lgbt-jayne-ozanne-foundation-living-love-faith-sexuality-identity/?fbclid=IwAR0dZFyQcT6kkGQ1GQJPr_cjewsrDhtHDur8uVixTiMkP2c5YHh1_8gUW7Q)

...and professor Helen King's ("waiting for Godot"):

[https://viamedia.news/2020/11/16/living-in-love-faith-waiting-for-godot/?fbclid=IwAR3siAquQUiBe9j2OTDCpifhrG8vO4\\_oz-MHDAoWvlzdktg5Gsyffwq9XAo](https://viamedia.news/2020/11/16/living-in-love-faith-waiting-for-godot/?fbclid=IwAR3siAquQUiBe9j2OTDCpifhrG8vO4_oz-MHDAoWvlzdktg5Gsyffwq9XAo)

...and Prof. Diarmaid MacCulloch (do read this, it's great):

[https://modernchurch.org.uk/prof-diarmaid-macculloch-living-in-love-and-faith?fbclid=IwAR0QWN3HzoJb6445\\_u8wosKSDBwgkvyz3T35fVfoZmyAvLU03SQM3ckrfnl](https://modernchurch.org.uk/prof-diarmaid-macculloch-living-in-love-and-faith?fbclid=IwAR0QWN3HzoJb6445_u8wosKSDBwgkvyz3T35fVfoZmyAvLU03SQM3ckrfnl)

...and Peter Leonard, Chair of OneBodyOneFaith, who writes of the pain and cost borne by LGBT Christians:

[https://viamedia.news/2020/11/19/llf-patience-pain-gods-beautiful-story/?fbclid=IwAR2dQno0R4cDFhtaLk5OejeSI4U3ZsPyLWQBUTCETsoer\\_1GFnac2Qen1Fk](https://viamedia.news/2020/11/19/llf-patience-pain-gods-beautiful-story/?fbclid=IwAR2dQno0R4cDFhtaLk5OejeSI4U3ZsPyLWQBUTCETsoer_1GFnac2Qen1Fk)

...and Rosie Harper on why the “pink and fluffy middle ground” is not a tenable position:  
<https://viamedia.news/2020/11/21/llf-power-fear-our-inability-to-do-the-right-thing/?fbclid=IwAR2MCEC3qzePnx0ZO125QhoOmHnyn9FBc2Nbit5PLZyQqFkAEO5uVs oLx1o>

...Canon Giles Goddard is hopeful:  
[LLF: Can Perfect Love Cast Out Fear? | ViaMedia.News](#)

...letter about LLF from pro-LGBTI group to 34 supportive bishops:  
[Inclusive pro-LGBTIQ+ group writes to thirty four pro-gay bishops — Unadulterated Love](#)

...one bishop (Jonathan Clark) replies:  
[Living in love and faith – and peace, with justice – The Commonwealth of Heaven \(clarkinholyorders.blog\)](#)

.....statement from Open Table:  
[OTN LLF response 30112020.pdf - Google Drive](#)

...Church Times article on Christian Concern video being investigated by police as a hate crime:  
[Anti-Living in Love and Faith video investigated as a hate-crime \(churchtimes.co.uk\)](#)

...Simon Butler’s reflections:  
[LLF: History Repeating Itself: The “Beautiful” Story | ViaMedia.News](#)

...Sarah Mullally’s blog:  
[“Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid” | Contemplation in the shadow of a carpark \(wordpress.com\)](#)

....great blog from Charlie Bell:  
[LLF: Please Break the Silence, Bishops | ViaMedia.News](#)

.....article by Susan Gilchrist in The Church Times:  
[The barriers to listening need to be broken down \(churchtimes.co.uk\)](#)

Tina’s talk on trans people and the church:  
<https://www.facebook.com/theHeartEdge/videos/407283013981920>

Rachel Mann in conversation with Alex Clare-Young **YouTube:**  
[Meet Our Patrons 1 - Rachel Mann in conversation with Alex Clare-Young - YouTube](#)

Rachel Mann interviewed in The Tablet (and she has published a novel):  
[Rachel Mann: 'I was only able to find God after I had transitioned' \(thetablet.co.uk\)](#)

A view of St Francis as gender non-conforming courtesy of Q Spirit:  
<https://qspirit.net/francis-assisi-queer/>

CofE urged to wake up to spiritual abuse of LGBT people:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/17/uk-churches-urged-to-wake-up-to-spiritual-abuse-of-lgbt->

[people?fbclid=IwAR3aoJPzafDXus\\_KSd3XuJvDzGO\\_K\\_E\\_1\\_ibDYCGnM1Omqr9VO4IRb3rk8](https://www.facebook.com/IwAR3aoJPzafDXus_KSd3XuJvDzGO_K_E_1_ibDYCGnM1Omqr9VO4IRb3rk8)

What the early church thought about the gender of God:

[What the early church thought about God's gender \(theconversation.com\)](https://www.theconversation.com/what-the-early-church-thought-about-gods-gender)

Pope Francis endorses civil partnerships for same sex couples. “A major step forward”. Is it?

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/21/pope-francis-civil-union-laws-same-sex-couples-gay-lgbt/>

“Fratelli Tutti” – can the church teach the world about injustice when it tolerates such injustice within itself?

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2020/10/20/franciscan-theologian-challenges-the-hypocrisy-in-new-papal-encyclical-fratelli-tutti/>

Why we need LGBTQ saints: a great reflection for All Saints Day by QSpirit’s Kittredge Cherry:

<https://qspirit.net/why-we-need-lgbtq-saints/>

QSpirit’s top 28 LGBT Christian books for 2020:

[Top 28 LGBTQ Christian books of 2020 named \(qspirit.net\)](https://qspirit.net/top-28-lgbtq-christian-books-of-2020-named)

Cross-dressing queer Saint Matrona/Babylas:

[Queer saint Matrona / Babylas of Perge founded 5th-century convent of nuns who dressed as men \(qspirit.net\)](https://qspirit.net/queer-saint-matrona-babylas)

Vatican says that Pope’s comments were out of context and the church does not support civil partnerships:

[https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/pope-same-sex-gay-marriage-unions-b1532617.html?utm\\_content=Echobox&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2-rPTSbO2OWob-ZQA3P3GqKSCH6UtGTlGsnG00QKeekCItrEjM9t1CQ#Echobox=1604324045](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/pope-same-sex-gay-marriage-unions-b1532617.html?utm_content=Echobox&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2-rPTSbO2OWob-ZQA3P3GqKSCH6UtGTlGsnG00QKeekCItrEjM9t1CQ#Echobox=1604324045)

2019 critique by Claire Jenkins on Vatican document “Male and Female He Created Them” (interesting but long and academic in approach):

<http://rainbowcatholics.org/pastoral/a-critique-male-and-female-he-created-them-giuseppe-2019/#:~:text=A%20Critique%20%E2%80%93%20Male%20and%20female%20He%20created,in%20education%2C%20Congregation%20for%20Catholic%20Education%20%28Giuseppe%2C%202019%29>

A “Dangerous Woman” – Rev. Jo Inkpin and Penny Jones in a podcast:

[https://dangerouswomen.podbean.com/e/joinkpin/?fbclid=IwAR3nCy22d1dXVi3zsykaJRh3qX4aaeH6f9NWlUqMGNnEB\\_iSaRjuidVwiDg](https://dangerouswomen.podbean.com/e/joinkpin/?fbclid=IwAR3nCy22d1dXVi3zsykaJRh3qX4aaeH6f9NWlUqMGNnEB_iSaRjuidVwiDg)

Some spiritual resources created by Jo for trans awareness week (13-20 Nov):

<https://www.transspirit.org/trans-awareness-week-2020.html?fbclid=IwAR2zTtbGt0to979AvBOq7tIgs2Sh5E93Y9LPiETmcDM6qw241xyzDaPZi50>

A great reflection from Jo on trans people and the Body of Christ:

[https://www.penandinkreflections.org/blog/beyond-indecident-bodies-transgender-gifting-for-the-whole-body?fbclid=IwAR2mSmR7u2CMmUfFSLcix-T7MOzOQUeS0aqn2\\_FPsrKe3kBkou8XhVnLP5A](https://www.penandinkreflections.org/blog/beyond-indecident-bodies-transgender-gifting-for-the-whole-body?fbclid=IwAR2mSmR7u2CMmUfFSLcix-T7MOzOQUeS0aqn2_FPsrKe3kBkou8XhVnLP5A)

Trans Christians form own church in Pakistan:

[Trans Christians unable to worship after being told they're 'unclean' \(pinknews.co.uk\)](https://pinknews.co.uk/trans-christians-unable-to-worship-after-being-told-theyre-unclean/)

Freddy McConnell finds he is not welcome at Christingle:

[I used to love Christingle – until I discovered what my church thought of trans people | Transgender | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/transgender/2020/dec/17/freddy-mcconnell-christingle)

Freemason to admit trans men and trans women who transition while already members  
*(Editor's note: my dad was a mason. Some evangelicals on a "healing retreat" told me that because of that God would have cursed him...and me....and my children.)*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-45030075>

## **Trans law and politics**

Judicial review into prescribing of puberty blockers begins in High Court:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/07/puberty-blockers-case-london-high-court-tavistock-portman-nhs-keira-bell-gids/>

Court hears benefits of puberty blockers:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/08/puberty-blockers-high-court-case-tavistock-portman-nhs-keira-bell-trans-healthcare/>

High court rules children must understand effects of puberty blockers:

[Children who want puberty blockers must understand effects, high court rules | Gender | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/gender/2020/oct/08/high-court-rules-children-must-understand-effects-of-puberty-blockers)

...trans journalist reports on the hearing:

[Puberty blockers: 6 things you need to know about landmark legal case \(pinknews.co.uk\)](https://pinknews.co.uk/puberty-blockers-6-things-you-need-to-know-about-landmark-legal-case/)

...comment on the ruling by Mermaids:

[Response to High Court Decision on Trans Access to Hormone Blockers - Mermaids \(mermaidsuk.org.uk\)](https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/response-to-high-court-decision-on-trans-access-to-hormone-blockers-mermaids/)

...comment in The Guardian:

[Puberty blockers ruling: curbing trans rights or a victory for common sense? | Transgender | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/transgender/2020/oct/08/puberty-blockers-ruling-curb-trans-rights-or-victory-for-common-sense)

...heart-broken parents react:

[Puberty blockers: Parents of trans kids slam 'cruel' High Court ruling \(pinknews.co.uk\)](https://pinknews.co.uk/puberty-blockers-parents-of-trans-kids-slam-cruel-high-court-ruling/)

...statement from Amnesty International and Liberty:

[Amnesty International UK and Liberty joint statement on puberty blockers | Amnesty International UK](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/news-stories/amnesty-international-uk-and-liberty-joint-statement-on-puberty-blockers)

....the pain of a trans teen:

[Puberty blockers: Trans teen in 'unbearable pain' after High Court ruling \(pinknews.co.uk\)](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/16/transgender-dad-freddy-mcconnell-supreme-court-appeal-european-court-human-rights/?fbclid=IwAR2F42HmL5bF1riq74ZxnAlbyXvk6d64ZIHbkCaI_jI0ufSGMJx3ub1ERg)

Trans teen takes legal action over GIDS delays:

[Trans teen in legal action over gender clinic wait - BBC News](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56844444)

Freddy McConnell loses appeal to UK Supreme Court to be named as father or parent on child's birth certificate – and will take case to European Court:

[https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/16/transgender-dad-freddy-mcconnell-supreme-court-appeal-european-court-human-rights/?fbclid=IwAR2F42HmL5bF1riq74ZxnAlbyXvk6d64ZIHbkCaI\\_jI0ufSGMJx3ub1ERg](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/16/transgender-dad-freddy-mcconnell-supreme-court-appeal-european-court-human-rights/?fbclid=IwAR2F42HmL5bF1riq74ZxnAlbyXvk6d64ZIHbkCaI_jI0ufSGMJx3ub1ERg)

Freddy speaks about his case:

[Freddy McConnell: Trans man on fight to be legally named his child's father \(pinknews.co.uk\)](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/16/transgender-dad-freddy-mcconnell-supreme-court-appeal-european-court-human-rights/?fbclid=IwAR2F42HmL5bF1riq74ZxnAlbyXvk6d64ZIHbkCaI_jI0ufSGMJx3ub1ERg)

Guardian **podcast** with Stephen Whittle on fight for trans rights and GRA:

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2020/oct/08/understanding-the-fight-over-trans-rights-part-1>

Part 2: Finn Mackay vs Kathleen Stock:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/audio/2020/oct/09/understanding-the-fight-over-trans-rights-part-2>

Women and Equalities Committee launches new inquiry into GRA reform:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/28/trans-equality-inquiry-women-equalities-committee-caroline-nokes-reaction/>

Trans woman elected to US state senate:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/04/sarah-mcbride-first-transgender-state-senator-delaware-victory/>

....and native American trans woman elected in Kansas:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/04/native-american-transgender-woman-stephanie-byers-history-kansas/>

....positive rainbow wave in US election:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/04/us-election-rainbow-wave-lgbt-queer-trans-sarah-mcbride-mauree-turner-brianna-titone/>

Trump's LGBT record:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/03/donald-trump-election-day-lgbt-record-homophobia-transphobia-worst-president-joe-biden/>

Biden mentions trans people in victory speech:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/08/joe-biden-victory-speech-transgender-people-first-time-president-elect-wilmington-delaware/>

...and Kamala shows pronoun solidarity with trans people:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/07/kamala-harris-trans-transgender-lgbt-pronouns-vice-president-elect-joe-biden/>

Biden appoints trans veteran Shawn Skelly to transitional team:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/12/shawn-skelly-joe-biden-transgender-war-veteran-presidential-transition-team/>

Right to non-gendered passports goes to Supreme Court in UK:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/12/gender-neutral-passports-uk-christie-elan-cane-non-gendered-supreme-court/>

Teresa May urges respect for trans people:

[Theresa May urges respect for trans lives at PinkNews Awards 2020](#)

Nadia Whittome MP says trans rights and workers' rights are integral parts of the class struggle:

[Nadia Whittome: Labour MP on trans rights, climate justice and socialism \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Women and Equalities Select Committee takes evidence from academics for GRA inquiry:

[Gender Recognition Act: MPs hear from academics on transgender rights \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

2021 Census to ask questions on sexuality and gender identity:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/18/national-census-sexual-orientation-gender-identity-office-national-statistics-observer/>

## **Trans health**

Failure of NHS for trans people and attacks on Gender GP:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/09/gendergp-trans-healthcare-private-clinic-nhs-waiting-lists/>

US hospital ends some surgeries for intersex children:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/22/boston-childrens-hospital-genital-surgeries-intersex-children/>

Giant mural paints shocking picture of state of trans healthcare in the UK:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/27/trans-healthcare-uk-gender-clinic-bristol-mural-stokes-croft/>

Trans woman's suicide while awaiting therapy:

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/14/trans-woman-alexandra-greenway-waiting-for-therapy-when-she-died-mother-tells-inquest>

## Trans life

Podcast by Debbie and Stephanie Hayton: how transition affects a marriage and family:  
<https://www.straightspouse.org/voices-podcast/s3-ep-18-how-gender-transition-impacts-a-couple/?fbclid=IwAR1yhbZngF61d1a4v6VUwwfDksXvdz8vH1MU3M2lSpT9PAyNMON-widPJWs>

Transphobic hate crimes have quadrupled in 5 years (BBC video)  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-54486122>

Olivia Colman et al sign open letter condemning violence and hostility against trans women:  
[Olivia Colman, Jameela Jamil and Paloma Faith condemn ‘violence and hostility’ against trans women in open letter | The Independent](#)

Lily: a trans story (BBC iplayer):  
[Why one woman filmed her transition: ‘I want to show young trans kids it gets better’ - BBC Three](#)

Black Trans Foundation – working for the social advancement of black trans people:  
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/16/black-trans-foundation-launch-uk-free-therapy-project-fundraiser-azekel-axelle/>

BBC report on TDOR:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-54992071>

Alex Clare-Young’s YouTube reflection on TDOR:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3FrqnrPZEg&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3H0k11OdpTGXlvafnytHEbQ0gah7x0HrX35sLHQwKd6OTPz8jsgy6FUZ8>

..and Tina Beardsley’s:  
[https://stbridesliverpool.org.uk/blog/2020/11/18/transgender-day-of-remembrance-a-reflection-at-open-table-lgbtqia-comeasyouare?fbclid=IwAR0A2Bf9zEsj0vruKqY\\_EY0oW3wdSt1VY2kWord31\\_m8b7kCqp nHrOO7yM](https://stbridesliverpool.org.uk/blog/2020/11/18/transgender-day-of-remembrance-a-reflection-at-open-table-lgbtqia-comeasyouare?fbclid=IwAR0A2Bf9zEsj0vruKqY_EY0oW3wdSt1VY2kWord31_m8b7kCqp nHrOO7yM)

Leeds does its bit to mark TDOR:  
<https://news.leeds.gov.uk/news/leeds-shows-support-for-trans-community-on-international-day-of-action>

Some T4T couples:  
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/19/love-t4t-trans-awareness-week-fox-owl-danny-grace-lavery-dating-relationships/>

TUC film on challenges in workplace for trans people:  
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/19/trades-union-congress-film-video-advert-transgender-liam-kenya-sterling/>

Facial feminisation: a trans woman’s story:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/nov/10/female-feminisation-surgery-trans-woman-story-of-a-face>



TransActual: trans advocacy group founded in 2017:

<https://www.transactual.org.uk/about-us>

Lovely poem from trans daughter to her mother:

[https://tartantights.wordpress.com/a-trans-daughter-remembers-her-mother/?fbclid=IwAR2wQp-XPpsYakn\\_UpMI1ClvndfZaoRHbLLDxxJsDzjuLPS9B7ePenmc3JE](https://tartantights.wordpress.com/a-trans-daughter-remembers-her-mother/?fbclid=IwAR2wQp-XPpsYakn_UpMI1ClvndfZaoRHbLLDxxJsDzjuLPS9B7ePenmc3JE)

Galop transphobic hate crime report:

<http://www.galop.org.uk/transphobic-hate-crime-report-2020/>

Mother sells home to fund custody fight for her trans child:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/11/13/transgender-children-parents-crowdfund-legal-battle-fees-family-court-fox-fisher/>

Caroline Paige and other trans women on BBC News:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-54965038>

Coming out story of Stevenage trans woman:

[https://www.thecomet.net/news/stevenage-dad-living-as-transgender-woman-tells-her-story-1-6876717?fbclid=IwAR3aNSL9WE8ZMnMJvmxNv1NIVAj0TFQFkzK6j7NW\\_YRg-La\\_ydP32FUkOZU](https://www.thecomet.net/news/stevenage-dad-living-as-transgender-woman-tells-her-story-1-6876717?fbclid=IwAR3aNSL9WE8ZMnMJvmxNv1NIVAj0TFQFkzK6j7NW_YRg-La_ydP32FUkOZU)

Jan Morris's Guardian obituary:

[https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/nov/20/jan-morris-historian-travel-writer-and-trans-pioneer-dies-aged-94?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other&fbclid=IwAR16ZkoY8XoY3z-uLNCf2Op5UWBY9lcK9cc9tzuYBdugW19z1IsmsKwzP6o](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/nov/20/jan-morris-historian-travel-writer-and-trans-pioneer-dies-aged-94?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR16ZkoY8XoY3z-uLNCf2Op5UWBY9lcK9cc9tzuYBdugW19z1IsmsKwzP6o)

Trans cops:

[Queer police officers urge more LGBT people to join the force \(pinknews.co.uk\)](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/18/queer-police-officers-urge-more-lgbt-people-to-join-the-force/)

Transmasculine “horror stories”:

[Trans Horror Stories and Society's Fear of the Transmasculine Body | them.](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/nov/20/trans-horror-stories-and-society-fear-of-the-transmasculine-body)

## **Trans world**

Israel sets up “trans taskforce”:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/18/israel-trans-task-force-avi-nissenkorn-itzik-shmuli-welfare-health-education/>

Are women in Nigeria becoming more liberal?

[Ngozi Adichie's Praise For JK Rowling's "Anti-Trans" Essay \(blackgayblog.com\)](https://www.blackgayblog.com/2020/10/18/ngozi-adichie-praise-for-jk-rowling-anti-trans-essay/)

Deputy PM in Belgium is trans – and it's no big deal:

<https://www.politico.eu/article/petra-de-sutter-transgender-deputy-prime-minister-milestone-progress/>

Inspiring young female Finnish PM (head of Finland's all female government) says she will reform Finland's terrible Trans Law to allow self-ID:

[Sanna Marin: The feminist PM who says trans people have a 'right to self-identify' - BBC News](#)

India launches on-line self-ID portal for trans people to effect legal change of gender (but India is no utopia for trans people):

[India: Trans people can now declare own gender through online portal \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Trans school in Bangladesh:

[Transgender in Bangladesh: First school opens for trans students - BBC News](#)

Black trans woman assaulted 14 times in men's prison in USA:

[Black trans woman sues after being sexually assaulted over 14 times in men's prison / LGBTQ Nation](#)

2020 deadliest ever year for trans violence in USA:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/09/transgender-violence-2020-deaths-deadliest-year-human-rights-campaign-felycyaharris/>

## **Trans sport**

Trans women banned from elite rugby:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/10/world-rugby-ban-transgender-women-policy-document-athlete-ally-stonewall-criticism/>

...but our RFU disagrees:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/oct/14/rfu-clears-trans-women-to-play-womens-rugby-at-all-levels-in-england>

British cycling tries to be trans-inclusive:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/10/13/british-cycling-transgender-non-binary-policy-inclusion/?fbclid=IwAR2edgXAPoq71bh65MGB48RQUCp22rgt9THn4re4JdV9ZrXdYyCLbablLp4>

...and here is Emily Bridges, an ace trans woman cyclist taking part in research about effects of transitioning:

[https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2020-10-11/welsh-cyclist-emily-bridges-opens-up-about-coming-out-as-transgender-to-inspire-others?fbclid=IwAR0JORfUJ0HFkDbOWfUwoq537sLP\\_xQ0mk6AOejnoqHTluCMvP-FD4V9\\_8M](https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2020-10-11/welsh-cyclist-emily-bridges-opens-up-about-coming-out-as-transgender-to-inspire-others?fbclid=IwAR0JORfUJ0HFkDbOWfUwoq537sLP_xQ0mk6AOejnoqHTluCMvP-FD4V9_8M)

Trans woman footballer in tears at gesture of acceptance:

[Mara Gómez: Trans footballer makes debut for women's club in Argentina \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)