



SIBYLS LOGO - ROBIN GOLDEN - HANV 28 MAY 2018

The Gospel is simply the wisdom of those who agree to carry their part of the infinite suffering of God. It must be recognized that many non-Christians fully accept this vocation with greater freedom than many Christians *Fr Richard Rohr*

Newsletter 96

Dear Sibyls

It's summer. The exit from Covid restrictions into a richer, fuller life is, we hope, in sight. It looks as though we shall at long last be able to meet in person in September at Purley Chase. What a celebration that will be! Remarkably, a sleazy Cabinet Minister has actually (if clearly reluctantly) resigned! And yes, the Government has kindly reduced the cost of a GRC to £5, though you still need two doctors to tell you what your gender is and if you go down the route of medical transition, wait for an ever-lengthening number of years for an appointment at a GIC. Joe Biden has made a powerful Pride speech in support of the LGBT+ community, especially deploring the wave of hostile trans-related legislation sweeping his country. The Sibyls have a shiny new, user-friendly website. There are positive developments here and there but much that is less positive. I'm not going to play Cassandra here (or no more than I have to) but the letter to the Bishop of London below from Tina and Alex says it all about the position of trans people in this country and in many of our churches. We are slipping down the rankings of trans-friendly countries. Stonewall, which has courageously campaigned for trans people, has been viciously traduced and attacked. We await the outcome of the appeal against the decision that children can't be trusted to know their own gender and receive life-saving gender-affirming treatment. We remain vulnerable, visible and convenient scapegoats for the dogmatic and conservatively-minded, the "gender-critical" brigade and those for

whom “God does not make mistakes”, who cannot get beyond a selective, literalist and fundamentalist reading of their Bibles. And while this country is far from a utopia for trans people, some of the links in the “Trans world” section hearty-breakingly show the challenges faced by our trans brothers and sisters and non-binary siblings in many parts of the world.

But let me try to end my ruminations on a more positive, hopeful note. Our monthly online acts of worship, led by an impressive number of different Sibyls, have been a great source of encouragement and inspiration. This is what our churches should be like: ecumenical, inclusive, enriched by the gifts and talents of all members, united in worship of a God in whom our gender identities are not abolished or erased but affirmed, upheld and joyously celebrated.

Pauline M 07581553357

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 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

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 Telephone: 01745 337144 or 07500 74195

Yvonne Wood

Yvonne-wood@outlook.com Telephone 01279 833499 or 07595 087207

Pauline Fleck

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 and we will see what is possible.

Zoom get-togethers

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

Sibyls' On-line events

We are currently following a routine of an act of worship on the 25th of the month and an informal social gathering on the 10th of the month, though these timings may vary depending on people's availability. The events are publicised on the Sibyls' website and notifications and zoom links are sent out by email. The acts of worship are open to all, the social gatherings are for members only.

Invitation from Jenny-Anne Bishop OBE

The Metropolitan URC LGBTIQ+ Congregation continue to be active during lockdown: < <https://metropolitanchurch.org.uk/> >

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

To Join the weekly Zoom Service; please check for the Zoom link on our **Facebook page**: < <https://www.facebook.com/MetropolitanChurch> > , or our

Twitter feed on a Sunday Morning : < https://twitter.com/Metro_Church >

or please subscribe to our **LGBTIQ+ congregation weekly Newsletter** here:

< <https://metropolitanchurch.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=3546eacfecb20036d5679ebcc&id=d956811cdd> >

We also provide a **URC Daily Devotional** here:

< <https://us13.campaign-archive.com/?u=8958e2851d933a7a389a9f51c&id=99fe4caf1c> >

Announcement from the Unique Transgender Network, North Wales and TransForum Manchester -Transgender social and support Groups.

During these testing times, physical distancing does not have to mean total social isolation. **Unique**(< www.uniquetg.org.uk >) and **TransForum** (< www.transforum.co.uk >) are working with our associated trans support groups in North Wales, Manchester, Crewe and Cardiff to facilitate a number of on-line meetings using Facebook Messenger and Zoom. We now run our **Trans, Non-Binary** and **Intersex (TNBI) Support groups** every Thursday Evening and every Saturday Afternoon by Zoom as follows.

Unique is meeting every Thursday evening from 8.00 pm till approx.11 pm (London Time), and **TransForum** is meeting every Saturday afternoon from 3.30 pm to approx.7.00 pm (London Time). We now use one link for both

zoom meetings.

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 Zooms every Thursdays 8.00 pm to 11.00 pm (London Time)

To join the Unique Zoom meeting just click on the link below (you may be asked to download the Zoom app onto your computer or phone if you do not already have it):

<<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77583683876?pwd=TW9sc2ZRZ0Y2ZEdOazJjenhNWGs4Zz09>>

If you log in from your own Zoom Account:

Meeting ID: 775 8368 3876 Password: 130237

TransForum Zooms every Saturdays 3.30pm to 7.00pm (London Time)

Just click the same link:

<<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 please contact Jenny-Anne at
<jennyannebuk@btinternet.com> or 07500-741955

WEEKEND AT THE PURLEY CHASE CENTRE, The Midlands, CV9 2RQ

www.purleychasecentre.org.uk/

24-26 SEPTEMBER 2021

Christian Communities, Transgender People, and Celtic Traditions

FRIDAY

People may arrive any time after 3pm. Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits and cakes are available all the time all weekend. It is hoped that at least parts of the weekend might be accessed by zoom to enable those unable to take part in person to join remotely.

7 p.m. Buffet dinner. There is a bar for people to buy their own drinks at reasonable prices. The centre only takes cash & cheques but not cards.

8.30 p.m. Time for sharing and news from our churches/denominations. Led by *Yvonne*.

10 p.m. Compline led by *Pauline*

SATURDAY

8 a.m. Breakfast

9.30 a.m. “*Christian Communities, Transgender People, and Celtic Traditions*”: Alex Clare-Young and Susan Gilchrist:

The Iona and Corrymeela Communities are Ecumenical Christian Communities in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Alex Clare-Young is a member of the Iona Community, Susan Gilchrist is a member of the Corrymeela Community. Both communities have histories of bringing reconciliation and healing to socially and religiously divided societies. Both communities have the common tradition of Celtic Christianity at their foundations. Both are extensively involved in working and campaigning for the full LGBTI Inclusion in society, and across all denominations in the Christian Churches. In this introductory session we will consider how history and these experiences can today bring support and insight both to the Sibyls, and to transgender people in their everyday lives.

11 a.m. - Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits and cakes

11.30 a.m. “*Christian Communities, Transgender People, and Celtic Traditions*”: Alex Clare-Young and Susan Gilchrist:

Celtic Christianity and Roman Christianity did not just differ on the date on which Easter is celebrated. They came from contrasting environments where the attitudes to men, women, gender identity, and gender roles differed greatly from each other. In this section we will examine how we may use these experiences to enrich the welcome and inclusion of transgender people in current society, in our own lives, and in the churches and institutions of today.

1 p.m. Lunch

2 p.m. Free afternoon.... Potential options include:

- Visit the Battlefield Line www.battlefieldline.co.uk Leicestershire, Shackerstone, CV13 6NW. There are trains at 3pm & 4.15pm going from Shackerstone to Shenton and back. This is 12 ½ miles from the Centre
- Visit the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre www.bosworthbattlefield.org.uk, CV13 0AD. This is 10 miles from the centre. **2.00 pm to 3.30 pm** Join one of their

experienced Guides for an informative 2 km guided walk exploring the Battle of Bosworth, the death of King Richard III and the unlikely victory of Henry Tudor.

- Stroll in the beautiful grounds of the centre or stride out further afield to the nearby Hartshill Hayes Country Park, www.countryparks.warwickshire.gov.uk/country-parks/hartshill-hayes-country-park It's a 30 min walk or a 6 min drive to the Country Park.
- Twycross zoo.
- Just relax in the warm, comfortable centre.

Refreshments are available any time people would like them.

6.30 p.m. Gala Dinner - a great opportunity for everyone to dress up.

8 p.m. Entertainments – You are welcome to join in and contribute as you see fit. *Circus master and rounder-upper Pauline*

10 p.m. Compline *Susan: from the Sibyls Website*

SUNDAY

8 a.m. Breakfast

9.30 a.m. Sibyls Together *Yvonne*

11 a.m. Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits and cakes

11.30 a.m. Service with Holy Communion in the Chapel. *Tina or Susan and Alex*

12.30 p.m. Group photo

1 p.m. Sunday lunch

2 / 2.30 p.m. Leave to go home.

Please complete and return the booking form before the 31st. August. Although we hope all lockdown restrictions will have been lifted, we cannot be certain. You will not be charged if the Purley Centre has to cancel the event. Please book early since social distancing requirements might limit the numbers attending, and we may not be able to accept your booking if you register at some later date.

This event is for members of the Sibyls, their partners, and specific invitees only. Please join the Sibyls if you want to come. To apply, and for details, please email enquiries@sibyls.co.uk

Booking form follows

BOOKING FORM FOR THE SIBYLS WEEKEND 24-26 SEPTEMBER 2021

This event is for members of the Sibyls and partners only.

Your name _____ Partner's name

Telephone _____ Email

Your address

_____ Post code

Are you or your partner a member of the Sibyls?

Yes No

Please tick one accommodation option:

En-suite rooms:

£153 full board per person (full-board is Friday dinner until Sunday lunch)

- Ensuite Double room
- Ensuite Single room
- Adapted ensuite facilities with wet room
- Ensuite Twin room - sharing an ensuite twin room with another Sibyl
Name of other occupant you are willing to share the room with

Standard dormitory - accommodation with shared bathroom:

- £131 full board per person (full-board is Friday dinner until Sunday lunch)

Day attendance – not staying overnight:

- £45 Day Rate per person per day with Lunch & Dinner
- Do you want breakfast as well?

Please tell us about your access or mobility needs _____

Do you have dietary requirements? _____

Allergies

Transport requirements Would you like help with transport to The Purley Chase Centre?

Can you offer a lift to someone?

Payment

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ .

Cheques should be made payable to Mr P.A. Raftery – The Sibyls

I wish to pay by electronic bank transfer.

Send the booking form and cheque to S Gilchrist, 8 Greenways Drive, Maidenhead, SL6 5DU

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS BOOKING FORM BEFORE THE 31 AUGUST.

Information

- There are 3 double rooms and 2 adapted rooms with wet facilities
- Because of Covid uncertainties, no cheques will be banked before we are certain the event is going ahead. If it does not, the cheques will be destroyed.
- If you wish to pay by electronic bank transfer, we will send you bank details in due course.
- Social distancing requirements might limit the numbers attending, so please book early.
- Please email any enquiries to Susan Gilchrist at susan@gndr.org.uk who will ask the centre manager if necessary

Directions to Purley Chase Centre

The Centre is easily accessed by road and rail



Address

Purley Chase Centre,
Purley Chase Lane,
Mancetter, Atherstone,
Warwicks, CV9 2RQ.

By car – The centre is just over 2 miles south of the A5 near Atherstone. Travelling along the A5 take the B4111 towards Mancetter. After about a quarter of a mile on B4111, just past the church, take a right turn signed Ridge Lane. Over the traffic light-controlled bridge, follow the road round to the right and up through the

trees, Purley Chase Centre is about a quarter of a mile further on, on the right.

By rail – The nearest main line railway station is at Nuneaton, about 6 miles away. Slower trains go through Atherstone station which is about 3 miles away from Purley Chase Centre. Both stations are on the Euston-Crewe line. Atherstone Taxis (01827 712427) charge £15/£16. Triple A Taxis (01827 713637) charge £13/£14. Both Nuneaton and Atherstone are served by various bus and coach services.

It is hoped that lifts can be arranged for people arriving at either Nuneaton or Atherstone stations. Call Pauline on 07581553357.

Chair's Message from Yvonne

Hello everyone, and good wishes to all. I hope you are enjoying the summer days whether sunny or rainy and have the chance for getting together with friends and family, even if you have to miss your favourite music festival. A special hello to some of you:

Not out

I want to send a particular greeting to those Sibyls that are 'not out'. I believe Sibyls is especially important for many who are privately wrestling with their contradiction, who are trying to make sense of it, or waiting for the chance to make tentative first steps out. But also for those who are content with being themselves and being private, who have found ways to be settled, especially with family. Sibyls was so valuable for me when I first discovered it and when I first tentatively went to a meeting. There are very many who are balancing hidden true life with outward life conformity. 'Not out' includes those who are burdened with responsibility, or are constrained by church and family, who simply cannot take any public steps out. 'Not out' includes those for whom dressing is a blessing when circumstances allow; for whom quiet worship is a sustenance; and for whom committed relationships mean give and take and negotiated boundaries. When we talk about trans, it can sometimes feel as if it is all about those who are out and active, campaigning or complaining, but Sibyls is for quiet trans people too.

Out and about

And a greeting to those of you at the other extreme. There are Sibyls who are beyond 'out', living their true lives and giving devoted support to others. There are Sibyls who do huge amounts of work for increasing understanding of trans lives and upholding other trans individuals: through friendships with trans people in real need of support, representing trans lives in church or political bodies, setting up or leading support groups, advising institutions. This is person-focused, done gently and lovingly, locally and within our own communities. I would love to name some, but that will overlook others, and you know who you are. This dedicated work moves us forward, helps demolish fears and myths about trans, supports many people in

challenging circumstances, and influences policy in church bodies, and community organisations.

For all of us – quiet, out, or active - I hope Sibyls can provide a sense of connection and affirmation.

Letter to Bishop Sarah from *Tina Beardsley and Alex Clare-Young*

Dear Bishop Sarah,

Living in Love & Faith Next Steps Group to reconsider gender identity and transition

We write to you following the Church of England's press release for the House of Bishops' meeting held on Tuesday 18th May, which informs us that 'The House discussed additional working groups related to the LLF process and agreed in principle to the formation of a working group on gender identity and transition under the auspices of the LLF Next Steps Group, details of which will be announced in due course.'

As trans people who were members of the LLF Co-ordinating Group we are disappointed that any proposal about the need for a working group on gender identity and transition, let alone a discussion in the House of Bishops, did not include consultation with either of us. Why has such a working group become necessary now? It is deeply regrettable that gender identity and transition were not fully addressed when we were members of the COG. Alex in particular raised the lack of proper attention to trans identities and theological anthropology and instances of over-simplification of trans identities and experiences. Despite this, his expertise was not fully drawn on, and parts of the material do not reflect the comments he did make.

Gender identity is mentioned 95 times in the Living in Love & Faith book. In Chapter 5 Society (pages 92-97) there are sections on 'Gender Identity', 'Gender & sex', 'History of trans identities' and 'Transgender: statistics.' In Chapter 6 Science (pages 109-112, 115-116, 118-120) there are sections on 'The science of gender identity' covering the 'Origins of gender identity', 'Gender transition', 'Transgender and gender diverse (TGD) children and adolescents', 'Sexual orientation and gender identity as diagnoses', 'Sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts', and 'Gender transition procedures.' In Part 5 of the book (pages 397-404) there is a 'Conversation about gender identity and transition'.

Trans people are also represented in LLF's film stories, controversially so: as the Next Steps Group is aware, several of us have complained about the negative impact of one of the LLF Course videos which contained a section of film story of a trans person widely known for disseminating anti-trans views (not expressed in the video). For some people the use of this person's film story in the LLF Course raises serious safeguarding concerns. Is the proposed working group on gender identity and transition intended to address these particular concerns? In addition to the misuse of the film 'Alex and Jo' by Christian Concern, this highlights the way in which lack of attention to the safeguarding complexities around trans identities has caused clearly evidenced harm.

We are disappointed that the safeguarding team has refused to reflect on either of these issues.

We have several reservations about the proposal to form a new working group on gender identity and transition.

As the Bishops note, at the end of the LLF book (page 422), its contents have 'exposed the depth of disagreement between Christians', including the Bishops themselves, in terms of opposite sex relationships, gender and pastoral provisions for transgender people, and 'most pressing ... around same sex relationships.'

Trans people are the current targets of misinformation, hatred and oppression in public, political, and ecclesial discourse. Multiple government consultations have been used to increase the hostility that trans people experience every day. As such, yet another process of consultation would give us cause for concern. It is vital that organisations, including churches, begin to listen to trans people, instead of debating the validity of our authentic, God-given identities.

There is an urgent need for clarity therefore regarding the aims of this proposed group and its membership. The group should include a wide range of trans members, including transfeminine, transmasculine and non-binary people. The group must not be yet another source of polemical debate between those with lived experience of oppression due to gender identity and those who falsely equate theological opinion or position with said lived experience. Both of us would have much to contribute to this group, given our roles in LLF and our theological experience. There are so few trans theologians it would be odd if our expertise were to be ignored and both of us may be willing to be involved. The group must also include specialists in the field of gender identity and in overseeing people's transitions according to the Standards of Care issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. <https://www.wpath.org/publications/soc>

That trans people can be poorly treated in churches is well-documented and something those responsible for LLF should be fully acquainted with following one campaign group's deliberate misgendering of a participant who appeared in LLF's launch video. The July 2017 General Synod witnessed a successful attempt to remove gender identity from the proposed ban on conversion therapy, and in 2019 there was considerable pushback to the House of Bishops' own Guidance on prayer to mark gender transition. Both were attempts to problematise trans people despite the fact that, in launching what was to become LLF, our Archbishops assured us that no one is an issue or a problem.

Trans people are currently experiencing unprecedented attack in our society rendering us vulnerable in our churches. We need the Archbishops, Bishops and everyone involved in the LLF project to speak up on their behalf. A working group on gender identity and transition – properly informed about trans people's lives and the medical and therapeutic consensus that supports our flourishing – would be an opportunity for the Church of England to do precisely that.

We look forward to receiving confirmation from you that the proposed working group on gender identity and transition will be composed of a wide range of trans members, including transfeminine, transmasculine and non-binary people together with those who are recognised specialists in the field of gender identity and in overseeing people's transitions.

The Revd Dr Christina Beardsley
Co-author, *Trans Affirming Churches*

The Revd Alex Clare-Young
Author: *Transgender. Christian. Human.*



Lynn Conway

What are you reading this article on right now? Chances are, it's powered by some of the technology that Lynn Conway pioneered in the 1960s, when she worked as a computer scientist for IBM. Lynn's work for IBM was some of the earliest into microchips, but she was sacked when the company found out Lynn was transgender and planned to transition - and her work on the project ended.

"Her life's work has made the fact that we're having this conversation on tiny little computers possible," says Christine Burns MBE, activist and author of *Trans Britain: Our Journey from the Shadows*, tells Newsbeat.

"It's because I think it's such a story of human spirit, against the worst of all odds."

Beyond the Binaries

Richard Rohr/Austen Hartke

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26–28)

Regular contemplative practice allows us to maintain some measure of nondualism whenever we are asked to move beyond our comfortable binaries. It seems that everything we put in a neat and tidy package must eventually be allowed to come undone, including our understanding of our bodies, gender, and attraction. This awareness, too, is a part of God's incarnation in Christ! In this passage, transgender and Christian author Austen Hartke dialogues with Lynn Young, who identifies as non-binary, Native American, and Christian, about the significance of this passage from Galatians.

One of the many ways I've tried to explain my gender journey to people who don't get it is to say that, as I began to really dig into it and explore it and find the meaningful points for me, I felt like I was given this dirty floor and a toothbrush. As I started to scrub this floor I started seeing things, and as things were revealed, it turned out that this floor was an amazing mosaic, even though each piece by itself didn't seem to be anything in particular. None of those pieces are unimportant because they all have to exist together to create the whole picture. So I've arrived at this place of knowing myself as a Two Spirit person, and that Two Spirit is my gender. There's a feminine part of me, and a masculine part of me, and there are also parts of me that are so intertwined that are both of those and then some, and they don't have a name that fits within European gender constructs. . . .

We have all these shards of identity in us, whether it's our sexuality, our gender, our faith, our age, our cultural identity, our personal trauma histories—all of those things that are part of who we are combine to create our whole identity. I'm not just one piece—I'm not just the Christian, or just the Native person, or just Two Spirit, or just the survivor, or just the grandma—that small piece isn't me; only the whole reflects who I am. I am all of this.

Austen continues:

So what was Paul thinking about these different pieces of our identity when he penned Galatians 3:28? And what does this verse mean for our understanding of gender? Was Paul saying that gender was no longer important—that through our baptism in Christ our gender identities were all erased or irrelevant? I very much doubt it. What Paul said about gender in this verse was revolutionary in that it confirmed that there was no patriarchy or misogyny in God’s new kingdom; it broke down the barriers between genders and between people of different genders and God. . . .

Coming out to our family *Yvonne Wood*

Introduction

As trans people, the most difficult part of coming out is facing the family. This article considers aspects of our closest relationships. We read a great deal about children and young people coming out to parents, and the support of GICs. As Sibyls, many of us have come out later in life, often after work and family ways have been established. We also do this in the context of Christian faith. Spirituality can help our own discernment and others’ love and acceptance. But religious tradition can also be a big impediment to acceptance, including rejection of the individual by ‘curing’ prayer.

This article may be uncomfortable reading for many of you. Maybe find a calm moment and a stiff hot chocolate before reading, because many of us carry hurt and regret from family relationships, and some of us are worried about coming out for the first time. But exploring this might help us bring our experiences together to help people in the future. There will be a follow up Zoom meeting to share experiences and to add to this. This is written almost entirely from the perspective of M to F or M to non-binary, so it is only a start.

In this article, my intention is to consider family members from their point of view. This is because we often feel misunderstood yet we need to understand their feelings when they hear and adapt to our truth. That often means understanding their silence – they often say nothing in the hope it will go away. But silence also means, ‘I’ve heard, I get it, there is no need to talk about every time, we carry on’.

Some Sibyls have worked hard to support married couples over the years, and learned sometimes difficult lessons about sensitivities, trust, fears. In close family, we also come out to our parents, our children, our siblings. And these can be the most deeply affected long-term relationships.

How our family hears us

There are a number of things that are common to our experience of coming out to all close family members and some common responses when we tell them about ourselves. We have to come out again and again, not just once. We plan what we have to say for ages, they have no preparation, so are shocked and confused. You might recognise these reactions: your relative -

- does not believe you.
- does not remember what you said, it doesn't stick.
- overlays what they hear you say with their own preconceptions about what it means,
- jump to conclusions about what will happen.
- hold assumptions about sexuality, illness, perversion.
- is worried for you, but may be more worried about themselves.
- worries about what relatives and friends will think.
- does not know what to ask, or how to ask.

We have to rely on telling people how we feel – it seems so tenuous and abstract and very difficult to articulate, even for a highly educated person. Relatives will think feelings can be 'snapped out of'. There is no definitive identifier like a birthmark on the body. If we come out as feminine, it is harder if our bodies are very male.

Even when a relative listens tenderly, there is confusion, anger, sadness. I believe an angry reaction is love wrapped in dismay. Grief plays a significant part in a close relative's feelings - what relatives experience is fear of loss and ultimately a time of grief. In *Trans-affirming churches*, Christina Beardsley and Chris Dowd say 'The reaction is a complex process involving grief.... It is also important to see that this grief can have a resolution' (p97-99).

Family members might accept you 'as you are' but are concerned about what you want to do – especially name change and physical changes. They will feel worried if they perceive we are unsure, or when we are impatient to press ahead too fast.

Trans individual's family relationships are explored in *Trans-affirming churches* (Chapter 4 *Loving Someone Trans*), which also addresses the part that faith communities can play in the lives of people impacted by a loved one's gender journey. The charity FFLAG offers support to parents and families, to help them understand, accept and support their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members with love and pride <https://www.fflag.org.uk/>

Our partner

A life partner, with years of emotional bond, in a Christian marriage is the most intensely affected by coming out. The marriage is the foundation for both; all other family, work and community rests on the fact of the marriage. Upon coming out with gender identity issues, those foundations change, whether it continues or is ended. Our partner bears the burden of our gender affirmation.

Sibyls has tried before to address issues for partners, and while this was helpful for some, it caused upset for others. We know that wanting to help can turn into interference. One person, confident in the knowledge of their own experience with partner and family, can fall into the trap of 'knowing best' and not seeing another's circumstances. I write this with my own experience, and I am mindful I cannot assume any simplistic lessons for others.

When you put yourself in your partner's shoes, how does it sound, how does it feel, where do you go? Is there a right way, a slow way, a shared way? We might decide on what we need and go at 90 miles per hour; we might wait and hope for gradual acceptance. The sorrow will be there in any event. What we know is that some marriages stay firm, adapt and grow, and we celebrate that love. Some marriages do not have the loving capacity to adapt, and we separate. We might say, I am just the same really, but a partner knows acutely when we are not. Sometimes anger remains, sometimes friendships resume after time.

Coming out to a partner is discussed in *Transfaith: a transgender pastoral resource* by Chris Dowd and Christina Beardsley (pages 70-75). There are not many books and articles written by female partners of trans people. However, the recent book *Someone to Love* by Alexandra Heminsley describes how she experienced her partner's coming out; and some of you will know an older book, *My husband Betty* a lively and patient account by Helen Boyd and her subsequent more emotional book *She's not the Man I Married*. What does a partner encounter?

Confusion, dismay, anger

Heartbreak

Anger at our previous secrecy

Shame about being unable to share this with family and friends

Annoyance that I am appropriating her world, being more feminine

Burdened with my anguish

Loss and grieving

How do we share this? How do we uphold our partner while we are asking her to uphold us? Drawing on all our resources, after coming out and desperately seeking sympathy and support, we have to then give support to our partner, to try to move along together. This seems counter intuitive – after our dysphoria, anguish and need for affirmation, we have to totally give love to our disoriented partner. In our shared faith, we pray and find strength, even while the church remains oblivious. It tests love, and love can be trusted to lead us.

Our children

Our kids are the most sensitive to what we have to explain and do. They are preoccupied, teenagers have enough to deal with emotionally already, they are least able to understand, embarrassed about how their friends will react. They look up to us – how can we maintain supportive parenthood while seeking acknowledgement of ourselves? How can we tell them while still assuring them they are more important than our gender issues? From conversations I have had, much depends on what age children are when we come out to them, whether we are able to explain gradually, over several conversations, or whether it all comes out in a rush. For example, taking time to explain we are transgender, then to tell them our name, then to tell them what we plan to do, over quite a long time. One friend was asked by his partner to tell all in one go, including that they were separating and that she would be having surgery. Since then it has been a slow and difficult process for her to rebuild relationships. What helped one son was a water leak – “can you come over and look at the ceiling please?” How much are we prepared to compromise? For example, to be still called ‘dad’, to still be on-call for mending bikes, etc? Waiting for them to adjust in their own time helps. After a long time, my daughter simply said, ‘I keep saying ‘he’ when I talk about you, but it doesn’t feel right’. They make tiny steps in their own time.

Our siblings

Siblings, the most stubborn, the most opinionated, the most likely to explain you away. They are alongside since childhood, a constant presence, often with big differences in personality, but a bond reflecting in each other’s lives. Yet sometimes they appear to lack any empathy. Brothers! It should be matter of fact, a hug, interesting conversations. If only. I felt like a broken record, starting again each visit. Waiting for some penny to drop. On the way home on the train once, my brother texted a question, then another. Finally. Sometimes a sibling is not Christian, so might not relate in that way, but sometimes a sibling is a stricter Christian and that can make it even more difficult. In a way, we simply do not have the time to be patient with adult siblings, if we also being patient with immediate family. Our friend Elaine had great difficulty with her two brothers. Towards the end of her life, she wrote letters to them, asking for their love and acknowledgement. Letters can help, we can say what we need to say, and not struggle with a conversation.

Our parents

Many of us coming out young speak to our parents first. They have invested love and hard work in us, they are highly protective, have hopes, worry. But whatever we say comes out bluntly and sudden. We might have spent a long time preparing to say something; they have had no preparation to hear.

The FFLAG website includes this story of a mother hearing her trans child come out: ‘I was enormously shocked. I thought to myself ‘this is not happening.’ It seemed so unreal..... he was so calm and loving and reassuring, but I couldn’t take it in..... I also felt very strongly that I wished I had known more about what

transgender means; that it was harder for my son to come out because I had no understanding or knowledge at all about it.'

'Someone I love is trans – and I am so proud of them.I've come across quite a few people who have a trans family member, some of whom feel they have nobody to talk to and sharing support with them is very empowering.'

But there are dangers if we are too insistent and don't let parents adjust. In her book *Dazzling Darkness*, Rachel Mann describes coming out to her parents: 'Even during the period before I changed my name legally I started insisting upon being addressed by female pronouns and being called Rachel by my family. My parents had named me and nurtured me and I bullied them, corrected them and cajoled them.'.... 'Once I was set on my path of transition, I ruthlessly sought to destroy all traces of my former self... And others – notably my family – have paid the price of my ruthlessness.'.... I have felt regret, even remorse, for the way I've behaved towards my family and I thought to give recompense and try to be a better daughter.'

Restoring broken relationships

Many of us have sadly lost contact with relatives as a result of upset, and inability to communicate, and sometimes argument. It is never too late to seek reconciliation. It is very hard to break the silence, to avoid old arguments, but there are always small bonds of love, acknowledgements of hurt and new life to discover. An article in the *Observer* in February 2021 explores this with examples of reconciliation.

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/feb/20/how-to-reconcile-after-a-family-rift> It makes reference to *Fault Lines: Fractured Families and How to Mend Them* by Karl Pillemer.

What we might learn

Give time for them to transition to you.

Wait, wait, wait for small signs, unexpected signs of acknowledgement, treat them as blessings. Don't say anything, just treasure them in your heart.

Don't forget the things that have been positive, however small they were. Make a note of tiny signs. They do not need to happen every day. We tend to crave continuous affirmation. But a close relative may make a single signal that is all that is necessary, without constant discussion.

This reminds me of the film *Memento*, where a character with memory loss is on a mission to achieve something he has forgotten he has already done. And another film - we easily get stuck in a *Groundhog Day* of not being understood, craving affirmation, while actually people are moving forward with you.

Switch concern to them. Notice what their stresses and concerns are, ask about them. We feel unnoticed and disrespected, but we can be so self-absorbed we don't notice what they are dealing with.

Meet halfway – make simple compromises to keep relations. Transition means gradual adjustment, not an abrupt change.

Allow them to call you something that feels comfortable to them, such as a combination of familiar and new. Or for children what they grew up with, for continuity and stability.

Gentle prompts and reminders about pronouns, they will get it wrong for ages but they will get there.

Tough, but forgive their resistance – their dismay, obstructions, rejection hurt you, but it reflects their love and their security being shaken.

Acceptance is multi-faceted – they might accept what you say, how you look, then surprise you by taking issue with some aspect of your journey. Relatives can often only deal with one thing at a time in our transition. We can think we are OK with someone and then be surprised when their stress bursts out.

Rites of passage including church services can be incredibly settling for families and individuals, and example liturgies are offered in *Transfaith*.

Looking forward

Close family will be the main challenge for all of us, but we can learn from each other and from some valuable resources. We celebrate the journeys that are held in love and find resolution; we celebrate the close partnerships we know within Sibyls.

The Lord's Prayer For Transgender Awareness

Our mother and Father, our beloved parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being,

The hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children.

May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.

Grant that our transgender loved ones might have their daily needs met—that they might find gainful employment without discrimination; that they might have access to medical care without fear; that they might have their rights and lives protected, and that they might find a loving community to belong to and call their own.

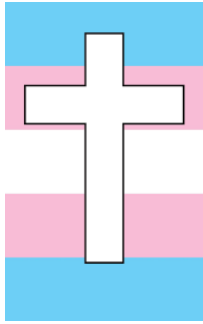
Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed your transgender children. Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged their unique expression of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear

As we forgive those who might have failed us.

Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But instead give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever.

Amen.

This prayer was originally written for Central Congregational UCC (Atlanta, GA) Pride Sunday worship Services on October 9, 2016



Trans faith

Tina's Beardsley's blog on Living in Love and Faith and Debbie Hayton's involvement:
[LLF Next Steps Group refuses to act on trans people's concerns — Unadulterated Love](#)

Tina's blog on gender identity conversion therapy:
[So-called conversion therapy, gender identity, and the dangers of coercion and consultation — Unadulterated Love](#)

Trans leaders and CA England oppose LLF working group on gender identity:
[Trans leaders and CA England advise Bishop of London a working group to consider gender identity and transition is inadvisable — Unadulterated Love](#)

Amoris Laetitia ignores trans families: a view from a trans Catholic:
[Fear and Grief: The Emotional Impact of Transition on Close Family Members - New Ways Ministry](#)

Gay imam, trans priest (Rachel Mann) and lesbian rabbi to teach children during schools diversity week:
[Gay imam, trans priest and lesbian rabbi to kids about diversity and faith \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Rev Sarah Jones: God is non-binary:
['God is non-binary': The transgender Church of England priest who was outed by a national newspaper - YouTube](#)

Marinos the Monk: a transgender "saint" and role model:
[Saint Marinos / Marina the Monk: Transgender role model and patron saint \(qspirit.net\)](#)

Alex Clare-Young's guide to safeguarding trans people in churches:
[Trans+Safeguarding+in+Practice.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#)

Jo Inkpin makes history:
[Transgender reverend cried 'tears of joy' as minister of her own church \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Being trans and the church:
[Facebook](#)

Catholic priest says that if he can't bless same sex unions he won't bless palm crosses:
[Priest stages Palm Sunday protest against Vatican same-sex union ban \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Sister Luisa Derouen:

[Meet the Catholic nun who affirmed transgender people for 20 years in secret - YouTube](#)

First trans bishop in US:

[Megan Rohrer Elected As 1st Openly Transgender Bishop In U.S. Lutheran Church : NPR](#)

Chrissie Chevasutt on eunuchs in the Bible:

[Transgender Disciple | Heaven Come Down Vlog 7 - YouTube](#)

Chrissie on difference between faith and religion:

[Transgender Disciple | Heaven Come Down Vlog 8 - YouTube](#)

Chrissie on her breakdown and being transformed by Jesus:

[Transgender Disciple | Heaven Come Down Vlog 10 - YouTube](#)

[Transgender Disciple | Heaven Come Down Vlog 11 - YouTube](#)

Chrissie interviewed:

[Transgender Disciple | Heaven Come Down - Interview - YouTube](#)

[Transgender Disciple | Heaven Come Down Vlog 13 - YouTube](#)

[Transgender Disciple | Heaven Come Down Vlog 14 - YouTube](#)

Qspirit article on the Ethiopian eunuch:

[Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch: Early church welcomed queers in Bible story \(qspirit.net\)](#)

...and an article on the extraordinary trans/queer saint Madre Juana de la Cruz:

[Madre Juana de la Cruz: Queer saint of 16th-century Spain \(qspirit.net\)](#)

Church hierarchy “Great and Powerful Oz”:

[The Little Man Behind the Curtain: Uncovering the Hierarchy Behind Church Teaching - New Ways Ministry](#)

What happened when an evangelical woman transitioned (and weep):

[Lisa’s Story | ViaMedia.News](#)

A letter to phobic evangelicals:

[Dear Phobic Christians, Leave LGBTQ People Alone \(johnpavlovitz.com\)](#)

Quaker views on being trans:

[Clare Flourish | My calling is to manifest joy. \(wordpress.com\)](#)

Yve’s story about being trans in a Cathedral parish (“I felt set up to fail”):

[Yve’s Story – “I Felt Set Up To Fail” | ViaMedia.News](#)

Kate, a trans woman, talks about her experiences of religious conversion therapy:

[\(1\) Facebook](#)

Trans masculine Catholic talks about his trans experience:
[Still trans after two years of Catholicism - YouTube](#)



Trans law and politics

£5 for a GRC:

[Gender recognition certificate cost cut to £5 - BBC News](#)

[Judge refuses judicial review of trans-inclusive Equality Act guidance \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

National LGBT+ health adviser persuaded Liz Truss not to go ahead with GRA reform:
[Why Tories and Liz Truss dropped vital Gender Recognition Act reforms \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Govt says it's "too complex" to allow legal recognition for non-binary people:
[Non-binary legal recognition too 'complex' to introduce, government says \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Transphobic LGB Alliance lobbies MPs:
[MP skewers LGB Alliance for spewing 'fake news' over conversion therapy \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

What Maya Forstater ruling (being gender-critical (ie transphobic) is a protected belief) means:
[What the Maya Forstater ruling actually means for trans people \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Shocking report on gender identity conversion therapy (distressing to read in places):
[GICT Report - Final.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Stonewall defends itself:
[Stonewall statement on the Diversity Champions programme | Stonewall](#)

Why Stonewall is right:
[Moral panic over Stonewall and trans rights is fuelled by misinterpretation | The National](#)

Freddy McConnell defends Stonewall:
[The cynical attack on Stonewall is a reminder of the need to stand up for trans rights | Freddy McConnell | The Guardian](#)

Tavistock appeal on puberty blockers ruling begins:

[High court ruling on puberty blockers 'based on partisan evidence' | Transgender | The Guardian](#)

[Keira Bell: Puberty blockers give children options, Trust says - BBC News](#)

Mhairi Black savages transphobes in impassioned speech:

[MP Mhairi Black says transphobia is a 'far-right tactic' \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Gender queer mayor of Bangor:

[First non-binary mayor: Owen J Hurcum elected in Bangor, Wales \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)



Trans health

Crisis at GIDS:

[The crisis at the Tavistock's child gender clinic - BBC News](#)

NICE finds evidence of benefits from puberty blockers and hormones to be “low” (but the evidence is taken from research that is itself open to question – other studies have found clear evidence of benefits):

[Evidence for puberty blockers use very low, says NICE - BBC News](#)

Support for trans affirming health care in face of continuing opposition:

[Policies Sanctioning Discrimination Against Transgender Patients Flout Scientific Evidence and Threaten Health and Safety | Transgender Health \(liebertpub.com\)](#)

Why the concern about effects of puberty blockers but not of hormonal birth control:

[Why Don't "Gender Critical" Activists Care About Teens on Hormonal Birth Control? | by Devon Price | Apr, 2021 | An Injustice! \(aninjusticemag.com\)](#)

NHS England to create review group for puberty blocker treatment:

[NHS England to set up independent review group for puberty blockers \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

The Lancet's view on puberty blockers (it stresses harm done by *not* prescribing them):

[A flawed agenda for trans youth - The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health](#)

Scrap gender clinics, equalities committee told: they are not working:

[NHS gender clinics are 'wrong' and need to be 'scrapped entirely', MPs told \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Helen Webberley defends Gender GP:

[An open letter to Sonia Appleby from Dr Helen Webberley \(gendergp.com\)](#)

Phalloplasty for trans men now unavailable:

[Trans men in 'extreme distress' as NHS stops life-changing phalloplasty \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Biden bans health-care discrimination against LGBT+ people:

[Biden bans discrimination against LGBTQ people in healthcare / LGBTQ Nation](#)

Problems of cervical screening for trans men:

['My exhausting smear test battle' - BBC News](#)

Trans doctor Kate Nambiar:

[Championing transgender rights: specialty doctor Kate Nambiar | The BMJ](#)

Dispelling myths around detransition:

[Dispelling myths around detransition | Stonewall](#)



Trans life

Excellent article on a wide range of trans issues by a trans man with ASD:

['Being trans is not something you put on and take off. It's part of who you are' | Transgender | The Guardian](#)

Alex Clare-Young et al on YouTube talking about transgender day of visibility:

[Trans Day of Visibility 2021 - YouTube](#)

Alex's toilet trauma (and government's transphobia) graphically described:

[Taking the Piss: Toilet Troubles in the UK – Alex Clare-Young \(alexclareyoung.co.uk\)](#)

Terry Reid RIP:

[Gender Identity Research & Education Society – Improving the Lives of Trans People \(gires.org.uk\)](#)

Establishment war against trans people:

[The Establishment War Against Trans People - YouTube](#)

Letter to “trans widows” from an actual widow:

[A letter to “trans widows”, from an actual widow – Rachel E. Moss \(rachelemoss.com\)](#)

Q&A with Kellie Maloney:

[Exclusive Q&A With Kellie Maloney: Transgender Champion \(lgbt-speakers.com\)](#)

LGBT poet laureate Trudy Howson reads a poem for IDAHOBIT:

[IDAHOT on SKT TV - YouTube](#)

Stonewall defends its stance on trans issues:

[Stonewall boss defends new strategy amid criticism - BBC News](#)

Paris Lees interview about her book and traumatic early life:

[Paris Lees: 'It drives me crazy when people introduce me as a trans activist' | Life and style | The Guardian](#)

I am Jazz:

[Jazz Jennings on Breaking Barriers for Trans Youth With 'I Am Jazz' - Variety](#)

Opera helps trans man transition:

[How opera helped me come out as trans - BBC News](#)

Girl guides showing the way:

[Girlguiding UK confirms it's 'proudly trans inclusive' \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

UK slips down Rainbow Map rankings for best LGBT countries in Europe:

[UK slides further down rankings of most LGBT-friendly nations in Europe \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Abigail Thorn on coming out as trans (YouTube):

[Abigail Thorn: 'I came out as trans and made headlines' - BBC News](#)

What it's like being trans and autistic:

[What is it like to be autistic and trans? Two authors share their experiences \(jkp.com\)](#)

Trans "Who dares wins" contestant:

[SAS: Who Dares Wins: Trans contestant Holly wins praise \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Trans Dawkins:

[Richard Dawkins stripped of 'humanist of the year' title over trans comments \(msn.com\)](#)

Leaving UK transphobia behind:

[Leaving Transphobia Behind in the UK \(gendergp.com\)](#)

The Moral Maze discusses participation in sport by trans women (*NB Debbie Hayton is one of the witnesses and some may her views offensive*):

[Moral Maze - Rights and Rules - BBC Sounds](#)

Trans rugby:

[Why England Rugby's new trans inclusion policy is so disappointing | Stonewall](#)

Trans Paralympian:

[Valentina Petrillo: 'Better to be a slow happy woman than a fast unhappy man' - BBC News](#)

Proud trans woman – and mom:

[Ezra Furman: Singer proudly comes out as trans woman and mother \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Young trans people don't feel hopeful:

[Trans young people are least optimistic about the future, study reveals \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Transgender Jesus musical:

[“Set yourself on fire”’: new transgender Jesus musical sparks controversy | Southbank Local News](#)

Is it ok for a cis man to wear a dress?

[Kid Cudi was praised for wearing a dress but LGBTQ+ people see the double standard | Fashion | The Guardian](#)

Elliot Page on life-saving top surgery:

[Elliot Page on Oprah Winfrey: Transition surgery 'life-saving' - BBC News](#)

A guide for trans allies:

[How to be a Trans ally: an in-depth guide \(gendergp.com\)](#)

Non-binary ants:

['Beautiful' new ant species given non-binary scientific name \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Trail-blazing trans doctor:

[Trailblazing Transgender Doctor Saved Countless Lives - Scientific American](#)

Trans Olympic weightlifter: is it fair?

[By conflating gender and sex we undermine sporting competition | Olympic Games | The Guardian](#)

Gender policing of butch AFABs:

[Gender Policing Of Butch People In Single Sex Spaces \(refinery29.com\)](#)



Trans world

Heart warming short UNAIDS film about affirming a trans child:

[The Mirror - YouTube](#)

Trans people under attack all over the world:

[All around the world young trans people are under attack. Leave them alone! | Transgender | The Guardian](#)

Trans children in US are nothing new:

['Trans kids are not new': a historian on the long record of youth transitioning in America | US news | The Guardian](#)

Arkansa bans gender-affirming healthcare for young people:

[Transgender youth treatment banned by Arkansas - BBC News](#)

...why this isn't just a trans issue:

[Why Arkansas's anti-trans rights law isn't just a trans issue \(msnbc.com\)](#)

...cruel beyond belief what happened to this Arkansas father speaking up for trans young people:

[Transphobic Legislation Is Forcing Arkansas Families to Abandon the State | them.](#)

...Florida mum on Bill that would mean inspection of her trans daughter's genitals before she can play sport:

[My Daughter Is Trans. I'm Done Debating Whether She Has a Right to Exist | them.](#)

...but poll shows two thirds of Americans oppose anti-trans laws:

[New poll shows Americans overwhelmingly oppose anti-transgender laws \(losangelesblade.com\)](#)

...and are such laws unconstitutional?

[The War on Trans Kids Is Totally Unconstitutional - The Atlantic](#)

...Biden administration seeks to overturn anti-trans laws:

[Biden administration joins legal challenge to anti-trans laws \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

...Biden celebrates Pride and calls for trans rights ("transgender kids are some of the bravest people in the world"):

[Biden celebrates Pride calling for TRANS rights | FULL SPEECH - YouTube](#)

US Catholic judge says it's ok to misgender trans students:

[Professor reprimanded for misgendering trans student can sue university \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Caitlyn Jenner opposes trans girls competing with cis girls in sport:

[Caitlyn Jenner opposes trans girls in women's sports as unfair - BBC News](#)

Trans and non-binary couple quit the US:

[How we met: 'When Hillary Clinton lost the election we decided to leave America' | Life and style | The Guardian](#)

Indigenous Two Spirit people:

['I want to show the pride': photo essay of the Two Spirit Indigenous people | Native Americans | The Guardian](#)

Republican Texan mum's trans daughter – great short video:
[Texas mom's faith is tested by her child's transgender journey \(today.com\)](#)

...and another heart-warming video about a trans Texan teen:
[Transgender teen Andi shares his journey - BBC News](#)

14th black trans woman murdered in 2021 in US:
[Jaida Peterson becomes 14th known trans person murdered in 2021 \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Transphobic Texans threaten little girl:
[Transgender 4th Grader Kai Shappley Gets Death Threats After Testifying Before Texas Legislature \(newsweek.com\)](#)

Trans Texas: philosopher father of trans son:
[The Fight Over Health Care for Transgender Youth | Issues in Science and Technology](#)

What exclusion of trans kids from sport is really about:
[Trans kids deserve the same opportunity that made my NFL career possible | US sports | The Guardian](#)

Transphobic Montana:
[Montana governor signs bill banning transgender students from sports teams | Montana | The Guardian](#)

US anti-trans Bills “break my heart – it’s not who we are” – Obama:
[Barack Obama addresses anti-trans bills and LGBT legacy \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

2021 on course to be deadliest ever for trans people:
[2021 on pace to be deadliest yet for trans and gender non-conforming Americans | LGBT rights | The Guardian](#)

NZ weight lifter cleared to be first trans woman to compete in Olympics:
[Trans weightlifter Laurel Hubbard set to make history at Tokyo Olympics | Tokyo Olympic Games 2020 | The Guardian](#)

Transwomen asylum seekers denied health care in US:
[Transwomen asylum seekers: Detention led to death for Roxsana Hernandez and Johana Medina \(qspirit.net\)](#)

A prayer from QSpirit:

Loving God, we pray for LGBTQ people who have left their homes to seek safer and better lives. We lift up in love those who live under the weight of violence, fear and intolerance. May they be protected on their journeys and treated with dignity wherever they go. We commit to creating a world where all people live in peace, love, and justice, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Amen.

To change gender legally in Japan you have to be sterilised:
[Trans in Japan: Sterilisation and legal gender recognition - BBC News](#)

Trans Uganda:

[Trans Ugandans react to new UNAIDS film about tolerance – Rights Africa – Equal Rights, One Voice!](#)

Trans Kenya:

[Discover The Amazing "Malindi Desire Initiative" For Transgender Rights \(Kenya\) | Black Gay Blog](#)

Trans Georgia:

[Trans activists in Georgia pick up the pieces when the state ignores \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Trans Hungary:

[Pride and Shame in Hungary – A Therapist's Personal Reflections \(welldoing.org\)](#)

El Salvador trans woman murdered and buried under her dead name:

[Fearless trans woman shot in the back and buried under her dead name \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Indonesia's island of 5 genders:

[BBC - Travel - Asia's isle of five separate genders](#)



Trans books and media

How trans films are evolving:

['What is it about my freedom that bothers you?': how trans films are evolving | Film | The Guardian](#)

Season 3 of Pose premieres on 2 May:

[Pose season 3 had to be the last, creator Steven Canals explains \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Trans actress plays Lili in musical adaptation of The Danish Girl:

[The Danish Girl musical adaptation casts trans woman in lead role \(pinknews.co.uk\)](#)

Book review:

Detransition, Baby by Torrey Peters

Trigger warning: this book will not be to everyone's taste. It is sexually explicit in places and makes plentiful use of four-letter words. It is not for prudes. The title is deliberately provocative. The only time church gets a mention is when characters attend the funerals of their trans sisters who have taken their own lives or been murdered – a shocking statistic is quoted, that I have no reason to doubt, that the

deceased are misgendered in their obituaries more often than their murderers are brought to justice.

The plot involves 3 main characters: a trans woman in her 30s, her ex-lover who has detransitioned to live as a man and his current lover, a cis woman in her 30s with whom he is having a baby. Or maybe not. The 3 of them tentatively decide they should combine to raise the child together, a queer family with 2 co-mothers and one detransitioned dad. The author, herself a trans woman, delicately dissects the complications of these relationships, the complex union to which they aspire somehow representing each individual's search for their own personal integration, played out against the background of a New York trans community where lives are messy, chaotic and often short. It's not a comfortable read. I do not know how realistic it is but the author has certainly drawn heavily on her own experiences and to me its portrayal of the contemporary trans experience for many had the ring of truth.

If you are someone who transitioned in middle age or later, have you ever wondered what your life might have been like if you had transitioned much younger or were a young trans person today? Do you think it's now easy to be young and trans? This book might make you think again. The author probes, with delicacy, wit and precision the painful but rather thrilling search of her trans characters (and one cis character) for an authentic, meaningful life in a world that still seeks to exclude, demean and reject them. It is an exploration not just of what makes us trans but of what makes us human. *PF*