



SIBYLS NEWS

THE SIBYLS

Christian Spirituality Group for Gender Variant People

BM Sibyls, London WC1N 3XX

www.sibyls.co.uk E-mail: info@sibyls.co.uk

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:8-11

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

OUR RULE

Members must respect the security of each and every other member, and must never jeopardise that security.

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are contemplating or recovering from surgery, and those struggling with transition.

All those who cannot for whatever reason take the course of action their heart desires.

All those known to us who are in any kind of need,
and those with disabilities or who are suffering from physical or emotional pain.

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Newsletters, both posted and emailed, have been undeliverable.

I realise that the Newsletter may well be a lifeline for some people, but to avoid waste,

**Please do keep me informed of changes of contact details.**

You can contact me at: [hjmather.24@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hjmather.24@tiscali.co.uk) or on 0115 9226450

Thank you to all who help to keep cost down by receiving the Newsletter by email.  
Please let me know if you would like to receive your copy by email.  
We will still send a paper version if you prefer.

Please note that views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or of Sibyls in general.

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HELEN'S THOUGHTS

Well, after a good start last time, this Newsletter has been rather a disappointment for me. I'm afraid it's a very thin issue. Come on, where are you all? Please send in your contributions: your Newsletter couldn't exist without them.

Bookings for the weekend at Whaley Hall have also been very slow to come in: there are four firm bookings and just a couple of "maybes" so far. Whaley Hall has always been a popular venue; it would be a pity if we didn't have a spring weekend this year due to lack of support. Don't let us down.

Another traditional event will take place (weather permitting!) this summer: Jay has her annual Garden Party in July. She has also sent the treasurer's report for the last year.

I expect we have all been following the recent important developments in the Roman Catholic and Anglican traditions very closely. In Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby we have two men of great humility and commitment. I think the Christian church can expect to see good things in the future: watch this space!

A happy and blessed Easter to you all. Let's hope for some spring weather soon!

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|                                                            |                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2013 | Whaley Hall, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire            |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2014 | The Windermere Centre, Windermere, Cumbria        |
| <i>Autumn 2014</i>                                         | <i>St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, Flintshire</i> |

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REGULAR MEETINGS

LONDON a few members gather on the second Thursday of every second month at 5.30 for a Service at St Anne's, Dean Street, Soho, followed by a meal together.

Future dates are 11th April, 13th June, 8th August, 10th October and 12th December.

MANCHESTER events in the North-West and North Wales are organised by Jenny-Anne jennyannebuk@yahoo.co.uk and Elen elen.heart@btinternet.com.

OTHER INCLUSIVE CHURCHES

Metropolitan Community Churches throughout the world embrace diversity.

In the UK there are churches in North London, South London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Dorchester, Torbay, Bath and Newcastle. See ufmcc.com/ for details.

CARDIFF City United Reformed Church (www.cityurc.org.uk), Windsor Place, Cardiff, CF10 2BZ, 029 2022 5190, Sunday service at 10.30am.

BRIGHTON Dorset Gardens Methodist Church (www.dgmc.org.uk),
Dorset Gardens, Brighton, BN2 1RL, 01273 605 502.

OXFORD St Columba's United Reformed Church (www.saintcolumbas.org/),
Alfred Street, Oxford, OX1 4EH, Sunday service at 10.45

EXETER Southernhay United Reformed Church (www.southernhaychurch.org/),
Dix's Field, Exeter, EX1 1QA, Sunday service at 10.30am.

LONDON St Luke's Parish Church (www.chelseaparish.org/),
Sydney Street, London, SW3 6NH, 020 7351 7365.

St James, Piccadilly (www.st-james-piccadilly.org/),
St James's Church 197 Piccadilly London W1J 9LL / 020 7734 4511

Soho Masses (www.sohomasses.com/),
Church of the Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick Street, London, W1B 5NB

Many other inclusive churches may be found by going to the Inclusive Church website
(www.inclusivechurch2.net/) and clicking on Churches.

Please do let me know of any other inclusive or welcoming Churches and I will do my best
to include details in future Newsletters.

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### **SIBYLS LISTENING SERVICE**

People prepared to listen to others are one of God's greatest gifts to us. We are fortunate  
in having some members who are happy to listen to you and chat with you. Please  
remember that we are not trained to give advice – but a problem shared in confidence  
often seems less of a burden. The listening service really does work so if you want  
someone with whom to talk with, why not call one of the following volunteers?

|              |               |                   |               |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Jenny Bond   | 01623 836 662 | Jenny-Anne Bishop | 01745 337 144 |
| Helen Mather | 0115 922 6450 | Carol Moore       | 01625 858 487 |
| Jay Walmsley | 020 8763 0146 |                   |               |

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JAY'S GARDEN PARTY – SATURDAY 6 JULY 2013 AT WHYTELEAFE

The garden party will be going ahead as usual and I hope that you will come along and
enjoy it. Weather permitting, a time for summer dresses and shady hats. We start at
about four o'clock with tea and cake. I am delighted that the Rev'd Martin Kelly will again
be with us to preside over the communion service which follows. After that there will be
the buffet with wine and good cheer. With luck the weather will be kind and we can be
outside. Think communion service under the trees, sun slanting through the branches.
Let's hope it will happen again. All Sibyls and partners and friends are welcome as ever.
For catering purposes, if you are going to come, please let me know. 020 8763 0146

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### **TREASURER'S REPORT - ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012**

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012 are circulated herewith to all  
members. I would like to make a few comments.

The finances are quite healthy, mainly due to large donations which have been made to us  
in the past. Advance bookings tend to obscure the picture but our running costs on the  
box number and the newsletter of £296 were not covered by the donations of £178. Of  
those donations, much came from well-wishers who are not actually members of Sibyls. It  
is time that you donated a little more to the running of what after all is your group.

Sibyls is and always has been run on a shoestring; it takes little to keep us going - every small donation helps. The begging bowl is being shaken.

If you are able to take the newsletter by email, this does mean that it can be sent out free of cost, which is quite a saving.

The weekend financially washed its face, as it should. Sadly numbers were down but those who did go valued it greatly. We have to be selective and go to houses that are prepared to take smaller numbers, which thankfully Whaley Hall and Windermere do. Why not take advantage and go and enjoy a weekend?

It is sad to see that for another year we have not supported anyone who wants to go to a weekend and who needs a little financial help to be able to do so. The facility is there, confidential, and to be used. All you have to do is to talk to me.

### THE SIBYLS RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

|                                                             | 2012<br>£ | 2012<br>£       | 2011<br>£ | 2011<br>£       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| <b>Spring Meeting 2012 Windermere,<br/>2011 Whaley Hall</b> |           |                 |           |                 |
| Receipts from members                                       | 1,635.00  |                 | 2,125.00  |                 |
| Advance booking from previous year                          | 135.00    |                 | -         |                 |
| Use of group funds                                          | -         |                 | -         |                 |
| Paid to House                                               | 1,768.00  |                 | 2,040.00  |                 |
| Other expenses                                              |           |                 | 61.36     |                 |
| Surplus/(Deficit)                                           |           | <u>2.00</u>     |           | <u>23.64</u>    |
| <b>Autumn Meeting at Holland House</b>                      |           |                 |           |                 |
| Receipts from members                                       | -         |                 | 1,080.00  |                 |
| Paid to house                                               | -         |                 | 1,080.00  |                 |
| Surplus/(Deficit)                                           |           | -               |           | -               |
| Advance booking for Windermere                              |           | 135.00          |           | 135.00          |
| Donations                                                   |           | 178.00          |           | 404.90          |
| Use of group funds for members<br>to attend meetings        |           | -               |           | -               |
| Newsletter duplication and envelopes                        | - 103.48  |                 | - 161.60  |                 |
| Newsletter postage                                          | - 126.80  |                 | - 130.39  |                 |
|                                                             |           | - 230.28        |           | - 291.99        |
| British Monomarks box number                                |           | - 65.80         |           | - 65.80         |
| <b>CASH SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>                               |           | <u>- 251.08</u> |           | <u>205.75</u>   |
| Opening balance at HSBC Bank                                |           | <u>1,714.89</u> |           | <u>1,509.14</u> |
| <b>Closing balance at HSBC Bank</b>                         |           | <u>1,463.81</u> |           | <u>1,714.89</u> |
| Made up of:-                                                |           |                 |           |                 |
| <b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>                                       |           | 1,463.81        |           | 1,579.89        |
| Windermere advance booking                                  |           | -               |           | 135.00          |
|                                                             |           | <u>1,463.81</u> |           | <u>1,714.89</u> |
| The movement in Members' Funds is made up of:-              |           |                 |           |                 |
| Opening balance                                             |           | 1,579.89        |           | 1,509.14        |
| Cash Surplus/(Deficit)                                      |           | -251.08         |           | 205.75          |
| Advance booking                                             |           | 135.00          |           | -135.00         |
| Closing balance                                             |           | <u>1,463.81</u> |           | <u>1,579.89</u> |

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

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THE SIBYLS

Christian Spirituality Group for Gender Variant People



5 Rylands Court
Barton Street
Beeston
NOTTINGHAM
NG9 1JX



0115 9226450
hjmather.24@tiscali.co.uk

WEEKEND AT Whaley Hall, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire Friday 17th - Sunday 19th May 2013

Name.
Single/twin room (delete as appropriate)
Name of other occupant
Willing to share with
Address
.....
.....
 Telephone
 Email

Please reserve the following number of places

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|-------|
| <i>Full weekend</i> | <i>Friday night to Sunday lunch</i> | <i>£125.00</i> | |
| <i>24 hour overnight</i> | <i>afternoon to lunch</i> | <i>£ 60.00</i> | |
| <i>Day visitor</i> | <i>all meals.</i> | <i>£ 30.00</i> | |
| | <i>Lunch or evening meal and tea/coffee</i> | <i>£ 20.00</i> | |

If you are not coming for the full weekend please specify the dates/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?
Can you offer a lift to someone?

Please send this form with your cheque to Helen Mather, address above