



# THE SIBYLS

*Christian Spirituality Group for Transgendered People*  
**BM Sibyls, London WC1N 3XX**

[www.sibyls.co.uk](http://www.sibyls.co.uk)  
E-mail: [info@sibyls.co.uk](mailto:info@sibyls.co.uk)

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## **Newsletter No. 49 - Easter 2009**

### **Alleluia, He is risen!**

~ O ~

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure.  
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss; The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen One bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished.  
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything; no gifts, no power, no wisdom.  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart - His wounds have paid my ransom.

(Stuart Townend)

This is one of my all-time favourites; it sums up my creed as a non-denominational Christian, and moves me to tears every time I see the words or hear it sung.

~ O ~

Thank you very much to our contributors to this edition. Cerys and Jay; thank you for the items you have sent, they are being held over for the next newsletter.

Please send me articles and other contributions; please also let me have up-to-date information about events.

Very many thanks to those who do write or send me items for publication. If you can send e-mail, MS word, most other word processors or even just typed (with a decent ribbon!), it is very much appreciated. Most typed items can be scanned. Newspaper cuttings can be scanned and can give a different slant on things.

Please don't worry if you have no technology; I can copy-type if necessary. **BUT... please bear in mind that I am Severely Visually Impaired so, if you must send me hand-written contributions, please make sure that I will be able to read them!**

A few lines or enough to fill two pages, I shall be grateful for anything you send to me.

**Please send items to:**  
**Mrs Susan Withers**  
**97 Bedford Street**  
**Crewe**  
**Cheshire**  
**CW2 6JB**

**Tel: 01270-250207**

**E-mail: [susie@crewesue.com](mailto:susie@crewesue.com)**

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or Sibyls in general.

### **OUR MISSION**

*The Sibyls is a UK-based confidential Christian spirituality group for transgender people, and their supporters, offering companionship along the journey, and information/advocacy to churches.*

*Sibyls pray, eat, and talk together, and seek to fulfil Christ's command to love one another.*

~ O ~

### **PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Please pray for David in ongoing illness, Michelle Le Morvan, all those who cannot for whatever reason take the course of action their heart desires, and for all those known to us who are in need, and those with disabilities or who are in pain.

### **LISTENERS**

People prepared to listen to others are worth their weight in gold. Michelle, Jenny, Jane, Carol and Jenny-Anne are happy to be available for you to call. If you would like to join the list, please let me know. Do remember that they are not trained to give advice – but a problem shared in confidence often seems less of a burden. If you need someone to talk to, choose which one and give them a ring: -

Michelle Le Morvan 01743 341026

Jenny Bond 01623 836662

Jane Bowles 01492 660147

Carol Moore 01625 858487

Jenny-Anne Bishop 01745-337144

The listening system works. There are a number of Sibyls who use this service. If you want someone to talk it over with, why not give it a try?

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Regular Meetings**

**LONDON;** usually the second Thursday of every second month at 5.30 - Service at St Anne's, Dean Street, Soho, followed by a meal together – next ones April 16, June 11, August 13.

**MANCHESTER;** Jenny-Anne and Elen organise events in the North-West and North Wales. There is a regular monthly meeting of TransForum (Manchester Trans Discussion & Support group), 3:30 pm Fourth Saturday, at the Metropolitan Community Church in Manchester (MCCM).

MCC is a friendly, welcoming, inclusive church. JennyAnne can be contacted on 01745-337144 , mobile 07500-741955 or by e-mail [jennyannebuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyannebuk@yahoo.co.uk)

The TransForum group has its own web page

[www.mccmanchester.co.uk/trans.htm](http://www.mccmanchester.co.uk/trans.htm) , there are also directions to the group venue on this website.

You are also most welcome to attend our Sunday communion service at 4:00 pm every Sunday at Metropolitan Community Church , Manchester(MCCM). see [www.mccmanchester.co.uk](http://www.mccmanchester.co.uk)

### **ROSIE'S MEETING - DORSET**

Every four months between 12 Noon and 4 o'clock at Rosie's house. The next meeting will be held at noon on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Please give her a ring to confirm attendance (necessary for catering) and to get directions. **01425-270540**. No charge, thank you Rosie, but donations to Sibyls if you wish.

Rosie dreamed of moving to a luxury penthouse apartment with stunning views of the English Channel – well, like the rest of us, she can dream, can't she?

She has moved to Christchurch (Dorset, not New Zealand), and reckons that the price goes up by £100,000 for every 100 yards closer you get to the sea. And no, she didn't get her sea view!

I've not yet seen 'La Nouvelle Maison de Rosie' but I've no doubt that it will be as homely and welcoming as her previous place. Sorry about the French; Susie descends on Paris next week!

Hopefully, by June, Rosie's visitors won't be surrounded by cartons and boxes.

### **OTHER MEETINGS**

#### **JAY'S GARDEN PARTY - SATURDAY 3 JULY 2009**

Like the January get-together but a garden party. Give Jay a ring if you want to come. 020 8763 0146.

### **Weekends**

#### **2009 Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May - Whaley Hall, Derbyshire**

**2009 Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September – PLEASE NOTE THAT THE  
HOLLAND HOUSE WEEKEND  
IS CANCELLED – SEE BELOW**

**2010 Friday 21 to Sunday 23 May - Windermere**

**2010 Friday 17 to Sunday 19 September - St Columba's, Woking**

**Help can usually be made available if you would like to go to a weekend but have financial constraints; please talk to Jay in confidence (0208-763-0146).**

**There are a number of churches who welcome trans-people. The Metropolitan Community Church embraces diversity. I've been to East London, Manchester and Bournemouth and was welcomed like the prodigal. If you have access to the Internet, a church's mission statement should give you a clue. You could try calling the pastor to ask about their attitude.**

### **LONDON EVENING MEETINGS**

**Jay**

Sadly the meeting on February 5 had to be cancelled; the country was in the grip of snow and ice and it was just too risky. However these meetings are very good; gentle lovely evenings with a service which is always thoughtful, peaceful and healing, followed by a good meal in a peaceful restaurant with a nice atmosphere. Nourishment for mind, body and spirit. The Rector at St Anne's, the Rev'd David Gilmore, makes us very welcome and takes the service.

We still haven't decided on a restaurant and so we will wait at the church until about 6.15 and then go to the restaurant of our choice. That creates a problem if you are late. I will switch on my mobile 07719 726933 and you can ring and get directions.

Details: 5.30 service at St Anne's, 55 Dean Street, Soho W1D 6AF, 40 yards up on the left from Shaftesbury Avenue (it doesn't look like a church but it says so and is), and from about 6.15 a meal at a local restaurant. Next meeting - Thursday 16 April, 11 June, 13 August. Every two months, on the second Thursday - except when it isn't (as above). No need to book - just come.

~ O ~

### **THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

These are attached. Again this year we have ended up with a small surplus and the money in our bank actually increased. Part of the reason for this is that we provided absolutely nothing towards the cost of helping people to attend weekends. Are we missing something?

What is good is that we took a conscious decision to invite Peterson Toscana to talk to and entertain us at Whaley Hall in the knowledge that it would cost about £400. This is a lot of money for Sibyls but after taking the decision, we received some exceptional donations and have already paid his air fare. Now all we have to find is his train fare to and room cost at Whaley Hall.

## **WEEKEND AT WHALEY HALL - 15-17 MAY 2009**

Elen is organising this, and putting a lot of work into it. Be sure to have the date in your diary and book as soon as you can. By sheer dogged determination, Elen has overcome the slings and arrows of Whaley Hall's booking system and, as an added hint, we have included free, gratis and at no extra cost, another form at the end of this Newsletter.

Just a reminder that Peterson Toscano will be entertaining us. As the saying goes, we have booked him at enormous expense. This will be your one opportunity to see this highly talented young man, who will entertain you and give you some new perspectives on the bible.

## **WEEKEND AT HOLLAND HOUSE - SEPTEMBER 2008**

Holland House have managed to double-book the weekend that we were due to go, and so this **weekend is cancelled**. We are trying to arrange an alternative location as we are aware of how popular these weekends are; giving, as they do, a unique opportunity for fellowship in a non-threatening environment. We will keep you informed of progress on this matter but, meanwhile, please be aware that the Holland House location is unavailable to us this September.

## **JAY'S NEW YEAR GET-TOGETHER 17 JANUARY**

This turned out to be a great success. Starting at about four o'clock with tea and cake, people gradually drifted in. We eventually totalled eleven including Martin and Rob. Janet brought a large champagne bottle balloon which settled on the ceiling. However that was only on loan as it was going on to St Anne's and then to Brixton Town Hall!

Martin took an excellent and thoughtful communion. The lesson from Hebrews 5 12-16 was powerful. *"The word of God is alive and active. It cuts more keenly than any two-edged sword, piercing so deeply that it divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it discriminates among the purposes and thoughts of the heart. Nothing in creation can hide from him; everything lies bare and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render account."* Et seq. The passage evokes wonderful imagery of cutting to the truth. Martin preached beautifully with the imperative to sort truth from dross, so often obscured by religion. Martin also spoke of St Anthony of Egypt and his insistence that the way to God was through yourself and knowing yourself fully and truthfully. That I have been quietly pushing in Sibyls for years, so vital in the context of both faith and transgender.

The buffet was fine. My thanks to Jan who gave me a hand which was much appreciated. It seemed to be a jolly good evening and Janet was moved to say that she felt it to be the best that we had had. You can't top that.

## **THE LATE ANGELA HAMMERTON**

Many Sibyls will remember Angela Hammerton who sadly died of cancer in November 2007. She is missed, especially at the St Anne's meetings. She was keen that the Sibyls should benefit from her estate and although we were not specifically mentioned in her will, she was anxious that Tina Beardsley, her

executor, should ensure that Sibyls did receive some money. Thanks to her kindness and generosity and to Tina's good offices, we have received a sum of £760. This thoughtfulness is hugely appreciated.

~ O ~

## **WHERE ARE YOU?**

**Jay**

I've started reading detective stories again, a reversion to childhood. In one that I recently finished the villain was a cross dresser. I quite like it when the villain is in some way transgendered; it's an acceptance without anyone feeling the need to be politically correct.

This particular villain was quite interesting. He built an elaborate series of facades, he planned escape routes, he had strategies for avoiding discovery, his plans were well thought out and covered every eventuality, he made sure his tracks were always covered and that no-one could discover his activities. No-one really knew him, no-one knew what he did. When he was finally caught, the detective made a big effort to understand him, to discover what made him tick. He couldn't explain, it was just the way he worked. He had spent so much time covering his tracks, he had almost lost himself.

It's not difficult to understand. Before I contemplated transition I was there but I wasn't. I was a husband, a father, a successful executive, an assistant church warden, and quite a number of other things. I did what was required of me but I wasn't there. A big part of me wasn't present, and there was no way that anyone was going to know about that part. I revelled in the anonymity of the big city, valued the privacy that it gave. No-one knew me.

It worked but of course it was quite unsatisfactory. Since accepting myself as I really am, and changing my life to live accordingly, it has become hugely more satisfying, life in all its fullness. Having become open to all, it has enabled me to give more fully and in return I have received in abundance. My faith belief is that God has given us life, in all its abundance, and it is up to us to make the most of that gift, and give thanks.

It worries me that so many transgendered people are living half lives in the shadows. They are missing so much, and, in a sense, they are failing to make the most of God's gift.

## **THE FUTURE OF THE TRANS COMMUNITY**

**Sandra Moore**

**(In response to Elen Heart's article in NL48)**

I suppose that for many trans-people, modern technology seems to be a blessing; because it has seemingly "fixed" the gender riddle for them, and it causes annoyance if anyone suggests that there may be an alternative solution to the riddle that transgender poses us.

I think that Elen was opening up this issue in her article, and was anxious to avoid well-worn paths.

Perhaps we do not have a static issue here but an EVOLVING path.

It is my personal view that science and technology, great as they are in a way, (when it comes to observation accuracy, experimentation, classification and measuring,) are very clever. I speak as a science graduate. Also they give us great power; "To be like Gods". Gods of a sort controlling and exploiting nature; like a man plundering a woman.

But when it comes to the soul, the psyche, then it's different.

Science has grown strong by EXCLUDING feeling, experience and LOVE from its investigations. *Cold objectivity* is its ethos. How then could a science which excludes the soul's living experience from its investigations, ever hope to contribute to understanding of the soul, in which it does not even believe, since souls cannot be seen, weighed, touched, or most of all CONTROLLED?

Science's attitude to the soul is best summed up in the picture of the Caliph of Baghdad and his attitude to the girls of his realm in "Arabian Nights".

I mean, you cannot measure, organise, or control feelings as you can clockwork and machines. They are altogether not reducible to predictability: too alive, too FEMININE.

However, there *is* a bodily aspect to gender too. The *feeling*, "I have been born into a body of the wrong gender" is a SOUL phenomenon firstly, but it is true that the problem has a perceptible bodily aspect too.

This is where modern science feels competent, in the realm of "bits of a machine", and comes in with its reassignment technique and gives you a refit, just as it does for your car.

But is it legitimate to ask, "Is this technological approach really a very complete answer to this riddle in today's world?" Haven't we outgrown such approaches to some extent?

Anyway, are these same body technologists (who are busily earning fortunes re-shaping women's bodies to order with nose, boob, leg jobs and God knows what else), really so scientifically objective as they pretend, even in their own field?

For example; some facts.:

1. A woman's menstrual period is precisely in days, the same as the moon's revolution about the earth. 28-29
2. Human beings breathe on average 18 times a minute or 25920 times a day. This number also represents the number of years it takes the sun's spring rising point to pass backwards around the Zodiac
3. Human gestation takes 10 lunar months.

Does this mean that we are somehow built on the same pattern as the cosmos to some extent at least?

Say these things to your average comprehensive-school educated man-in-the-street and he will probably sneer, look away, change the subject, be non-plussed or say, "so what?". Mr indoctrinated-man-in-the-street, would need an authority to tell him he may even consider these observations, let alone feel their significance. He will want to know that they can be used to pass an exam, or get more salary or importance or status. Since his authorities give no credit to these facts and correspondences, he stifles his wonder, interest and love for truth at the first

instant, and sees nothing in them. But tell them to Mrs, Average woman -in-the-Street, and she will often be thrilled, expectant and delighted, until she remembers that her husband /father/brother or son will consider her a fool for believing such rubbish.

Which tells us, doesn't it, that to **see**, you need a **soul** as well as an eye?

Perhaps Nature has given women a " Soul-Start" in life. As a woman you are given more soul-force in your body, while men get (by and large) a compensating dose of physical power over **things**.

Is it possible that this is behind the gender issue? We have a science grown great by denying soul, on the grounds that it cannot be *seen*.

Anyone who says there is a soul in a human body or even in an animal, risks being labelled psychotic by modern science. "You are seeing things."

In other words science has become a typical husband of today. How can he hope to understand what he has spent time denying.? He has developed a technology whose ethic is MALE in every way, and we ask **this science** to help us elucidate our gender issue, to tell us why we feel a lack in the person heredity and society would make of us.

Perhaps , as the aptly named Elen *Heart* implies , **there is more to this question than meets the eye**, the eye and brain conditioned to outward things .Perhaps, **It is the Heart that sees.\***

\* **see" The Little Prince" by St. Exupery**

## **SATELLITE NAVIGATION**

**Susie**

Increasingly, modern cars are fitted with Satellite Navigation systems (SatNav for short). This is a device which provides directions and a map to assist journey planning and driving. For cars that don't come equipped with such a device, one can buy an add-on for a couple of hundred pounds.

I was sitting, minding my own business (if you believe that, you'll believe anything!) in our Bible study group a few weeks ago and I thought how the Bible could be likened to a SatNav system. There are several things you can do with it.

Firstly, you can buy it and leave it on the shelf unused. It doesn't necessarily mean that you'll make a wrong turning; just as there are road signs to guide your way, we all have built-in safeguards to try and ensure that we follow the correct route. It may be to do with the way we're brought up; it may be that magic ingredient called 'conscience' that tells us when a particular course of action may or may not be appropriate.

The vast majority of people manage very well without a SatNav, just as they do without a Bible. There is no doubt, however, that much of the so-called 'conscience' of modern living can be found in the Bible. Studying the Bible can reveal hidden depths that many people, including scholars, don't plumb. A SatNav, used with a good portion of common sense, can help find the shortest, quickest or most scenic route between two places and can help find unfamiliar destinations with ease. Like many things, SatNavs can be very helpful, but can make terrible masters. So can Bibles.



Just after Christmas, a friend and I found some beautiful and rugged landscape on the Cheshire/Derbyshire border, just three miles from Macclesfield, simply by entering 'Point of Interest' into a SatNav. A roadmap and road signs didn't alert us at all to the isolated, peaceful spot that we found. Several thousand feet above sea level, it even had that desirable ingredient – a pub that served an excellent lunch.

My friend frequently attends meetings in unfamiliar city centres and being able to enter a postcode, and have the machine direct her to the door, is a godsend. She does, of course, need to temper the machine's guidance with good old common sense.

You may be familiar with the computer industry's famous motto; 'GIGO' or 'Garbage In, Garbage Out'. If you insist on asking the wrong question, there's every chance that you'll get an answer that's just no use to you.

Same with the Bible. If you take bits in isolation, they will probably add up to the wrong solution. My friend Helen used to quote, "They took flight' doesn't mean we should all immediately go out and buy airline tickets!"

## **FANTASIA**

Jay

Fantasia is a glorious belly dance festival, held once a year over a weekend in a performing arts college in West London, and it happened in December. At any given time over that weekend, there are about five workshops taking place with good teachers where you can learn much more about your chosen aspect of the dance. There is an excellent souk or market where most of the clothes vendors have stalls and you can buy all sorts of costumes and adornments. There is a lovely show by the professionals and their dancers on the Saturday evening. Lastly it is a golden opportunity to catch up with old friends. I love it.

The organiser of this Aladdin's Cave is a woman I like very much. Having taken over from her sister who founded the whole thing, she and her team look after all these many dancers and teachers, and make sure that everything happens when it should and that all runs smoothly and to time. She's nice and we get on well.

This year she shook me rigid when I came through the door. She said that she was so pleased to see me as she regarded me as her guardian angel. I always asked after her and her staff and checked up during what is a hard day for them that they were Ok and feeling fine. She said that I was always so calm and when she saw me going about the place, she knew that everything would be alright.

How flattering but yet what misplaced faith. There's nothing that I do or could do that would bring good fortune or avert disaster; I have about as much influence as the man in the moon. Indeed from the perspective of certain religious people, how shocking and how blasphemous. No angel I. And yet she felt this.

My cat does much the same for me. We have shared this house for seventeen years and she has her routine. About three times a day she will sit by or on me and be companionable. However if I am unwell or unhappy she will quietly come up to me and stay with me, close by, sleeping peacefully, but always by me. That too is very reassuring.

Matthew 25.31 et seq I have always found to be a very hard passage. You know it - the one about the sheep and the goats and doing it to the least of the afflicted is doing it for Jesus. I know I am one of the goats. Sick visiting, prison visiting,

feeding and clothing I am not good at. Temperamentally it's not me. I know I don't do it, not at all or not properly or well. By that passage of scripture I stand condemned; whichever way I look at it, I don't measure up.

Enter the Rev'd John Pridmore. I don't know him but he is a retired rector, formerly of Hackney. Until recently he wrote a regular commentary in *The Church Times* on the week's readings. His take on this passage was that no-one could be expected to do it for all suffering humanity. The saving line was that if you did it "for one of my brothers here, however insignificant, you did it for me." One is manageable, the entire world is not. However the passage goes on to say "anything you failed to do for one of these, however insignificant, you failed to do for me." That's pretty devastating. Like many of Jesus' parables, they are too hard for imperfect humanity.

Perhaps we can put this in the context of Sibyls and look for hope there. Sibyls has always tried to be there, one for the other. Immediately one can think of Sibyls who are in prison, not Her Majesty's, but those of their own or society's making - and we do visit them. There are those seeking health - and we are there to encourage and help. Clothes - well, we try to make sure people are properly and rightly clothed. For those that are hungry and thirsty, food and drink has been an important part of Sibyls. Perhaps, in a small way, just perhaps, we are trying. Perhaps God in his mercy .....

So what else is to be done? I find as I get older that I am not as good at doing as I used to be and less keen to be doing. However being is very important. At any age you can turn your mind to being, and that can be very significant.

Back to my friend at Fantasia. After pondering her words for a few days and wondering about their significance, eventually the penny dropped. Without being spoken, without even being thought about in those terms, what is happening is love. She is making things happen for other people and concerned that all goes well; that is love. I am concerned for her and her people's welfare; without any fuss whatsoever, that is love. We like each other, and that too is love. The cat also is giving love.

Of course love is reassuring. With it, all things are full of hope and are possible. And, if it's present, can God be far behind?

~ O ~

Quote from The Times – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, "It is a mistake to treat the theology of creation in the Book of Genesis as a scientific textbook."

~ O ~

## **LEARNING ENGLISH CAN BE DIFFICULT**

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger, neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English Muffins weren't invented in England or French Fries in France (surprise). Sweetmeats are candies while Sweetbreads which aren't sweet, are meat.

If you have a bunch of Odds and Ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? Is it an odd or an end?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell ?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise guy and a wise man are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can bum up as it bums down.

If the plural of goose is geese, and if a male sheep is called a ram, and a male donkey is called an ass, why is a ram in the ass called a goose?

Quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

English was invented by people, not computers and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which of course, is not a race at all.

Now; if that's how creative a mere human can be, how much more creative can a supernatural God be? And don't let anyone tell you that you're a mistake. God doesn't make mistakes. God might well provide you with a challenge or three, but that's a horse of a different colour – which is not really a horse - of course.

## **The Words of God -**

*Dr. Laura Schlessinger is an FM radio personality who dispenses advice to people who call in to her radio show. Recently, she said that, as an observant Orthodox Jew, transvestism and transsexualism are abominations according to Leviticus 18:22. The following is an open letter to Dr. Laura which was posted on the Internet. It's funny, as well as informative ...*

Dear Dr. Laura:

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law. I have learned a great deal from your radio show, and try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the cross-dressing / transsexual lifestyles, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states they are abominations. End of debate.

I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some of the other specific laws and how to follow them:-

When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odour for the Lord - Lev.1:9. The problem is my neighbours. They claim the odour is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them? Or can I sell them steak butties?

I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period

of menstrual un-cleanliness - Lev.15 :19-24. The problem is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offence and even smite me!

Lev. 25:44 states that I may indeed possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighbouring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Spanish and Italians but not to the French, Dutch or German people. Can you clarify? Why can't I own some Spanish señoritas? Are there suitable slave shops in Magaluff and on the Costa del Sol?

I have a neighbour whose job includes working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself? Or can I get Gordon Brown to order it for all Sunday workers so that Sundays are like those in North Wales and the Orkneys? This might also help the housing crisis by freeing up a lot of property.

A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination - Lev. 11: 10, it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality and transvestism. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Does it include French snails?

Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here? Would contact lenses get me closer?

Most of my mate friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev. 19:27. How should they die? As a cross dresser I wear a wig. Does this mean I am OK about this?

I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves or leather high heel shoes if I have stockings on?

My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev. 19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend, he won't let her have silk or satin blends). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we stone them? - Lev.24:10-16. Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.

Your devoted fan,

Moisha Goldberg (or Moishe in male clothes).

THE SIBYLS  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	2008 £	2007 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
From members in respect of meetings	4,564.50	4,340.00
Use of group funds	-	82.00
Meeting receipts	4,564.50	4,422.00
Deposit Paid in previous year	100.00	-
Donations	1,120.90	752.27
	-	
Advance bookings	6.00	20.00
Bank interest (net)	1.29	0.93
	<u>5,780.69</u>	<u>5,195.20</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Cost of Meetings:-		
Paid to House	4,440.50	4,422.00
Speaker & Clergy expenses	100.00	116.00
Coach trip	216.00	-
Meetings Costs	4,756.50	4,538.00
Use of group funds for members		
to attend meetings	-	82.00
Deposit paid to St Columba's	100.00	-
Newsletter duplication and envelopes	276.58	309.74
Newsletter postage	135.27	150.79
Inclusive Church advert	100.00	-
Lambeth Seminar Expenses	63.14	-
Peterson Toscana's air fare	237.50	-
British Monomarks box number	65.80	65.80
	<u>5,734.79</u>	<u>5,146.33</u>
<b>CASH SURPLUS</b>	45.90	48.87

Opening balance at HSBC Bank	327.00	278.13
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<b>Closing balance at HSBC Bank</b>	<u>372.90</u>	<u>327.00</u>
Made up of:-		
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>	472.90	401.00
Windermere advance bookings	-	20.00
	-	-
Deposit Paid to St Columba's	100.00	100.00
Money Held in Advance	<u>-</u>	<u>6.00</u>
	<u>372.90</u>	<u>327.00</u>

These accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis,  
consistent with previous years.

THE SIBYLS  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - MEETINGS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Windermere May £	St Columba's September £	2008 Total £	2007 Total £
Cash receipts from members:-				
This year	2,416.50	2,168.00	4,584.50	4,340.00
Last year	20.00	-	20.00	-
Use of group funds	-	-	-	<u>82.00</u>
	<u>2,436.50</u>	<u>2,168.00</u>	<u>4,604.50</u>	<u>4,422.00</u>
Paid to House re members	2,272.50	2,168.00	4,440.50	4,422.00
Speaker, Clergy & Other Expenses	50.00	50.00	100.00	116.00
Coach trip	<u>216.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>216.00</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,538.50</u>	<u>2,218.00</u>	<u>4,756.50</u>	<u>4,538.00</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY)	-	-	-	-
	<u>102.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>152.00</u>	<u># 116.00</u>



Mr Mackenzie kept forgetting his PIN

~ O ~

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father, an evangelist, if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, get your hair cut and we'll talk about the car."

Well, the boy thought about that for a moment and decided that he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it. After about six weeks, they went into the study, where his father said, "Son, I've been really proud. You brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible and participating a lot more in the Bible Study groups. But, I'm a bit disappointed, since you haven't got your hair cut."

The young man paused a moment and then said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair and there's even a strong argument that Jesus had long hair."

To this, his father replied, "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"



## THE SIBYLS

Christian Spirituality Group for  
transgendered people

12 Ffordd Las  
Rhyl  
Denbighshire  
LL18 2DY

Tel: 01745-337144

### WEEKEND AT WHALEY HALL 15-17 MAY 2009

Name .....

Required - Single/twin room (delete as appropriate)

Name of other occupant in room .....

Willing to share with .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Phone No. ....

Email address .....

Please reserve for me the following number of places:-

Full weekend Friday night to Sunday lunch    £125.00    .....

24 hour overnight – afternoon to lunch        £60.00        .....

Day visitor - All meals                                £25.00        .....

- Lunch and tea/coffee                            £20.00        .....

- Evening meal and tea/coffee                £20.00        .....

If you are not coming for the full weekend please specify the days/times  
for which you are booking

.....

**Cheque payable to “Miss J Walmsley – The Sibyls” enclosed ..... £**

Any special dietary requirements? .....

Any other special needs? .....

Do you need help with transport to Whaley Hall? .....

Can you offer a lift to someone? .....

***Please send this form with your cheque to Elen Heart, address above, ASAP***