

# **Good God! Sexuality and Gender Equality in the Church - Impossibility or Imperative?**

*Conference held at St Mark's Church Broomhill, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019*

## **Books and other resources suggested by workshop leaders**

### **1. What is Gender?**

How to Understand Your Gender. Alex Iantaffi and Meg John Barker (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2017)

Queer Theology. Linn Marie Tonstad (Cascade Books, 2018)

God, Sexuality and the Self. Sarah Coakley (CUP, 2013)

Indecent Theology. Marcella Althaus-Reid (Routledge, 2000)

The Queer God. Marcella Althaus-Reid, (Routledge, 2003)

Gender trouble: Feminism and the subversion of identity. Judith Butler (Routledge, 1990)

Queer: A graphic history. Meg-John Barker and Julia Scheele (Icon Books, 2016)

"Never known as anything but an absence, I dare not name him as god:" Queer theology and the via negativa. Wendy Farley

Theology & Sexuality Journal Vol 234 2017 Issue 1-2 Queering Theology's Object

Theology & Sexuality Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/yths20>

Controversies in Queer Theology. Susannah Cornwall and Lisa Isherwood (Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd, 2011)

An Invitation to the Feast: A Positive Biblical Approach To Equal Marriage. Simon Taylor, Canon Chancellor of Derby Cathedral

<https://www.pcnbritain.org.uk/news/post/an-invitation-to-the-feast-a-positive-biblical-approach-to-equal-marriage-b>

Being the Body of Christ: Towards a Twenty-First-Century Homosexual Theology for the Anglican Church. Chris Mounsey (Equinox/Acumen Publishing, 2012)

Tales from Ovid: Twenty-four Passages from the "Metamorphoses". Ted Hughes (Faber, 2002)

### **2. Equal Opportunities?**

Inclusive Church Resource Books (DLT, 2015)

(Sexuality, Gender, Ethnicity, Disability, Mental Health, Poverty)

Apostolic Women, Apostolic authority; Transfiguring leadership in today's church. Rosalind Brown and Claire Amos, Ed Martyn Percy and Christina Rees (Canterbury Press, 2010)

The Faith Lives of Women and Girls: Qualitative Research Perspectives (Explorations in Practical, Pastoral and Empirical Theology). Nicola Slee (Routledge, 2016). This is a predominantly academic book.

Lisa Isherwood has written several books, again predominantly academic eg  
Introducing Feminist Christologies (Sheffield Academic Press, 2002)  
Patriarchs, Prophets and other Villains (Routledge, 2007)

**Online:**

Gender Justice Policy, The Lutheran World Federation 2013, [lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)  
[https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/DTPW-WICAS\\_Gender\\_Justice.pdf](https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/DTPW-WICAS_Gender_Justice.pdf)

The five Guiding principles – a resource for Study. Faith and Order Commission, 2018  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-02/5GuidingPrinciples.pdf>

#SheToo, a series of 7 podcasts where different academics (of different faiths and disciplines) reflect on different “texts of terror”. <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/shetoo/>

**Books giving a historical perspective:**

A New Strength, a New Song. Margaret Webster Mowbray 1994

*This book as an account of the campaign for women to be ordained to the priesthood from one of the key organizers of MOW. It shows how hard it was to overcome the trepidation of church leaders and the power of the church decision makers.*

Act of Synod, Act of Folly, ed Monica Furlong (SCM Press, 1998)

*A collection of essays analysing and describing the effect and the theology of the 1993 Act of Synod which created “Flying Bishops”. The Act of Synod no longer exists but it is worth considering how much of the critique still applies to the working out of the 5 Guiding Principles.*

Like the Wideness of the Sea. Maggi Dawn (DLT, 2013)

*Written after the 2012 failure of legislation to enable women to be bishops in the Cof E . An excellent analysis of why women, both ordained and lay, found this so painful and the church to be so discriminatory.*

Strangers and Friends. Michael Vasey (Hodder and Stoughton, 1995)

*Old but still good*

God and the Gay Christian. Matthew Vines (Convergent, 2015)

*From a strongly American evangelical perspective*

The Possibility of difference. Marcus Green (Kevin Mayhew, 2018)

*An English evangelical perspective*

More Perfect Union. Alan Wilson (DLT, 2014)

*An exploration of marriage and its history.*

Grace and disagreement. Shared conversations on Scripture, Mission and Human Sexuality.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/Grace%20and%20Disagreement%201%20-%20thinking%20through%20the%20process.pdf>

In particular the essay by Professor Loveday Alexander.

Amazing Love. Andrew Davison (DLT, 2016)  
*An excellent collection of essays.*

Journeys in Grace and Truth. ed Jayne Ozanne (Ekklesia, 2016)  
*A powerful collection of essays*

Authorizing Marriage? ed Mark D Jordan (Princeton University Press, 2006)  
*Especially the essay 'Familiar idolatry and the case against Christian marriage' by Dale B Martin as a powerful look at the New Testament view of marriage as contrasted to modern Christianity's obsession with it.*

### **Biographies:**

Just Love. Jayne Ozanne.(DLT, 2018)  
*A journey to self-acceptance.*

Undivided. Vicky Beeching (William Collins, 2018)  
*The story of how destructive the pressures of the evangelical culture can be on those seeking the truth of themselves.*

### **3. What does scripture say?**

There is an interesting essay by Rowan Williams in ed Martyn Percy, Sexuality and Spirituality in Perspective (DLT 1997), called 'Forbidden Fruit: New Testament Sexual Ethics'

Karen Armstrong, The Lost Art of Scripture (Bodley Head, 2019)

### **4. Relationship ethics**

More Places at the Table, Imogen Clout and J W Rogerson, (FeedaRead.com, 2013)

### **5. The politics of power**

The principle reading is the first and the last item listed. All these items are free to access, the final article you can only view online without buying (you cannot print it).

Women and the early Church

This addresses a big question for Roman Catholicism and for the whole church

Ally Kateuz (2019) *Mary and Early Christian Women: Hidden Leadership*

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030111106>

Woman Wisdom and Christology

*Moving back into early Christology, this open access PhD is a useful source*

M. Susanne Guenther Loewen (2010)

Jesus Christ as Woman Wisdom: Feminist Wisdom Christology, Mystery, and Christ's Body

[https://uwspace.uwaterloo.ca/bitstream/handle/10012/5131/%20Loewen\\_MSusanne.pdf;jsessionid=2C4C6077C8D512B9C744DEE278E9FCC5?sequence=1](https://uwspace.uwaterloo.ca/bitstream/handle/10012/5131/%20Loewen_MSusanne.pdf;jsessionid=2C4C6077C8D512B9C744DEE278E9FCC5?sequence=1)

Lollardy and John Ball

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lollardy>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Ball\\_\(priest\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Ball_(priest))

Petition of Leveller Women

[http://wikireedia.net/wikireedia/index.php?title=Petition\\_of\\_the\\_Leveller\\_Women](http://wikireedia.net/wikireedia/index.php?title=Petition_of_the_Leveller_Women)

and more background on the Levellers

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levellers>

The Great Ejection and the local example of James Fisher

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Ejection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Ejection)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper\\_Chapel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Chapel)

Sermon of reconciliation on the matter of The Great Ejection by Dr Rowan Williams (2012)

<http://aoc2013.brix.fatbeehive.com/articles.php/2346/joint-church-of-england-and-united-reformed-church-service-of-reconciliation-and-commitment>

Sexism and Misogony in the Christian Tradition, Rosemary Radford Reuther (2014)

(read online for free)

[https://www.jstor.org/stable/24801355?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/24801355?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)

*What Reuther sets out to do in this article "is to show how Christian symbols have been read as a system of domination, on the one hand, and then how they can be read as a system of liberation, on the other hand."*

## **6. Other**

Human Sexuality Matters, Ann Reddecliffe (Lightning Source UK Ltd, 2016)

LGBTQ Welcome: Good News for LGBTQ Christians, Ann Reddecliffe (Lightning Source UK Ltd, 2017)

*Note: Many of the books are also available in Kindle editions*