

SIBYLS LOGO - ROBYN GOLDEN - MANN 25 MAY 2018

(...) in the darkness of the Easter Vigil we hear 'O Felix Culpa' (O Happy Fault) expressing the magical insight that a greater good is coming out of the worst evil. Julian of Norwich, too, penetrated the darkness to discover that 'sin is behovely'. This means necessary and inevitable. Whenever we feel cast down by our failings or the dark forces in humanity, we should recall the wisdom of this theology or listen to one of those disturbing disharmonies of Bach as he uses it to reclaim a higher beauty and joy. *Laurence Freeman OSB*

## Newsletter 99

Dear Sibyls

Even before 2021 ended, we lost April Ashley, one of the brightest stars in the trans firmament, a most beautiful, gracious and dignified lady to the end. The story of her life reminds us of the shocking ignorance and prejudice that had to be faced to get us to the point we are now and of how much we owe to trailblazers like April. Her autobiography, if you can get hold of it, is a remarkable account of her journey from a poverty-stricken and abusive childhood in Liverpool, through several suicide attempts, to her assertion of her gender and rise to fame and fortune and (brief) marriage to the heir to a Lordship, followed by decline and struggle in her later years. The account of her gender surgery in Casablanca in 1960 is not for the faint-hearted.

The story of Ewan Forbes, as told in the recent book by Zoe Playdon (reviewed below), also gives a remarkable account of the way in which attitudes to trans people have changed – or not changed – over the past century. Transphobia and misunderstanding remains entrenched in many of our churches but few perhaps are as utterly benighted as parts of the Russian Orthodox church appear to be, united as they are in an unholy alliance in Putin's war where the enemy is identified as anywhere Gay Pride celebrations are permitted. It is terrifying that such hatred can be unleashed in the name of Christianity. Yvonne writes eloquently below about the plight of trans and other LGBTQ+ people in Ukraine.

I thought I had completed what I wanted to say in this newsletter when along comes the government's shocking decision to exclude trans people from the ban on conversion therapy. Here is Jayne Ozanne's reaction to this:

[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/01/ban-conversion-practices-trans-people-lesbian-gay-people?fbclid=IwAR0jlQ\\_pBPm4d8DtTCcQWP1S1vdNIuab7r4htN1ChiYFUkWmIW9vzA\\_v0w](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/01/ban-conversion-practices-trans-people-lesbian-gay-people?fbclid=IwAR0jlQ_pBPm4d8DtTCcQWP1S1vdNIuab7r4htN1ChiYFUkWmIW9vzA_v0w)

It is all the more disappointing that this announcement came immediately after Jamie Wallis came out as the first trans MP. How absurd that Boris Johnson offered Jamie support and welcome and then cravenly capitulated to the transphobic lobby.

I write this in the middle of Lent where whatever acts of self-denial or austerity or good works we may be practising seem hopelessly trivial and inadequate compared to the agonising ordeal not just the people of Ukraine but people in many parts of the world are experiencing. I must make particular mention of our membership secretary's (Philippa Whittaker's) wife Louise who is suffering from a degenerative brain condition called Corticobasal Syndrome. It is incurable, progressive and in a few years will be life-limiting. Her neurologist described it as being like Parkinson's but without the tremor. Please remember Louise and Philippa in your prayers but refrain from sending messages.

The suffering of the world is far too much for any of us to bear. We can no more bear the weight of that, alone, than we can the weight of the glory to come. So as Easter approaches and the days grow longer and light and warmth and new life return to the world, let us entrust ourselves and the world to the One who can bear that weight and united with His suffering share in his glory.

The next newsletter is number 100! Let us make it a special one. It would be great if as many Sibyls as possible sent me some recollections or reminiscences, maybe with photos! They could be about how your own life has changed after "coming out" (if you have come out – not all Sibyls are able or wish to, in which case it would be great to hear, if necessary anonymously, how you have coped with that tension), both the joys and sorrows that come with the trans experience. And, if you like, maybe something about how that has interacted with your process of growth as a Christian. Please send anything you'd like to be included directly to me and not to Philippa.

Wishing you and your loved ones a holy and happy Easter.

*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.

## 2022 Services and Events

We are currently planning the following events:

Sibyls Zoom Services and Fellowship Meetings will take place **ONLINE** at 19:00 on Monday 25 April, Wednesday 25 May, Thursday **23** June, Monday 25 July, Thursday 25 August, Monday **26** September, Tuesday 25 October, Friday 25 November, Wednesday **21** December.

In person services and gatherings on Thursdays 18:00 at St Anne's Church Soho London: 7 April, 9 June, 11 August, 13 October, 8 December 2022. These services and gatherings are **NOT ONLINE**

The Sibyls weekend will once again be at Purley Chase but at the later date of 4-6 November – make a note in your diaries.

## Invitation from Jenny-Anne Bishop OBE

The Metropolitan URC LGBTIQ+ Congregation is becoming more active: < <https://metropolitanchurch.org.uk/> >

We have a live LGBTIQ+ service in Church on the 3rd Sunday of the Month at 4.30 pm at Wilbraham St Ninian's United Reformed Church, Corner of Wilbraham Road/Egerton Rd South, Chorlton, Manchester M21 0UB (*The church's true postcode is M21 0XJ but we suggest you use M21 0UB for online maps and satnavs.*)

We continue to run a weekly LGBTIQ+ Sunday service at 4.30pm (London Time) by Zoom with some online involvement for everyone.

To Join the weekly Zoom Service at 4:30 every Sunday afternoon please use the following zoom link. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88502951623>

Meeting ID: 885 0295 1623

One tap mobile

+442080806592,,88502951623# United Kingdom

+443300885830,,88502951623# United Kingdom

We also 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:

Unique has returned to running four live meetings a month, 1st Thursday evening 7.30-10 pm in Bangor on the 2nd and 4th Friday Morning ( 10.30 am to 12.30 pm) in the community house in Rhyl and on the 3rd Thursday evening (8-11 pm) in Prestatyn. Full details here: <[Unique Transgender Network - Page 3 \(uniquetg.org.uk\)](https://www.uniquetg.org.uk)>

We are also running our **Trans & Non-Binary (TNBI) on-line Virtual Support groups** every Thursday Evening and Saturday Afternoon by Zoom rather than once a month as follows:

During these difficult 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 provide on-line meetings using 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)

**Unique** hosts a meeting every Thursday evening from 8.00 pm till approx.11 pm (London Time), and each Saturday afternoon from 3.30 pm to approx. 7.00 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**

If you have any difficulty with any of the events please contact Jenny-Anne at ≤ [jennyannebuk@btinternet.com](mailto:jennyannebuk@btinternet.com) > or 07500-741955

### **ONE to ONE Meetings for Gender Diverse People**

We can also offer some one-to-one meetings on-line (by Zoom, Facebook Messenger or Skype), or in the

**Rhyl Community House.** For more details please contact **Kathy Dear:**

[kathy@uniquetg.org.uk](mailto:kathy@uniquetg.org.uk) or

Jenny-Anne [jennyanne@uniquetg.org.uk](mailto:jennyanne@uniquetg.org.uk) or Phone 01745-337144

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### **Chair's message - Yvonne**

Where there's war, there are people just like us, whether in Syria, Afghanistan, Yeman, Ukraine. Strangely enough, a good way to appreciate this is through some remarkable animated biographical films –

*Persepolis*, tracing the main character's growth from child to rebellious, punk-loving teenager in Iran, against the background of the Iran Iraq war;

*Waltz with Bashir*, Israeli Ali Folman's recollection of the Lebanon war of 1982;

and very recently *Flee*, telling the story of an Afghan family seeking refuge in Moscow, then Scandinavia. People exactly like each of us with our human vulnerabilities, our day-to-day needs, work, worship, worries, disrupted by war and tragedy.

These war-torn countries have trans people too, who like us do their best to negotiate their way of life, whether they are out or closeted. Ukraine has trans people coping at the moment: '....the main obstacles to Valeria Kolosova escaping from Ukraine are her passport and ID card, which identify the 24-year-old transgender woman as a man - meaning she must stay to fight the invading Russian forces. Kolosova left her hometown of Kyiv hoping to cross into Poland. But she is too scared to attempt the journey.... referring to the rule that men aged 18 to 60 must register for conscription and cannot leave the country.

In Odessa, Nick, an 18-year-old non-binary resident whose passport lists him as male, is in hiding. "Military authorities can force me to the combat zone with a gun in my hand," Nick said. "This is wrong. All civilians want to run away from the

nightmares from war, not only biological females ... I want to run anywhere from this nightmare and start my life from zero."

For Judis, a 24-year-old trans woman hiding with her girlfriend about 70 kilometres outside Kyiv, the assault on Kyiv means she has little hope of getting her cross-sex hormone medication when it runs out in two weeks. "I'm totally scared. And I don't know how much longer I can stay where I am now. I have nowhere to go," she said.

LGBTQ+ groups across Europe are working to help gay, bisexual and trans people flee, find shelter and apply for asylum if they wish. The Germany-based Alliance for Queer Emergency Aid for Ukraine, has made contact with about 40 trans women and non-binary people, in need of evacuation.

Terry Rivers, founder of Queer Spaces Network in the Czech Republic, said they are providing help to refugees arriving at the Slovak border. Robert, a 31-year trans man from Iraq who had been living in Ukraine for 13 years, travelled by train for three days from the eastern city of Kharkiv to Slovakia and on to Prague. Robert said "I feel like I'm in a dream". The Slovak border control police mocked him, laughed and shouted at him for being trans and twice threw away his identity documents. "I was so scared, I didn't know what to do. But after a few hours, they let me in," he said.

There is no data on how many of Ukraine's 41 million people are LGBTQ+. Trans people say the process to change their gender on official documents is long and complicated. The LGBT+ community is often targeted by conservative and far-right groups. But LGBTQ+ people say they have more freedom than in Russia, where persecution has increased since the introduction of a ban on gay 'propaganda' in 2013.

Sibyls is a member of the European Forum of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Christian groups, with member groups in Hungary, Poland, Moldova. There are no member groups from Ukraine, but there are from Russia. At the European Forum conference held in Canterbury in 2019, we shared discussions with a friend from Russia. 'The LGBT Christian group *Light of the World* has been working since 2009 to provide all kinds of people, who have experienced rejection by the church for any reasons, with spiritual support and spiritual healing. We are an inclusive community—also for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer people. Meetings are held every other Sunday in the centre of Moscow.' People like us.

In the current desperate situation, many countries are helping Ukrainians. But let us remember that conditions are not that favourable in other parts of eastern Europe. One of the people who attended the Trans pre-conference in Canterbury was Bishop Szymon Niemiec from Warsaw. Szymon faced charges in connection with a Christian service for the Warsaw Equality March.

We pray for all.

*Information about Ukraine taken from Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers the lives of people around the world who struggle to live freely or fairly. Visit <http://news.trust.org>*

*Sibyls members who have been active in the European Forum are Elaine Sommers who was co-president; Shanon Ferguson who was chair of the trans\*working group, started the Trans\* preconference and served as co-president of the Forum for two years. Susan Gilchrist and Tina Beardsley have contributed hugely to Euro Forum events.*

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## **Creative writing and expressing our truth**

Have you ever written a letter to relatives or friends trying to explain that you are trans? Have you ever spent ages thinking about what you will say when coming out to someone? It is not easy and often doesn't even seem to convey what we actually know about ourselves.

Poetry can be a surprising and revelatory way of expressing our truth. Several Sibyls write poetry, and find it a helpful way to express themselves. We have some talented writers.

But when I say 'poetry', I don't just mean these few skilled writers. I simply mean finding groups of words, not necessarily joined up, that come from the heart. Imagine those pages of prose you might have written; now think of a haiku – just a dozen words that might say what you want much more truthfully. Creative writing can enable us to shake off the constraints of prose, logic and argument like we shake off the constraints of our birth sex.

To illustrate what I mean, sometimes we hear a line in a song, or read something written by someone else - nothing to do with trans - that chimes with us. For example:

'I was transitioning into something or someone else. What and who would that be? How could I describe this odd feeling of dissolving and recomposing? Words have to open the mind. When words close the mind, we can be sure that someone has been reduced to nothingness.' Deborah Levy, *The Cost of Living*. The author is not trans, this was actually a book reflecting on her life as a writer.

I wrote poems when I was in my twenties, then nothing for decades. My personal experience of living truthfully drew me back into poetry, when I found myself jotting down words, simple feelings, observations, then putting it together into a verse. As everyone will tell you, it doesn't have to rhyme, and it doesn't have to have a rhythm.

We are stuck with the language we know, it is almost like we are following someone else's script all the time. Take the word 'transition'. What does that mean to you, what other words say what this is? I feel the word 'becoming' is helpful. When I wrote some thoughts down I found myself writing 'enabling, unlocking, unfolding, unfurling, flowering, flourishing'. That not only relieved me of the heavy language of trans, it helped me discover more about myself.

Journalling is a similar helpful practice – a way of writing thoughts and reflections just for yourself, in whatever way comes most easily.



Would you like to take part in a Sibyls creative writing event? Imagine a small group, some who are poets, some who have never written a word, taking time to explore words, images and stories that represent our feelings and experiences. Let me know if you would like this.

Yvonne

Please contact me at [yvonne-wood@outlook.com](mailto:yvonne-wood@outlook.com)



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### **Do not be afraid**

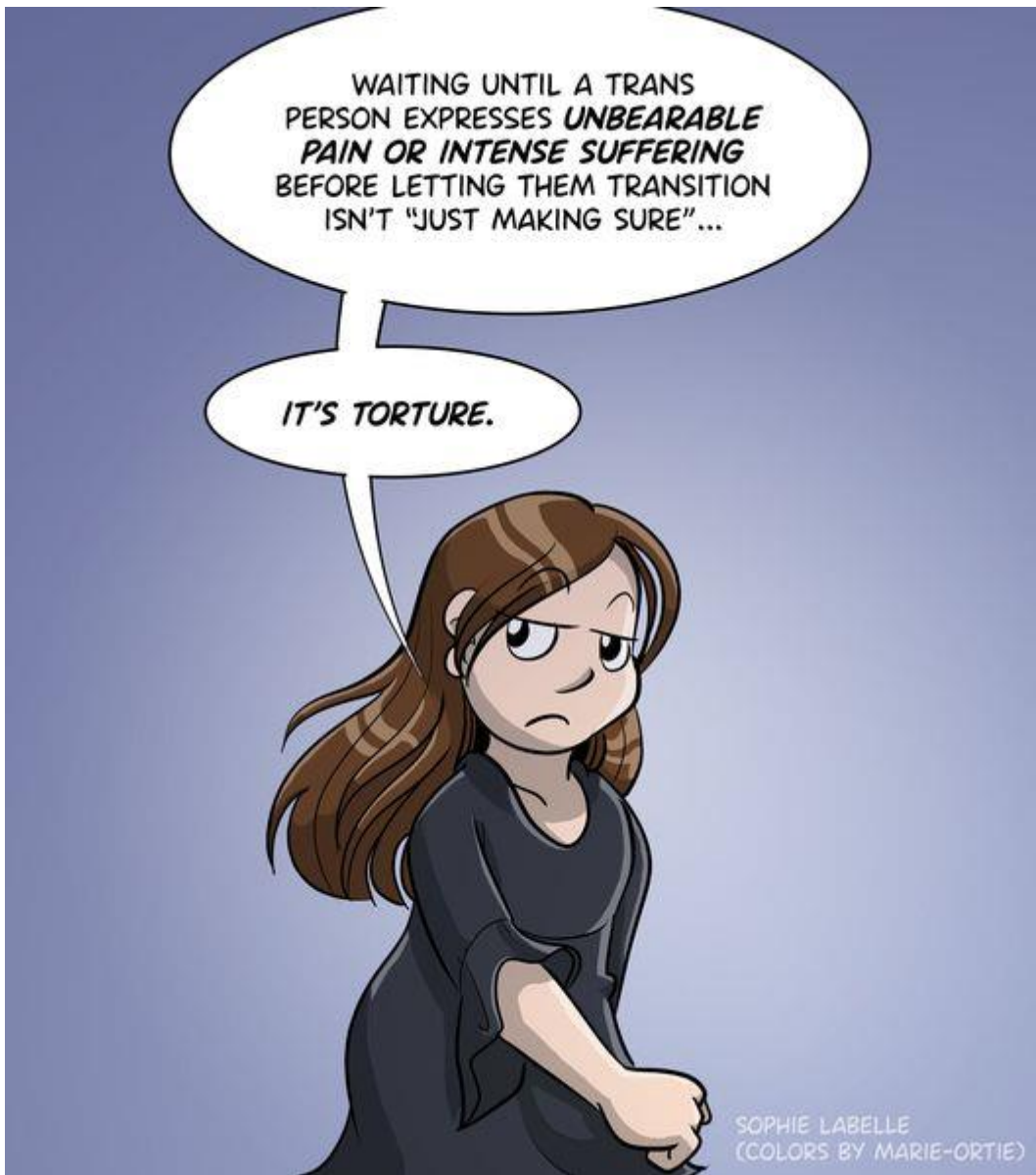
Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name. You are mine.” I have spent most of my life being afraid. Fear, if I’m being honest, was one of the main things that held me back from coming out. I did not dare to be myself. There was so much I stood to lose and what I might gain seemed risky, uncertain, perilous. God’s whisper in my heart was easily drowned out by the clamour of those who doubted, who dissuaded, who told me it was wrong, that those I loved would suffer. Even, the voice in my head told me, God might punish me for it. It makes me wonder now what kind of God I believed in. Probably like so many of us I made God in my own image, a projection of my own ego, a small, mean judgemental and punitive God. The first commandment forbids us to make images of God and bow down before them. We think it refers to graven images, to idolatry. Surely it’s really about the idols we create in our own heads and worship which we then try to

maintain at all costs even when they are pathological and destructive. Before I came out I made a number of faltering, hesitant attempts but each time felt myself sinking and afraid. It took the hand of the Lord eventually to more or less drag me kicking and screaming out of my cowardice and to find that walking on the water of my true self wasn't impossible after all. Sometimes the water gets quite choppy and the tide seems to flow against me but I haven't drowned.

Of course in a sense God is to be feared. As it says in Hebrews, it is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Here is what Laurence Freeman from the World Council for Christian Meditation says about fear:

“The great negative force of the unconscious is fear. Here are two kinds of fear. There's the fear of anxiety (the fear of punishment, the fear of pain, the fear of being rejected) and this word called 'dread'. And this negatively dark side of fear often for religious people and in the popular mind, even for non-religious people, is associated with an image of God which is really a product of theophobia, phobia about God – the fear of a frightening God, a God who will punish, who does not let us off the hook, does not really forgive – a massive and powerful projection from our own unconscious or what we could only call the superego, meaning what we think we should be like because we were told so often, maybe as children, this is what you should be like and what you are is bad, what you are like, what you are doing, what you want to do, is shameful and against God's will. And therefore, you cannot be a child of God, you cannot be lovable while you are like you are. And then, if we're trained sufficiently in that mentality, it's a very hard and long process to shatter that image of God because it has become such a powerful force as an image, as a system in our unconscious. And because it has been generated by the unconscious and it operates in the unconscious it's very close to us, it's very much part of us. And we have to go to a much deeper level, to be able to expose it and eventually dissolve it and become free from it.”

I wonder how much of the internalised transphobia many trans people suffer from comes from or is linked to what Freeman calls theophobia – that is fear of a false God, a God of our own creation. A projection from our own unconscious. Not the God of Jesus. Not the God who tells us not to be afraid. Not the God who holds out God's hand to us when we feel that we are beginning to sink. Not the God who wants us to be whole and complete and live lives of courage, adventure, creativity and eager to be evermore renewed and changed. That is the God I believe in. The God who has called me by my name. *Pauline*



## Musings of a Southern Lass

We live in what might best be described as baffling, troubled even surreal times. By the time you read this the fiasco surrounding the antics at No. 10 last year and the problems of The Duke of York and Novak Djokovic will have no doubt twisted and turned further and provided plenty of fish wrapping material as well! More importantly, will we have seen any genuine progress in the fight to ban Conversion Therapy properly or with Living in Love and Faith? My crystal ball is rather cloudy on those...

In the real world of our daily lives we do at least have a bit more influence. As some of you may know, Sibyls became my pathway into the LGBTQI+ Christian world nearly 6 years ago now, and since then I've been able to flourish in different ways. Life at home has its challenges but so far we've managed to blunder on without too much conflict and I'm mindful of not abusing my very privileged marriage. In that time I've found other inclusive groups and churches, as well as broadening my outlook with a lot of football: I seem to be becoming a bit of a recognisable 'celebrity' around some of the grounds in the South East!



*Eastbourne Town is a very welcoming club*

On the Christian front, you may be familiar with Two:23, a bi-monthly inclusive service in London that is now getting back to in person meetings (Google 'Two23'). Before the pandemic I'd been asked if I would get help with a few things and have happily found a place doing refreshments. More local to me, there are a few things going on in Guildford Diocese: a long way to go towards full inclusion here but better than some others. Again, pre-pandemic there had been a few special Rainbow Eucharists and at one of those I perchance sat next to someone who was a leader of a confidential LGBTQI+ Christian group in the area. I duly joined up, over 3 years ago now, and made some great friends as well as having the opportunity for wonderful fellowship and support. The group doesn't officially exist and the priest who set it up was told that the best way for people to find out about it in the CofE is to keep it secret! Then in the Autumn of last year, as they were in need of someone new on the leadership team, I was asked if I would be prepared to join them. Whilst not short on maturity and experience (euphemisms perhaps?!) I felt very honoured and accepted that role. So with monthly group meetings and leaders meetings in between I'm beginning to find positive new activities as I approach retirement and am becoming quite a busy lady.

Last September I attended Surry Pride at Godalming as part of our Christians at Pride stall. It is sad that so many members of the LGBTQI+ community are almost shocked to see a Christian presence at a Pride event, praying with and wanting to bless them. It was a long day, but I also found out about the monthly Open Table service now taking place at Guildford URC (first





Sunday of the month, 17:00) that we were publicising. So I have another regular, local, inclusive Christian gathering and am involved in the services!

We still have a way to go in the Church and worrying trends are emerging in society, thanks to particular political and religious ideologies. Very sad given that almost everyone I meet out and about and at football is very friendly and barely seems to bat an eyelid. So I'll continue to do my bit for trans visibility – albeit taking wise precautions like any woman would – and hope and pray that the momentum will keep slowly moving us forward to a better day.

If you're down in the South East and would be interested in finding out more about what's going on in my area do drop me an e-mail and I can fill you in.

([RebeccaJWilliams64@gmail.com](mailto:RebeccaJWilliams64@gmail.com))

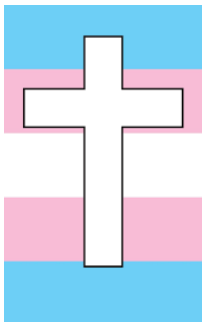
*Rebecca x*

And God took a rib  
from Adam, and from  
it, he made woman.



Let me get this straight. **God** took a  
male part, cloned another human  
being from it and **TRANSITIONED** it  
from male to female, just to make a  
wife for Adam?

And you are having a fit about Trans People.



### Trans faith

Pope writes letter praising Sr Jeannine Gramick praising her ministry to LGBT people:  
[https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2022/01/07/sister-jeanine-gramick-letter-pope-francis-](https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2022/01/07/sister-jeanine-gramick-letter-pope-francis-242157?fbclid=IwAR26h1aLetJX6fh5SIpJY7mBP3MEpie7A3BwOrshKD6HfC3YZ0CCeW)

[242157?fbclid=IwAR26h1aLetJX6fh5SIpJY7mBP3MEpie7A3BwOrshKD6HfC3YZ0CCeW](https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2022/01/07/sister-jeanine-gramick-letter-pope-francis-242157?fbclid=IwAR26h1aLetJX6fh5SIpJY7mBP3MEpie7A3BwOrshKD6HfC3YZ0CCeW)

[DKZaU](#)

Sermon given by Alex Clare-Young at St John's Fulham:

[https://alexclareyoung.co.uk/2022/01/09/no-going-back/?fbclid=IwAR1f5j2RkmCF1BKuT986zNhbLxZZwwWXWCS2cuvGb\\_B8trbrtwMfqQ\\_Em04](https://alexclareyoung.co.uk/2022/01/09/no-going-back/?fbclid=IwAR1f5j2RkmCF1BKuT986zNhbLxZZwwWXWCS2cuvGb_B8trbrtwMfqQ_Em04)

Ozanne Foundation research finds that fewer than a third of LGBTQ+ Christians feel safe in their churches:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/01/31/lgbt-church-christian-research-ozanne-foundation/>

What one priest learned from listening to trans Catholics:

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/what-one-priest-learned-listening-transgender-catholics>

Why gendered language about God matters:

<https://www.viamedia.news/2022/03/12/god-he-she-they-him-her-them/?fbclid=IwAR3ETMQsHjaKISooaeLrRRV2GmwbNTEEjRwSc1RBvL5Qo0Inbx3IT4ggNqU>

Junia Joplin – trans pastor:

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct3hh6?fbclid=IwAR2rtwyYRy9SSoDd-a-liM9fUK8xJfrTUBQ\\_B9ZSAivVBdxb-PzISo7LI0o](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct3hh6?fbclid=IwAR2rtwyYRy9SSoDd-a-liM9fUK8xJfrTUBQ_B9ZSAivVBdxb-PzISo7LI0o)

Chrissie Chevasutt appointed to church trans outreach role:

[https://www.viamedia.news/2022/03/31/good-news-from-via-media-on-transgender-day-of-visibility/?fbclid=IwAR08anqN50kSAIcfOShk5Tv5Cts6\\_yi2ZIm6KFovIqUPe7NW9w0a4BoKuXc](https://www.viamedia.news/2022/03/31/good-news-from-via-media-on-transgender-day-of-visibility/?fbclid=IwAR08anqN50kSAIcfOShk5Tv5Cts6_yi2ZIm6KFovIqUPe7NW9w0a4BoKuXc)

Fr Bryan Massingale has a dream on MLK weekend:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2022/01/16/this-mlk-weekend-i-still-have-dreams/>

Transfiguration: God's invitation to be your whole self:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2022/03/13/the-transfiguration-gods-invitation-to-being-your-whole-lgbtq-self/>



## **Trans law and politics**

Jamie Wallis MP comes out as trans:

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/mar/30/tory-mp-jamie-wallis-trans-reveals-rape-ordeal>

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/03/30/jamie-wallis-trans-coming-out-trans-conservative/>

Trans people to be excluded from ban on conversion therapy:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60947028>

...Jayne Ozanne's view:

[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/01/ban-conversion-practices-trans-people-lesbian-gay-people?fbclid=IwAR0jlQ\\_pBPm4d8DtTCcQWP1S1lvdNIuab7r4htN1ChiYFUkWmIW9vzA\\_v0w](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/01/ban-conversion-practices-trans-people-lesbian-gay-people?fbclid=IwAR0jlQ_pBPm4d8DtTCcQWP1S1lvdNIuab7r4htN1ChiYFUkWmIW9vzA_v0w)

[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/01/ban-conversion-practices-trans-people-lesbian-gay-people?fbclid=IwAR0jlQ\\_pBPm4d8DtTCcQWP1S1lvdNIuab7r4htN1ChiYFUkWmIW9vzA\\_v0w](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/01/ban-conversion-practices-trans-people-lesbian-gay-people?fbclid=IwAR0jlQ_pBPm4d8DtTCcQWP1S1lvdNIuab7r4htN1ChiYFUkWmIW9vzA_v0w)

Women and Equalities Committee calls out government over failure of GRA reform:

[https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/12/21/gender-recognition-act-inquiry-trans/?fbclid=IwAR2vT70f\\_pGfVC4quefQjYoBnVB\\_VERIFY9-QX3EObie9oNpc6jhre5GUhMI](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/12/21/gender-recognition-act-inquiry-trans/?fbclid=IwAR2vT70f_pGfVC4quefQjYoBnVB_VERIFY9-QX3EObie9oNpc6jhre5GUhMI)

[https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/12/21/gender-recognition-act-inquiry-trans/?fbclid=IwAR2vT70f\\_pGfVC4quefQjYoBnVB\\_VERIFY9-QX3EObie9oNpc6jhre5GUhMI](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/12/21/gender-recognition-act-inquiry-trans/?fbclid=IwAR2vT70f_pGfVC4quefQjYoBnVB_VERIFY9-QX3EObie9oNpc6jhre5GUhMI)

...here is their report:

[https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8329/documents/84728/default/?fbclid=IwAR2GMrZFywHhgLayOCHkP5MN0\\_NkkD47kD8l6Luz4u3DgGz0B3kBB-ItwNg](https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8329/documents/84728/default/?fbclid=IwAR2GMrZFywHhgLayOCHkP5MN0_NkkD47kD8l6Luz4u3DgGz0B3kBB-ItwNg)

...the committee's chair speaks of the abuse she has received for trying to make the lives of trans people better:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/dec/23/why-am-i-being-abused-for-trying-to-improve-gender-recognition-process>

Parliament debates GRA reform:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-21/debates/56E94FB0-8DC6-45A0-8EA7-F20208B3E175/GenderRecognitionAct>

EHRC recommends further evidence before a ban on trans conversion therapy – and believes it is ok in a religious setting:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/01/27/ehrc-trans-conversion-therapy-ban/>



...here is FGEN's comment on EHRC's stance:

<https://feministgenderequality.network/fgen-statement-on-the-ehrc-intervention-in-scottish-gra-reform-and-conversion-therapy-ban/>

...more on transphobia at EHRC:

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/wxdzwn/ehrc-trans-rights-leaked-emails?fbclid=IwAR3j-fO8YmcaEh9YPCnQA6dQfypvU9dM4s3zh9mPBoa4MERDlwX12AtjEfU>

...Stonewall calls for EHRC to lose UN accreditation:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-60331962>

...leaked unpublished guidance shows EHRC wanting to make possession of a GRC a requirement for trans people to access single-sex spaces. Tory MP Crispin Blunt: "It does now appear the rights of trans people are under direct assault in the UK from the public body they would, until now, have expected to be most steadfast in their defence."

He added: "Baroness Falkner should reflect seriously on the effect of her decisions to date on this most vulnerable group, and bring them back to being consistent with the evidence. She should also not underestimate the breakdown in trust and confidence in her leadership within her organisation, as it is her officials whose evidence and advice is being discounted."

[https://www.vice.com/en/article/3ab5my/leaked-ehrc-guidance-trans-people-gender-recognition-certificates?fbclid=IwAR2Hz\\_Po5FfsI55PRmwTx5k9clDh11efRCewVgSdubTMh-Tw5zxGteXLDHE](https://www.vice.com/en/article/3ab5my/leaked-ehrc-guidance-trans-people-gender-recognition-certificates?fbclid=IwAR2Hz_Po5FfsI55PRmwTx5k9clDh11efRCewVgSdubTMh-Tw5zxGteXLDHE)

Letter to govt signed by thousands of Christian Ministers, objecting to the proposals for banning conversion therapy- *trigger warning*: many will find their references to trans people offensive and ignorant in the extreme:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ca4symJd6NFFOlj8TnhZiz-JQYrEl-xJ/view?fbclid=IwAR2yqN9cRUptnlBZQlWXUr\\_d7toaViFsgv-uMa0mjHfi9EoS9aW9ietUcpg](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ca4symJd6NFFOlj8TnhZiz-JQYrEl-xJ/view?fbclid=IwAR2yqN9cRUptnlBZQlWXUr_d7toaViFsgv-uMa0mjHfi9EoS9aW9ietUcpg)

alternative, affirming letter from Christian leaders:

[https://christianssupporttheban.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2t67pS\\_X\\_F9DI6EgeLO40JBvhaPliJ8rjB3pCcR2GIcshmicYqxNrLX2c](https://christianssupporttheban.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR2t67pS_X_F9DI6EgeLO40JBvhaPliJ8rjB3pCcR2GIcshmicYqxNrLX2c)

Possible link between charismatic movement and conversion therapy:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/02/04/gay-conversion-therapy-history-origins-19-century/?fbclid=IwAR3HNnl5U0WMWXkP0UgUW53C3Gp2NJjMfw5Q4auGgw4ONjNaHP8o2Fm3ByA>

Unholy alliance between far right/white supremacists and anti-trans movement:

<https://www.damemagazine.com/2021/06/24/the-far-right-and-anti-trans-movements-unholy-alliance/>

Advice to judges on trans people in court:

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2021/dec/27/transgender-people-judges-advised-to-use-preferred-personal-pronouns>

Bid to place trans women in men's prisons withdrawn in Lords (NB some of the views

expressed by members of the Lords are deeply offensive):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/01/11/house-of-lords-trans-prison-lord-blencathra/>

Divide in Scotland over gender recognition:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60214574>

Scottish court rules trans people can self-ID on Census:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/02/17/trans-people-can-self-id-in-scottish-census-confirms-judge-in-landmark-ruling/>

GRA reform Bill tabled in Holyrood:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-60589578>

Guidance for schools on trans pupils sabotaged by government and EHRC:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/02/23/ehrc-trans-kids-guidance-liz-truss/>

BJ's trans dog whistle at PMQs:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/03/23/boris-johnson-trans-pmq-prime-minister/>

Gender-critical feminism is not as popular as its supporters would have you believe:

<https://www.newstatesman.com/internet-social-media/2022/01/gender-critical-feminism-is-not-as-popular-as-its-supporters-may-want-you-to-believe>



## **Trans health**

Primary care: the future of trans healthcare?

<https://www.transactual.org.uk/blog/the-future-of-trans-healthcare-less-is-more>

Transphobia in the NHS:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/03/01/trans-nhs-london-assembly-health-committee-sadiq-khan/>

Interim Cass report supports expansion of GIDS – but ducks important issues:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/03/11/hilary-cass-review-nhs-england-report-trans-kids/>

Transphobic Observer on treatment of trans children:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/mar/20/observer-view-cass-review->

[gender-identity-services-young-people](#)

Trans-focused sexual health clinics:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/03/18/trans-sexual-health-clinics-lgbt/>

Sexual wellbeing after gender affirmation surgery:

[https://www.smoa.jsexmed.org/article/S2050-1161\(21\)00151-3/fulltext?fbclid=IwAR1UDQ69146VH5XNoYQBICqxEFI3x3Go5wtK0F-0uQqWPR5x4P1vfvTZDbI](https://www.smoa.jsexmed.org/article/S2050-1161(21)00151-3/fulltext?fbclid=IwAR1UDQ69146VH5XNoYQBICqxEFI3x3Go5wtK0F-0uQqWPR5x4P1vfvTZDbI)



## **Trans life**

Attacking Stonewall for defending trans rights is a slippery slope:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/dec/20/stonewall-trans-rights-gender-wars-tory-lgbtq>

April Ashley RIP:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-59816881>

...see the video here of the simple graveside ceremony when April was laid to rest (including some wonderful images and tributes):

<https://vimeo.com/663081490>

.....implications of ruling in April's divorce:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/03/31/trans-rights-history-april-ashley-arthur-corbett/>

Private girls' schools ban trans pupils:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/01/03/trans-girls-day-school-trust-gdst/>

...why this is wrong:

[https://www.mailplus.co.uk/edition/comment/141344/the-anti-trans-crusade-is-an-affront-to-our-belief-in-liberty?fbclid=IwAR0RDcm3nyU-BhAKmInzrJ7wUEY2ThOu2y\\_jQWLQDI-FqLWl6Aiz2OTxPC8](https://www.mailplus.co.uk/edition/comment/141344/the-anti-trans-crusade-is-an-affront-to-our-belief-in-liberty?fbclid=IwAR0RDcm3nyU-BhAKmInzrJ7wUEY2ThOu2y_jQWLQDI-FqLWl6Aiz2OTxPC8)

Erin Parisi plants trans flag on top of Antarctica's highest peak (aiming to be first trans person to climb the highest mountains on all 7 continents):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/01/03/trans-pride-flag-seven-summits-antarctica-erin-parisi/>

Are gender-critical feminists "radicalised"?

<https://www.newstatesman.com/comment/2022/02/feminism-has-been-reduced-to-the-transgender-debate>

Trans hopes for 2022:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/01/06/trans-joy-hopes-for-2022/>

Neil Kinnock's grandchild transitions:

[https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/20/former-labour-leader-neil-kinnocks-beloved-grandchild-changes-gender-16137789/?fbclid=IwAR2-OZnGTcnJMnM3p\\_ntPI-AMErVoMqcSnALJ5ZTndTSe0GuQNxv2LYX8iA](https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/20/former-labour-leader-neil-kinnocks-beloved-grandchild-changes-gender-16137789/?fbclid=IwAR2-OZnGTcnJMnM3p_ntPI-AMErVoMqcSnALJ5ZTndTSe0GuQNxv2LYX8iA)

First UK professional trans choir:

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/video/2022/mar/10/the-uks-first-professional-trans-choir-its-a-joyful-act-of-resistance>

Abigail Thorn: lovely trans coming-out story:

[https://metro.co.uk/2022/03/21/coming-out-as-trans-has-made-me-happier-than-ever-16176047/?fbclid=IwAR3z1zFGO202fMBMG4nsLXPw93aFW4DMMB\\_IOXsB28cgV\\_3LBsbSszcqk4Y#share-item-16314052-215](https://metro.co.uk/2022/03/21/coming-out-as-trans-has-made-me-happier-than-ever-16176047/?fbclid=IwAR3z1zFGO202fMBMG4nsLXPw93aFW4DMMB_IOXsB28cgV_3LBsbSszcqk4Y#share-item-16314052-215)

Don't believe it about "transition regret" by Icelandic trans woman:

<https://metro.co.uk/2019/10/23/dont-believe-what-you-read-about-transition-regret-10961836/?fbclid=IwAR3CVpb2SyZYSIu6XO2umh-fv-YFIQ7CYPKpFRgp94sQ8k3EnxPrMQTmHIA>

What I should have done when my 12 year told me he was trans:

[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/feb/15/what-i-should-have-done-when-my-12-year-old-told-me-he-was-transgender?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other&fbclid=IwAR1mi-uVhr3CGOreM-3bNYjrWRaKwWcl\\_JxmcGvStFoOInctbujoTnYu8NU](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/feb/15/what-i-should-have-done-when-my-12-year-old-told-me-he-was-transgender?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR1mi-uVhr3CGOreM-3bNYjrWRaKwWcl_JxmcGvStFoOInctbujoTnYu8NU)



## **Trans world**

Russian invasion of Ukraine: it's the fault of trans people (as you knew):

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/02/26/ukraine-us-trans-rights-pride-tucker-carlson-matt-walsh/>

Trans women turned back by Ukrainian border guards:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/mar/22/i-will-not-be-held-prisoner->

[the-trans-women-turned-back-at-ukraines-borders](#)

Switzerland joins countries opting for self-ID for legal gender change:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/12/27/switzerland-trans-gender-self-id-law/>

India's first beauty salon to be run by trans men:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/dec/24/india-first-salon-run-by-transgender-men>

Brigitte Baptiste: trans chancellor of Columbian university, biodiversity scientist, and sign of hope:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jan/03/brigitte-baptiste-high-profile-transgender-woman-and-ecologist-colombia-targeted>

Trans Georgia:

[https://www.theguardian.com/radian-changemakers/2021/nov/29/i-want-to-show-people-we-are-here-meet-the-social-worker-raising-the-visibility-of-the-trans-community-in-georgia?CMP=GLabs&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3HoC2WsFSkYgFuGIMGi7nUdFyH8UsUqrowRHrKxy2ebEIPIQd4Cn9uzpI#Echobox=1639043859](https://www.theguardian.com/radian-changemakers/2021/nov/29/i-want-to-show-people-we-are-here-meet-the-social-worker-raising-the-visibility-of-the-trans-community-in-georgia?CMP=GLabs&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3HoC2WsFSkYgFuGIMGi7nUdFyH8UsUqrowRHrKxy2ebEIPIQd4Cn9uzpI#Echobox=1639043859)

Rachel Levine on transphobia and trans healthcare in USA:

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2021/dec/27/transgender-people-judges-advised-to-use-preferred-personal-pronouns>

Deadly start to new year in USA for trans women of colour:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/01/05/trans-murder-us-amarey-lej-duval-princess/>

US trans kids talk about trans politics in their states:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEyEJtdZIQ>

A US trans woman on dating – and finding love:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-60086567>

Texas judge halts governor's attack on trans children and their parents:

[https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2022/03/texas-judge-halts-republicans-child-abuse-investigations-families-trans-children/?utm\\_source=LGBTQ%20Nation%20Subscribers&utm\\_campaign=ebb7cc3044-20220303\\_LGBTQ\\_Nation\\_Daily\\_Brief&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c4eab596bd-ebb7cc3044-430631441&fbclid=IwAR2T-LAIRIE3t4CvDAyPwm2c2WQzcabcpW8Sql3V8EWu8LYkH\\_DqJjHnFQA](https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2022/03/texas-judge-halts-republicans-child-abuse-investigations-families-trans-children/?utm_source=LGBTQ%20Nation%20Subscribers&utm_campaign=ebb7cc3044-20220303_LGBTQ_Nation_Daily_Brief&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c4eab596bd-ebb7cc3044-430631441&fbclid=IwAR2T-LAIRIE3t4CvDAyPwm2c2WQzcabcpW8Sql3V8EWu8LYkH_DqJjHnFQA)

Pains and joys of trans US Catholics:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2022/03/14/transgender-catholics-pains-and-joys-highlighted-in-new-associated-press-profile/>

Jessica Hicklin: trans woman who spent 26 years in men's prison where she transitioned:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/mar/07/jessica-hicklin-transitioned-prison-free>

Lia Thomas – trans swimmer:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/03/03/lia-thomas-swimming-upenn-interview-olympics-trans-kids/>

“Life on hard mode”: trans woman Iditarod competitor:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/mar/04/itarod-apayauq-reitan-first-out-trans-woman>

Horror of US anti-trans laws:

[https://www.vox.com/first-person/22977970/anti-trans-legislation-texas-idaho?fbclid=IwAR0gsryC\\_nVenCfMtPjcSSKgJvxLrheSe0oH0Pi9h1UWp5wla-MFv-YjDNk](https://www.vox.com/first-person/22977970/anti-trans-legislation-texas-idaho?fbclid=IwAR0gsryC_nVenCfMtPjcSSKgJvxLrheSe0oH0Pi9h1UWp5wla-MFv-YjDNk)

Trans Ghana:

[https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/one-trans-womans-fight-against-bill-that-would-criminalise-ghanas-lgbt-community-2022-02-03/?fbclid=IwAR3dFDqpp\\_U4paxSIbtrOyUb11mg4-L1c-uMe1aWAMkuhcZ9KH316JuA-Y8](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/one-trans-womans-fight-against-bill-that-would-criminalise-ghanas-lgbt-community-2022-02-03/?fbclid=IwAR3dFDqpp_U4paxSIbtrOyUb11mg4-L1c-uMe1aWAMkuhcZ9KH316JuA-Y8)

Trans Australia:

[https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2022/feb/09/young-trans-people-around-australia-are-seeing-the-news-and-hearing-that-they-are-not-worthy-of-protection?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other&fbclid=IwAR2JzwDqGFOeHCPV-4hxOI-hEDFRv9MNPxSxIqXFmpDU4NP9UqhRqnhs0rs](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2022/feb/09/young-trans-people-around-australia-are-seeing-the-news-and-hearing-that-they-are-not-worthy-of-protection?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR2JzwDqGFOeHCPV-4hxOI-hEDFRv9MNPxSxIqXFmpDU4NP9UqhRqnhs0rs)

....Jo Inkpin’s view in Australian Guardian article:

[https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/feb/12/it-has-been-a-gruesome-week-australias-first-transgender-priest-on-shame-love-and-identity?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other&fbclid=IwAR36UYDRf0X\\_t03ApHMBUdPNdtrRoXEnLI0\\_muYoujS5jU6s8FntOosIJWE](https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/feb/12/it-has-been-a-gruesome-week-australias-first-transgender-priest-on-shame-love-and-identity?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR36UYDRf0X_t03ApHMBUdPNdtrRoXEnLI0_muYoujS5jU6s8FntOosIJWE)

....Australian PM backs Bill to exclude trans people from women’s sports:

<https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/scott-morrison-backs-bill-that-will-exclude-transgender-people-from-sport/news-story/b4c1e047edae2f14a68c2c4aa4b68a82>

“Honour killing” of Kurdish trans woman:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/feb/21/kurdish-transgender-woman-shot-by-brother-had-been-hiding-from-family>

Trans Iran:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/03/18/this-is-not-me-trans-iran-bfi-flare-saeed-gholipour/>

Trans Hong Kong:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/01/26/hong-kong-trans-gender-id-law-court-appeal/>



## Trans books and media

Times newspaper made to issue corrections for anti-trans misinformation:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2022/01/07/the-times-corrections-trans-misinformation-rape-chestfeeding/>

Juno Dawson on “cancel culture” and banning books:

<https://amp.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/dec/19/2021-banning-books-message-texas-lgbtq?fbclid=IwAR0oNFmKdcmawwn7uNaiWRq97Emt1CxbQakuGXOZQEEH6FUK3eK5Wb6QJAc>

*To Be A Girl* by Alexandra Hamer

This is a self-published first novel by a trans woman. It describes the journey of a trans girl, on the brink of the disaster of puberty, to claim her identity and be herself. It is set in Victorian England when gender codes of course were rigidly enforced and there was little tolerance of non-conformity. It is a picaresque novel, moving episodically and in a carefully plotted way through the stages of Emmeline’s transitioning, so even more than usual it is quite difficult to write a review without damaging spoilers. Suffice it to say that some of the details are harrowing and exceptionally painful to read. It sets out I believe not just to create a convincing narrative of what it might have been like to be a trans girl in the 1870s but also to use the very different context to look at the trans experience in a fresh way and to comment through this means on the current situation for trans people today. The methods employed might now be different – thank goodness! – but many of the challenges remain unchanged. Highly recommended.

PF

Working class and neurodivergent trans author Ely Percy:

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/12/30/ely-percy-trans-joy-duck-feet/>

*Through The Door of Life* by Joy Ladin

I don’t know about you but I enjoy reading the accounts by other trans people of their trans experience. Decades before I transitioned I eagerly devoured anything that appeared about people like April Ashley, Jan Morris and Caroline Cossey, not quite understanding the nature of the fascination, but enthralled by it. I have now read many such accounts and in each case I find things that resonate, where I think yes, that’s like me, and things that are quite different. It’s helped me realise that we are all uniquely trans in our own way. Sometimes also the writer helps me to see things from a different perspective, to illuminate aspects of the trans experience and even to help me understand myself and my own feelings better.

The feelings these accounts can provoke can of course be very painful, perhaps triggering feelings we have kept repressed or not allowed ourselves fully to feel. This was certainly my

experience reading Joy Ladin's account of her transition as the married father of 3 children and employed at the Orthodox Jewish Yeshiva University in New York as a literature professor. Joy is a gifted writer and highly empathic person able to articulate with delicacy and precision the joys and agonies and impossible dilemmas and choices many trans people face, especially those who transition in middle-age with acquired commitments and loyalties so that we might well feel our need to become ourselves comes at an intolerably high price to those we love. Joy's wife says to her, what's so wrong with being a man? To which of course the answer is, nothing, if you are one. Joy is unsparing in her depiction of the agonising conflict within herself as to become whole she has to split herself in half, conscious especially of the suffering imposed on her children who want their daddy to stay their daddy.

I should say *Through The Door of Life* was published in 2012 but remains for me necessary reading for all those who have undergone similar experiences to Joy's, all of us who have lived much of our lives as a persona rather than a person, who gave the impression growing up of being stable and happy, whose whole lives perhaps were built on an illusion, an illusion which those who became involved with us, perhaps who loved us, mistook for reality. There is so often an inescapable tragedy in trans lives (though perhaps there is in all lives), the joy inseparable from the pain. Nowhere have I seen this better expressed than by Joy Ladin. You may well weep reading it, but they will be necessary tears, shed for yourself as well as her.  
PF

Trans comedian Jordan Gray:

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2022/mar/08/trans-comic-jordan-gray-interview-simon-pegg-nick-frost-sitcom-x-man>

Mj Rodriguez wins best actress Golden Globe award for role as Blanca in *Pose*:

[https://www.queerty.com/mj-rodriguez-reacts-becoming-first-trans-actress-win-golden-globe-20220110?utm\\_source=Queerty%20Subscribers&utm\\_campaign=4d4465b82d-20220110\\_Queerty\\_Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_221c27272a-4d4465b82d-430553521&fbclid=IwAR23jy65FQcABQH6WgHiDZv8skJXWZ7HdEs579kdxwlHU0cyjgGpFo93fA4](https://www.queerty.com/mj-rodriguez-reacts-becoming-first-trans-actress-win-golden-globe-20220110?utm_source=Queerty%20Subscribers&utm_campaign=4d4465b82d-20220110_Queerty_Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_221c27272a-4d4465b82d-430553521&fbclid=IwAR23jy65FQcABQH6WgHiDZv8skJXWZ7HdEs579kdxwlHU0cyjgGpFo93fA4)

*Pose* creator Steve Canals talks about the show's original, darker concept:

<https://www.queerty.com/steven-canals-details-fight-make-pose-original-much-darker-concept-20210429?fbclid=IwAR0JUrVSHjtVTRHRk7xeQzjmtJUraLpeTgTqBbTY0oYz0Isfyz9Hc8ph2I0>

Rurangi: stirring film about trans man's homecoming:

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2022/feb/21/rurangi-review-stirring-story-of-a-trans-mans-homecoming>

"*Killing Eve*" and gender-bending Jesus:

<https://www.newwaysministry.org/2022/03/25/as-killing-eve-concludes-a-queer-catholic-reflects-on-the-shows-affirming-impact/>

Joelle Taylor, butch lesbian winner of the T S Eliot poetry prize, on bringing the LGBTQ community together:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/jan/17/poet-joelle-taylor-ts-eliot-prize-lgbtq->



## community

### *The Hidden Case of Ewan Forbes by Zoe Playdon*

Ewan Forbes was born Elisabeth to a wealthy landowning Scottish family in 1912. With the financial means of seeing specialist doctors in Europe and procuring synthetic hormones, Ewan was able to live as a boy than a man and to correct the gender on his birth certificate and marry. In 1965 a cousin challenged Ewan's right to inherit the family baronetcy which led to an extraordinary medical examination and court case. At issue was not just the way in which trans people were perceived and treated but the whole system of male-preference primogeniture which Ewan's case was seen to threaten. Remarkably, Zoe Playdon had to dig hard to uncover the facts of the case as the legal and political establishments seem to have colluded to obscure them and cover them up. Her brilliant detective work on the Forbes case is set within the context of the treatment of trans people generally and it makes at times for pretty uncomfortable reading. The already infamous reputation of John Randall, the so-called gender specialist at Charing Cross, is likely to take a further hit with the revelation (to me) that he himself was a highly closeted cross dresser, projecting his loathing of himself onto his patients. Although the law was changed in 2013 to allow the eldest child of the monarch to inherit the crown irrespective of sex, attempts to abolish male-preference inheritance for the peerage have repeatedly failed in Parliament. What is going on?

*PF*