

CWO
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news October 2014 issue 75

Welcome to issue 75 of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit CWO's website www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk News and previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for November e-news by 20 November. For further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk Many thanks to Ruth Wood for proof reading the e-news.

God is not afraid of new things

This is a quote from Pope Francis at the end of the first stage of the family synod. So much has been written about this and below are a few links you might like to look at.

<http://tina-beattie.blogspot.co.uk/2014/10/after-synod-journey-into-unknown.html?spref=fb>

<http://synodwatch.wordpress.com/>

<https://theconversation.com/the-tectonic-plates-of-world-catholicism-shift-33066>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/19/pope-homosexuality-church-gay_n_6010904.html

<http://ncronline.org/news/global/kasper-francis-map-reform-will-outlive-his-pontificate>

see also LGBT Westminster press release e-news p. 5

Tina Beattie writes: Despite all the positives, the huge problem with the Synod was that it was all men. In her view this cannot possibly be acceptable. She believes that in the coming twelve months between now and the next Synod we have an extraordinary opportunity to make a difference and change the conversation in the Catholic Church. She said publicly that she is committing the whole of the next year to raising questions about the absence of women's voices at the highest levels, including the exclusion from ordination. She also said she didn't quite know how she would manage it, as the CDF is intent on banning her from her every church forum! However, she said that after a certain point there isn't anything more they can do to her and it is worth the risk.

Tina plans to write a blog all year with commentary on family and women's issues. The first couple of entries on the Synod are very interesting. Here is the link for anyone who would like to follow her. Please promote widely!!

<http://tina-beattie.blogspot.co.uk/>

Further to the above - You've Got Male – A Synod on the Family Slide Show

<http://religiondispatches.org/20221/>



Other links

Malala and Kailash Satyarthi win Nobel Peace Prize

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-29564935>

Deaconesses, Ordination of Women and Orthodox Theology Center Of Ecumenical, Missiological And Environmental Studies present an International Conventional and Electronic Theological Conference, late in 2014.

<http://cemes-en.weebly.com/2014-15-conference-on-deaconesses-ordination-of-women-and-orthodox-theology.html#/>

Silenced Irish priest Tony Flannery touring US

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/silenced-irish-priest-tour-us>

As always, please follow these links up quickly or they may disappear!

CWO Annual Gathering 4 October Bristol

Thanks to South Wales and South West CWO for organising a wonderful Annual Gathering at St Nicholas' Church in Bristol.



After the AGM, Dr Luca Badini, Director of the Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research spoke about women deacons. His talk was entitled "Opening the Diaconate to Women - some issues to consider." It was comprehensive, interesting and generated discussion.

He has very generously made his power point slides available to us. They are particularly useful because they also include his references and notes so they are a helpful resource when considering the theology, the historical role of women deacons and the pros and cons of having women deacons today. He has given permission for them to be linked to the edited and unedited versions of CWO e-news.

Katharine Salmon contributed to the discussion, summarised our session and afterwards led a beautiful, connected liturgy. Thank you Katharine and Luca!

WOW

I attended the WOW steering committee meeting 25 – 28 September as CWO representative. CWO now has two delegates on this committee as New Wine has chosen observer status for a little while. Katharine Salmon is the second CWO delegate.



Most of the meeting was devoted to planning the WOW international conference next year, 18 – 20 September. Katharine is on the speakers group and will probably take part in the liturgy group too. We are both on the general planning group and I am on the finance and media group. I am also on the leadership circle so WOW is occupying a lot of my time at the moment.

Fund raising is a priority and we are hoping to organise a few events. Please think of what you might do to raise some money. Every little helps.

In a few days I will be sending out details of how to book for the conference and how to donate on line. You can also send cheques to WOW to me at 4 West Park gardens, Leeds LS8 2HD. If you have any ideas for how CWO can raise money, please let me know.

Third WOW Conference 2015

Gender, The Gospel, and Global Justice.

18 – 20 September 2015.

Marriott Hotel

Philadelphia PA

<http://womensordinationworldwide.org/wow-2015-conference/>



Speakers include Teresa Focades, Tina Beattie, Sr Mary John Manzanan, Kwok Pui Lan. Priest panel includes Tony Flannery, Paul Collins and Roy Bourgeois

Pat Brown

LGBT Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council Media Release

The 14th Extraordinary Synod of Bishops Final Report, released on 18 October 2014, fails significantly to reflect the welcoming and pastorally sensitive discussions which took place during the 1st week of the Synod. These were summarised in the Relatio, published on 13 October, and although not having official status as a formal working document, this interim document signposted ways in which Synod

participants, bishops, priests, and laity were approaching a range of sensitive issues, not least the concerns of lesbian and gay people, their parents and families. Nevertheless, the Synod's process and openness to discussion provides hope for further development down the road, particularly at the October 2015 Ordinary Synod, where the make-up of the participants will be larger and more diverse, including many more pastorally-oriented bishops.

AS LGBT Catholics in the Diocese of Westminster we regret that the Synod's final report did not retain the firm welcome to LGBT people expressed in the summary of the Synod's first-week's discussions, and something we have experienced in our local Church in recent years. So much of the earlier reflections echoed the tone of the late Cardinal Basil Hume's pastoral approach to our communities. Instead, the bishops have taken a narrow view of pastoral care by defining it simply as opposition to marriage for same-gender couples. Pastoral care should focus with compassion on LGBT people as total human beings. Many of them have suffered significant alienation and personal harm, and not just as sexual beings. Pastoral care should also affirm the gifts that LGBT people bring to the Church.

Additionally, their further comment about supposed "international pressure" to accept same-gender marriage selfishly views the hierarchy as the victims, not LGBT people. The Synod has missed the prophetic opportunity to be a voice for those voiceless LGBT people worldwide, who experience gross criminalisation to the point of torture and death, and for whom the attainment of their human rights seems to be an impossible dream. Given the Synod's original Working Document's reference to the pastoral needs of same-sex couples, and children in same-sex families, the Bishops have also failed to address these concerns.

We note that the paragraphs on homosexuality which did not receive the required 2/3rd's vote, failed by only two votes, notwithstanding significant support from a majority of bishops. Second, this report is not the final word, but as a Vatican spokesperson explained, it is still a working document which will be discussed in the coming year. We now call upon the Vatican and local Bishops' Conferences to institute Listening Processes over the coming year, to include LGBT people, parents, and other family members, alongside theologians and experienced pastoral ministers.

LGBT Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council Media Release (continued)

Pope Francis has placed these issues on the table, and all the signs are that his action is irreversible, given the strong statements made in his closing speech to the Synod. If, as on a range of matters held to be controversial by some sections of the hierarchy, there is a move to a more open and listening pastoral practice then this could lead to the development of a richer theology of human sexuality, and a more credible and human face of the Church. In this way we can become credible disciples, witnessing to the joy of the Gospel with which the Pope constantly challenges us.

Further details: Martin Pendergast - 020 8986 0807 / Mark Dowd - 07968 131 639

Note: The LGBT Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council is mandated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, to provide pastoral ministry and development for LGBT Catholics in the Diocese of Westminster.

LGBT Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council

PO Box 24632 London E9 6XF

lgbtcatholicswestminster@gmail.com

www.sohomasses.com

<http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/lgbt-chaplaincy/>

Bread Not Stones – Una Kroll

This book, the autobiography of an eventful life by Una Kroll, is to be published on 12th December 2014. A book review will appear in November CWO e-news.

Christina Rees broadcaster and writer, and member of General Synod of the Church of England writes: *"Una Kroll has written a remarkable book from her perspective both as a medical doctor and as one of the first women priests in the Church in Wales. The stories Una recounts reveal a woman with a passionate humanity, brilliant intellect and deep spiritual insight. As both doctor and priest, Una has been a pioneering advocate for women; whether introducing new healthcare treatments or being one of the most outspoken campaigners for women's ordination. Ultimately, though, Una has written a spiritual biography of women's struggle for full inclusion in the Church's ministries and mission, with her most profound reflections revealing an evolving understanding of God as creative energy and unconditional love."*

There will be a pre-publication book launch on Monday, 17 November 5.00 – 6.30 pm at Manchester Cathedral (Anglican) Victoria Street M3 1SX

There will be a CWO stall at the launch.

All are welcome

Equality and Religious Freedom in a Changing World

The is holding its 2014 Conference
Saturday 1 November 2014 10am to 5pm
Venue: Conway Hall 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

Come along and hear from prominent LGBT activists, faith representatives, humanists and secularists, all campaigning to eliminate faith based homophobia and transphobia. More details and programme on the Conference page of the Cutting Edge Consortium website.

www.cuttingedgeconsortium.co.uk

You can register on the day (registration from 9.30am) but for logistical and catering purposes we are encouraging people to book in advance.

Speakers will include:

Lord Michael Cashman, Tina Beardsley, Peter Tatchell, Savi Hensman, Symon Hill, Linda Bellos and representatives from Nigerian and Ugandan

LGBT groups, academics including Professor Gerard Loughlin & Dr Susanah Cornwell, Andrew Copson from the BHA (British Humanist Association), Wes Streeting, Liz Barker, trade unionists Sally Brett TUC, Julia Neal ATL (Association of Teachers and Lecturers), Maureen Le Marinel, UNISON Paul Penny RMT (Rainbow Fund), Danny Rich from Liberal Judaism, Tracey Byrne from LGCM and representatives from SARBAT, Rainbow Jews, Inclusive Church, Muslims for a Secular Society, and other faith and belief groups.



The Height of Women's Literary Activity in the XVII Century (a further chapter translated from Teresa Focades feminist theology book)

Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz's case is an example of the situation which some years before had been described, with great lucidity, by the novelist and poetess, Maria de Zayas y Sotomayor (1590-1661). She was the other great feminine writer of the Spanish Golden Century, along with St. Teresa and, like her, she was an explicit feminist precursor.

Maria de Zayas, called "The Sybil of Madrid" and profoundly admired by Lope de Vega, wrote numerous books, among which her exemplary novels, full of great psychological insight, stand out. In these stories Zayas warns women repeatedly, through comical as well as dramatic situations, of the dangers of defining themselves in terms of how they are related to men and insists on the importance of cultivating practical collaboration and friendship among women.

At the beginning of the XVII century Maria de Zayas wrote: "In current times we have such adverse opinion from men that neither can we overcome them through suffering nor can we force them through their conscience. (...) Why, vain legislators of the world, do you bind our hands for vengeance, weakening our strength with your false opinions as you deny us books and arms? Is not our soul the same as that of men? (...) By subjugating us from birth you keep sapping our strength with threats of loss of honour and our knowledge by linking it to a sense of shame, giving us distaffs for swords and cushions for books."

After enjoying great success among her contemporaries, the work of Maria de Zayas was slowly forgotten and ignored by the critics until the end of the XIX century when another woman, Emilia Pardo Bazan, rediscovered this female author as a literary figure and a feminist.

In the second half of the XVII century the literary activity of women experienced a true peak in Europe. Between 1640 and 1700 in England alone there were 400 women writers (who, however, account for only 1% of the books published during this period). The majority of these women, as well as the majority of male writers, did not write from a feminist perspective but from a conservative, religious perspective which defended the submission of wives to their husbands. This vision was expressed mostly through educational manuals written by women of a certain age and addressed to their daughters, nieces and granddaughters, so that their younger women may learn "to love their husbands and their children" (Tit 2, 4), that is to say, so that they may learn to accept the inequalities in the patriarchal family as the will of God without rebelling against this.

The Height of Women's Literary Activity in the XVII Century (continued)

Among the female authors who do rebel against inequalities and submission, not all of them have a feminist perspective either. The diversity is more or less like the one which exists today. There are women writers who rebel in isolation, rejecting women less capable or less rebellious with epithets characteristic of the worst misogyny. There are others who aspire to be like men. There are others who adopt a class perspective and consider themselves aristocrats first and women second (like Lady Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle).

Among those whom we could call feminists today, some of the most significant of this period are: Marie de Gournay, Bathsua Makin, Anna Maria van Schurman, Margret Fell and Mary Astell. It is impossible in a brief introduction such as this one to enter into the details of the lives and works of these female authors. I will try to present them in a concise form, emphasizing the importance that each one has for feminist theology.

Translation by Ines Pierce

Chapter X from Teresa FORCADES I VILLA, *La Teología Feminista en la Historia, (Feminist Theology in History)*, Fragmenta Editorial, 2007, pp.89-92.

Faithfully Feminist: An Interfaith Dialogue

Professor Tina Beattie and Rabbi Deborah Young-Somers talk about the highs and lows of being a feminist woman within their faith tradition

Tina Beattie is Professor of Catholic Studies and Director of the Digby Stuart Research centre for religion, Society and Human Flourishing at the University of Roehampton

Debbie Young-Somers is a Community Educator at the Movement for Reform Judaism and previously served as one of the Rabbis at the West London Synagogue of British Jews.

Thursday 30 October

Garry Weston Library, Southwark Cathedral

6.30pm All welcome – men and women

Admission free – donations appreciated

Contact southwark.feminist.theology@gmail.com

Chester Theological Society 2014-15

2:00pm, Saturday 7th February 2015 - The Nave, Chester Cathedral

Whatever Happened to the Laity?

Professor Elaine Graham - Canon Theologian at Chester Cathedral ANNUAL CATHEDRAL LECTURE

In the first of her annual lectures as Canon Theologian, Professor Graham will address the role of lay people in the Church. Fifty years after the Second Vatican Council, which emphasised the secular calling of the laity as the embodiment of the Church in the world, are we any closer to really affirming the priesthood of all believers, or does the Church remain largely clericalised in its understanding of ministry? This lecture will survey some of the main thinking over recent years across the denominations regarding the relationship between ordained and lay ministry, and consider what the future prospects may be for the laity in Church and society.

Elaine Graham, appointed the Samuel Ferguson Professor of Social and Pastoral Theology at the University of Manchester, joined the University of Chester in 2009 where she is the Grosvenor Research Professor of Practical Theology. Her publications include: *Theological Reflection: Methods* (SCM 2005), with Heather Walton and Frances Ward; *Words made Flesh: Writings in Pastoral and Practical Theology* (SCM 2009) and *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Public Theology in a Post-Secular Age* (SCM 2013).

She is a former president of the International Academy of Practical Theology, a member of the BBC Standing Conference on Religion and Belief, an occasional broadcaster and a contributor to the *Church Times*.

Admission Free

7:30pm, Tuesday 10th March - The Nave, Chester Cathedral

"For the Honour of God and for the Reform of our Realm": Magna Carta, Church and State, 1215-2015

The Revd Robin Griffiths - Master of Temple Church

King John sealed *Magna Carta* 'from reverence for God and for the salvation of our soul and those of all our ancestors and heirs, for the honour of God and the exaltation of Holy Church and the reform of our realm'. His advisors included two archbishops, seven bishops and the Master of the Temple. The Charter challenges today's faith communities to examine the part they might play in the development of a liberal democracy. The landscape has changed beyond recognition, from the universality of the 'English Church' in 1215 to the religious diversity and multiculturalism of the 21st century; but 'the honour of God and reform of the realm' are still close to the heart of every religious community.

Chester Theological Society 2014-15 (continued)

Robin Griffith-Jones has been 'the Reverend and Valiant Master of the Temple' at the Temple Church since 1999. The Temple was King John's London headquarters and the setting for vital negotiations, 1214-5. He is also Senior Lecturer in Theology at King's College London. Writings on the New Testament and early Christianity include *The Four Witnesses* (2000), *The Gospel according to Paul* (2004) and *Mary Magdalene* (2008). Fostering the Temple's natural interest in law and religion resulted in *Islam and English Law: Rights, Responsibilities and the Place of Sharia* (editor & co-author, 2013) and *Magna Carta, Religion and the Rule of Law* (co-editor & co-author, 2014). Admission at the door: £3.00 (Students: £1.00)

7:30pm, Friday 1st May – Binks Lecture Theatre, University of Chester

Pope Francis and the Future of Catholic Social Thinking

Paul Vallely CMG FRSA - Inaugural Lecture as Visiting Professor

Pope Francis has issued some powerful condemnations of the operations of the contemporary global economy. He has called for "a poor Church, for the poor". But do his trenchant criticisms merely reiterate the critique of "savage capitalism" developed by Catholic Social Teaching throughout the 20th Century? Or is he developing that teaching in new Ways?

Paul Vallely CMG FRSA is a writer, broadcaster and consultant on international development and business ethics. He is Visiting Professor in Public Ethics and Media at the University of Chester and Senior Research Fellow at the Brooks World Poverty Institute at the University of Manchester. He was co-author of the report of Tony Blair's Commission for Africa (2004-5). He writes regularly in *The Independent on Sunday*, *Guardian* and *New York Times*, is a director of *The Tablet* and a columnist for the *Church Times*. His publications include *The New Politics: Catholic Social Teaching for the 21st century*, (SCM 1999) and *Catholic Social Teaching and the Big Society* (CBCEW 2011). *Pope Francis – Untying the Knots* (Bloomsbury 2013)

Admission at the door: £3.00 (Students: £1.00) Wine and Refreshments

CWO Saints

Mary MacKillop
Ruth Norton
John Hatfield
Celia Greenwood
Michael O'Gara
Sheila Houlihan
Mary Daly
Estelle White
Pat McGarron
Marcella Althaus-Reid
Astrid Klemz
Jean Palmer
Elizabeth Rendall
Maureen Brown
Tissa Balasuriya
Jack Sutcliffe
Pat Regini
Mary Ann Schoettly

Pray for us



Prayer Link

Wednesday between 6.00 and 7.00pm, please pray for CWO, its members and its mission.

Saturdays at noon, join with women and men all over the world to pray for the work of Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW!)

Please take part in one or both of these prayer networks if and when you can

The CWO Prayer

Moved by a compulsion of the Holy Spirit, we cannot remain ignorant of this injustice in our midst.

We long for all humanity to be acknowledged as equal, particularly among your community of the church, so we pray grieving for the lost gifts of so many women.

We ask you, God of all peoples, to bring insight and humility to all those in positions of dominance, and an understanding that the ascended Lord called us all to act doing Christ's work here and now.

We ask this of you, God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, Spirit our Sustainer

Websites (apologies for smaller print – that’s to fit them in!)

<http://www.womensordination.org/>

News of Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

<http://www.johnwijngaards.org/>

All previous housetop websites can be reached via this address

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.com/>

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women’s equality in Church of England

<http://ncronline.org/>

National Catholic Reporter

<http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk/>

Catholics inspired by Vatican II.

<http://www.gras.org.uk/>

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

www.we-are-church.org.uk

We Are Church in the UK is a call to recognise that all the Baptised, are part of the Church.

<http://www.ccc4vat2.org.uk>

Catholics for a Changing Church

<http://lgcm.org.uk/>

Campaigns against and challenges homophobia and transphobia, especially within the Church and faith based organisations, as well as working to create and praying for an inclusive church.

<http://questgaycatholic.org.uk/>

Proclaims the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ so as to sustain and increase Christian belief among homosexual men and women. They offer pastoral support for LGBT Catholics friends and families Sign up for quarterly newsletter

<http://82.70.116.125/index.html>

Women Word Spirit

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

<http://www.spirituschristi.org>

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/>

Rachel is a professed hermit of the R C Diocese of Nottingham.

CWO Merchandise

These items are great way to advertise CWO without costing you very much. I often see people in my rear view mirror admiring the wit of my car sticker! You can leave the pens lying around in places where it might be difficult to leave a CWO leaflet. The badges attract a lot of attention with the slogan based on the letters of ROME. We now have mugs which as well as being practical are a good way of advertising CWO. You might like to send one to your bishop!

how many unit cost total

Biro - CWO logo, website and phone no	Purple with silver lettering Black ink		0.80	
CWO rectangular badge	Purple with white lettering Renewed Ordained Ministry for Everyone		Free (except please add postage £2)	
NEW!!! Mug CWO logo website "CWO's my cup of tea"	Purple on white Buy for your office, church tea room, meeting room		4.50 each 3 for £12 10 for £35	
P & P *see below				
Donation (optional)				

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name

Delivery address

Post code

Contact email or telephone number

Send to Pat Brown, 4 West Park Gardens, Leeds, LS8 2HD

*Postage and packing (increased from last time as postal charges have gone up)

orders up to £10	4.00
orders £10 - 20	6.00
orders over £20	Free