

CWO
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news July 2015 issue 82

Welcome to the July issue of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit <http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/news.htm> - previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for August e-news by 15 August. info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given.

Because I am involved with the WOW conference, I will be in the US from 25 August so the next e-news will be sent earlier than usual and there won't be an e-news in September.

Members will get a mailing about the AGM in August.

Congratulations to Christina Rees CBE



Christina Rees has been recognised as part of the Queen Elizabeth's birthday honours and made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in recognition of her services to the Church of England.

Christina was spokesperson for the Anglican Movement for the Ordination of Women in the run up to the vote for women priests in 1992 and Chair of Women and the Church (WATCH) for over 13 years.

Christina is a well-known writer, broadcaster, and public speaker, and a long-serving member of the General Synod. She has been active in many areas of Church life, including combatting institutional racism, supporting religious broadcasting and promoting lay and rural ministry. She has represented the Church at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and on the former Central Religious Advisory Committee. She will be a speaker at the WOW conference in September

Gender, Gospel and Global Justice *Where next?*

Sharing the inspiration of the WOW Conference in Philadelphia

Saturday 3rd October 2015

11.00am – 5.00pm, St Andrew's Church, Short Street, Waterloo, SE1 8LJ



11.00am - 1.00pm :
1.00pm - 2.00pm :
2.00pm - 4.30pm :

AGM
Lunch provided by CWO
Tina Beattie
One other speaker from the Conference
CWO members who took part
Followed by discussion/questions
Closing liturgy

4.30pm :



CWO

Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church

Third WOW Conference 2015

Gender, The Gospel, and Global Justice.

18 – 20 September 2015

Marriott Hotel

Philadelphia PA



Will you be there?

Registration includes all plenary sessions with inspiring [speakers](#), conference workshops, academic seminars with renowned theologians, special events and receptions, and opportunities to take action.

- **\$300 Registration** (up to July 31, 2015)
- **\$350 Late Registration** (After August 1, 2015)

It is easy to register via the website – they deal with converting sterling to dollars. You can opt to share a room. They will match you up with another delegate. The rooms are large with two double beds in each.

<https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=WOMA18E&TID=So5TRn5cIhKVIuNtnsPU1g%3d%3d>

Speakers: Background to speakers

<http://www.womensordination.org/blog/2015/07/13/background-on-wow-2015-speakers-part-1/>

and for panel speakers

<http://www.womensordination.org/blog/2015/07/15/background-on-wow-2015-speakers-part-2-interfaith-panel-spotlight/>

See the schedule here

<https://womensordinationworldwide.squarespace.com/schedule/>

Buy WOW merchandise here! <http://www.cafepress.com/wow2015>

If you can't attend you might be able to help someone from the developing world to attend by contributing to the solidarity fund. Any amount is welcome.

You can donate here: -

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/WomensOrdinationConferenceInc/wow2015.html>

Or you can send me a cheque made out to WOW. My address is on the merchandise form at the end of this enews. If you know anyone who might be worth approaching for a donation please let me know about that too. We need financial backers for this event but **mostly we need people to attend so please publicise widely!**

Please spread the word via Twitter and Facebook.

From Mary Magdalene to Women Bishops

Cripps' Court, Magdalene College Cambridge, was the venue for a recent discussion entitled "From Mary Magdalene To Women Bishops". The occasion was chaired by Paul Vallely and was convened to mark the 175th anniversary of the founding of The Tablet, in Dublin. To a packed auditorium Dr Rowan Williams, Dr Janet Soskice, and Dr Eamon Duffy spoke, discussed and responded to questions and comments from the audience. The audience comprised in the main students of theology, church history, philosophy, as well as clergy of both genders, bishops, and members of campaigning groups within the Anglican and Catholic churches.

Dr Duffy took us through the history of the Catholic Church's part in the debate about women's ordination, and the various related documents that have been issued by popes, and the extent of the authority of these. A process has to be gone through for these to be authoritative. This has not happened. He is not optimistic that we will see change in the near future. He predicted that the issue will come up for discussion during the pontificates of the next two popes. In his view it is deeply disturbing that this debate has been absent from classical theology.

The attempts by recent popes to gag ordinary Catholics from discussing the issue were likened to keeping the cork firmly in the bottle. At Cambridge the cork had definitely popped. Dr Rowan Williams took us through his own journey from initially being doubtful on the rightness of women's ordination. Among the considerations important to him as an Anglican were issues around authority in the church, the relationship of the ordained to the baptised, the baptism of women the evidence of catholicity within the Anglican Church. Also the validity of sacraments has been an issue. It concerns him that the ARCIC project has been neglected recently. Anglicans and Catholics have in ARCIC developed a well-grounded and robust theology of ministry e.g. liturgical worship as "the prayer of Christ in Christ's body". Also he doesn't want lost the well-grounded theology of authority that anchors the Anglican Church.

A cause for concern to Dr Janet Soskice is the Christology that underlies much of the present practice within Catholicism. She contrasted the situation she encountered among an ordinary group of catholic women in Wigan a few years after Vatican 11 who were enthusiastically getting involved at parish level, with the catholic women of her acquaintance today, who are no longer observant. It is difficult for them to find a role within Catholicism today. Mary Magdalene, according to St John's gospel, was given the role of 'Apostle to the Apostles', by the risen Christ. It takes spiritual discernment to see the risen Christ. Yet within our church women are not allowed to preach or teach. She sees this connected with women's poverty globally, today. The corking of the bottle had been a licence to real misogyny in certain quarters. If sexual difference means I lack resemblance to Christ, how can I see Christ in my own daughter? Yet we know that we should see Christ in everyone.

From Mary Magdalene to Women Bishops (continued)

In response to questions, the speakers dealt with a wide range of issues. The concern of the catholic church to work toward greater unity with the Orthodox church as a reason why W.O. is neglected, whether Jesus was constrained by cultural considerations of his time, among them.

500 years ago St Teresa of Avila, aware that it was accepted that women were incapable of exercising authority or of teaching, did just that, while reminding those who read her work that she was of course too stupid to teach, being a woman. Today everyone has experience of women exercising authority in everyday life. Dr Williams recommended St Teresa as one of the great figures we need to return to.

Mary L

What faith is not

Faith is not about understanding the ways of God. It is not about manoeuvring God into a position of human subjugation, making a God who is a benign deity who exists to see life as we do. Faith, in fact, is not about understanding at all. It is about awe in the face of the God of all. And it is awe that inspires an alleluia to the human soul.

Faith is about reverencing precisely what we do not understand—the mystery of the Life Force that generates life for us all. It is about grounding ourselves in a universe so intelligent, so logical, so clearly loving that only a God in love with life could possibly account for it completely.

When we center our power outside ourselves, which is of the essence of faith, we have faith in something greater than our smallness. We take our very lack of control as a sign of God's presence in the world. It is precisely because of our smallness that we can come to see and trust the greatness of God that surrounds us. It is only then that we can really come to see the face of God in the face of the other.

Faith in what we cannot control, do not see, cannot understand destroys the idol that is ourselves. It is only the deep-down belief that we are not the be-all and end-all of the universe that can save us from ourselves. It is the awareness of being part of something vast and intelligent and well-intentioned that gives purpose to life, that leads us to seek beyond the horizons of our smallness to the hope that tomorrow, warped as we may be today, we can all be better.

Faith in God is the only ground we have for faith in ourselves, in humanity, in life. Then we may care enough about others, about the purpose of God for all human life, to go beyond the kind of religion that turns God into a local deity and life into a zero-sum game in which winner takes all and losers abound.

—from *Uncommon Gratitude* by Joan Chittister (Liturgical Press)



Joyce Bennett, the first English woman to be made a priest in the Anglican Communion – 23 years before the Church of England ordained its first female clergy – has died aged 92.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/inspirational-first-english-woman-to-become-an-anglican-priest-dies-aged-92-10386482.html>

Blessed are those who have come to believe.

John 20.29

European Network – Church on the Move

Invitation to the 25th Annual Conference of the European Network Rome 19-20 November 2015

CASA LA SALLE, Roma , Via Aurelia, 472 , 00165 Roma, Italy

Phone: +39.06.666.98.488, Fax: +39.06.660.003.84

E-Mail: backoffice@casalasalles.it , Web: www.casalasalles.com

You are kindly invited to attend the 25th Annual Conference of the European Network Church on the Move that will take place at CasaLaSalle in Rome.

This year the Annual Conference will be shorter than in the other years because it is articulated with the gathering of the delegates of the project Council 50 from the 20th to the 22nd of November that will be the study day of our annual conference. You are kindly invited to attend also this event after the end of the Annual Conference. This is why the attached registration form includes this possibility

You will therefore find attached the draft program of our Annual Conference, the draft program of the Council 50 event with its list of workshops and the registration form.

Furthermore, the project Council 50 will be articulated with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Pact of Catacombs that will take place at the same venue from the 11th to the 17th of November. You are also kindly invited to attend this event. Details will be given later.

More details Simon brydenbrook@talk21.com

Witches and magic brews

Most mediaeval brewers were women as beer was brewed at home. A large cauldron was needed and when the boiled liquid started to ferment a big, bubbling frothiness would appear and this was considered magic.

Malt cereal used for making beer attracted rats so many women had a cat. If you wanted to sell your beer you put an "ale stake" outside your house which was a long piece of wood with twigs at the end, like a broom.

Beer historian Jane Peyton says, "So, many women accused of witchcraft were brewers - it was just [sic] misogyny; and it's possible that this is how witch motifs came about."

Links

Harrogate School of Theology and Mission 15 – 16 Programme

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/93945438dbd616a33b695470f/files/HSTM_prog_15_16.pdf

Teenagers in Afghanistan

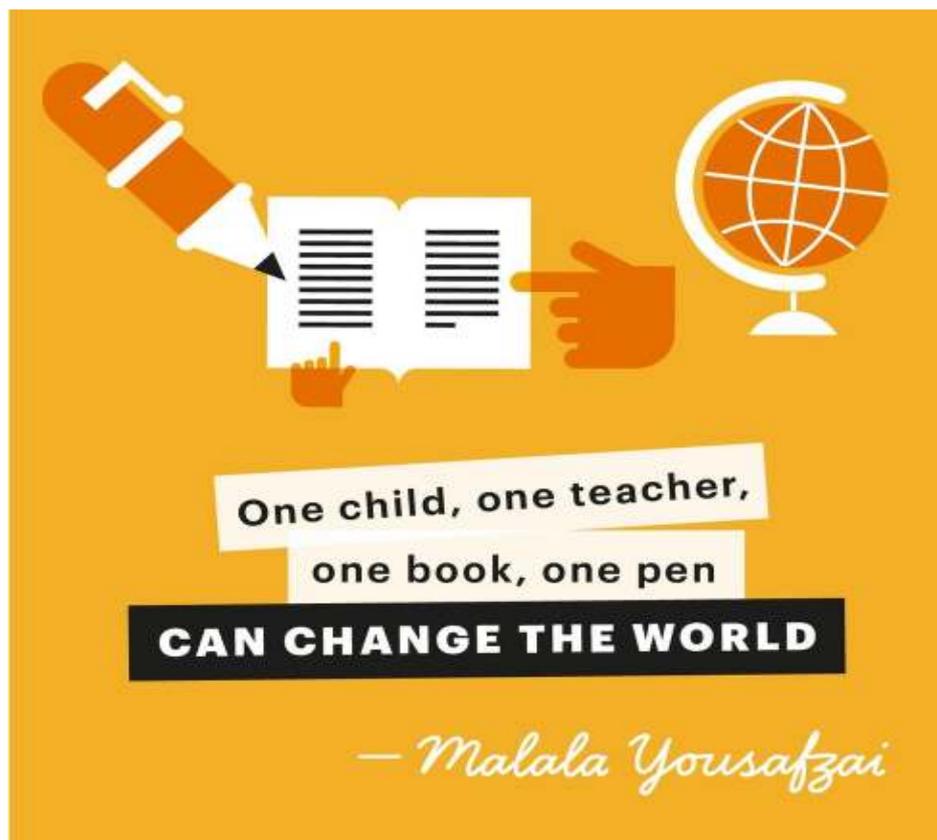
<http://apps.npr.org/lookatthis/posts/afghan-teens/>

Naomi Klein comments on “Laudato Si” in the New Yorker

<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/a-visit-to-the-vatican>

Reinstate Pastor Benjamin Hutchison, Cassapolis United Methodist Church. Against the wishes of his congregation, he was forced out for being gay

http://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/methodist_pastor/?t=1&akid=633.426015.XYjXAI



And 16 translations of Malala’s famous quote

<http://community.malala.org/16-translations-of-malalas-most-famous-quote-1185141842.html>

CWO Saints

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

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

www.wijngaardsinstitute.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/Easter2015/>

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