



Inclusive Church

Annual Review 2023



National Coordinator's report



As you can see from the photos on the front of this annual review, I have been fortunate enough to visit some very special churches and places this year, including the two pictured at the bottom of the collage. On the left, I am standing with Rev Mike Nelson, the vicar of Holy Trinity Gillingham. When I preached on inclusion there, I received the first ovation I've ever received in my time at IC! The church just 'got it'. A very lovely place to be with wonderful people. The photo on the right was taken on Lindisfarne with Rev Diana Johnson, who very kindly put all of my family up overnight so that I could visit her church at Riding Mill and not be away from my wife and son all weekend!

Last year, we were present at Greenbelt again, after a sad two-year hiatus. In the picture on the top right, you can see me beaming at the camera with stall volunteer Nic Tall, who many of you will know from his various roles at Modern Church, IC and Synod. This year, we will no longer share a stall with our long-term partner, WATCH, as they have decided to do a stall alone. This has opened up the opportunity at Greenbelt 2023 for a partnership with Modern Church again (we shared three-way with WATCH and Modern Church a few years ago). As Nic is now working as an administrator at Modern Church, you can come and say hi to us both again this year!

The final photo on the collage is of our successful hybrid AGM and Annual Lecture at St John's Waterloo. You can see that the Chair, Dan Barnes-Davies, is introducing the speaker, Canon Rachel Mann. It was hybrid in multiple ways, with half the audience at St John's, half the audience on Zoom and the speaker speaking on a big screen from Zoom as well! If you were one of the people who sadly missed Rachel's talk, you can watch it again on our YouTube channel. It is well worth a listen.

This was the first full year of our new online directory and donations scheme. Thank you all so much for your generosity! I can't remember another year since I joined when we had a huge surplus rather than a deficit. When I arrived in 2018, the treasurer was worried we would fold as a charity within 5 years, and now look at us! What a wonderful year to turn it all around financially too. This year, we're celebrating our 20th anniversary – incredible but true! Look out for our anniversary book 'How to Build the Church of the Future', which SCM Press are publishing at the end of September. You can already pre-order it on the publisher's website.

Have a great 2023-24, everyone.

R Wilde

Ruth Wilde, National Coordinator

Highlights of 2022/23

142

Churches signed up as inclusive churches in the past year

Inclusive Church directory growth

The number of churches who want to work on being inclusive to all continues to grow rapidly, and includes all denominations from Baptist churches to Church of Scotland churches.

43

Regional ambassadors

Regional ambassadors

There are 43 regional ambassadors working across 12 regions (and countries), from Scotland to the South-West. To find out more, see the website: www.inclusive-church.org/regional-ambassadors

1

New Book

SCM Press to publish new IC book

This year, in September, a new book will be coming out, to celebrate 20 years of the work of Inclusive Church. It is called 'How to Build the Church of the Future' and you can pre-order it already.

800

Churches in the network

Inclusive Churches

We now have over 800 churches in the network. We love hearing about the work of our network churches on the ground.

The Inclusive Church Lecture

The Inclusive Church Annual Lecture provides an opportunity for a leading theologian or commentator to reflect on the nature of inclusion.

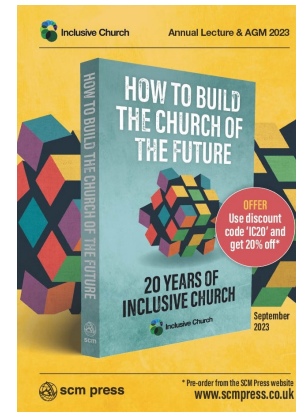
Previous lectures were given by Anthony Reddie, Linda Woodhead, David Ison, Michael Jagessar, Ruth Hunt and Sam Wells, among others.



The 2023 Annual Lecture took place at St John's Waterloo and online, and the lecturer was Canon Rachel Mann. Her talk was entitled 'Finding Hope in the Fragility of God'. The talk is available to watch on our YouTube channel.

Books and Resources

IC Books and Resources



Inclusive Church has brought out a brand new book called 'How to Build the Church of the Future'. It will be published in September 2023 and can be pre-ordered on the SCM Press website.

There are also other books for sale on the IC website and small group resources to go alongside these, which are downloadable from the website for free. Check out all our resources under the 'Resources' tab.

The Disability Conferences



Since 2012, Inclusive Church has run an annual conference on disability and church, in partnership with St Martin in the Fields.

In 2020 we moved online, hosted by HeartEdge. This opened up the conference to those unable to attend due to health or geography. We will continue to hold the conference online going forward, whether that is entirely online or hybrid.

These events are uniquely run *for* and *by* disabled people rather than being simply *about* disability. Disabled people are the majority of the conference planning team, speakers and delegates. It has become a space to gather to resource each other and the church.

The date for 2023's conference is **14th October**. To sign up for updates or to listen to and read talks from previous conferences, go to the disability page of the website: <https://www.inclusive-church.org/topics/disability> or follow [@livingedgeconf](https://twitter.com/livingedgeconf) on Twitter.

Partners and Volunteers

Regional Ambassadors

We couldn't do as much as we do without the voluntary efforts of the Regional Ambassadors all around the country.

Our annual ambassadors' training was online again in 2022 and was led by Ruth, who tried to cater it to what the ambassadors themselves said they needed. At the training, a new role description was drawn up by the ambassadors themselves. It can be found here: <https://www.inclusive-church.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Role-description-Ambassador.pdf>

Partnership Work

Work continues with partners, whether on General Synod or at Greenbelt Festival. We are part of several active groupings which aim to coordinate work and have the biggest impact on the work of inclusion in the Church.

The partners who currently have a trustee named on our board are: WATCH (Women and the Church), Open Table, Modern Church and Student Christian Movement.

Summary of Financial Activities for year ending 31 December 2022

Incoming Resources	Total 2022 (£)	Total 2021 (£)
Donations and grants	48,372	37,122
Charitable activities	442	387
Fundraising and other income	177	475
Total Incoming Resources	49,050	37,984

Resources Used	Total 2022 (£)	Total 2021 (£)
Cost of fundraising	216	416
Charitable activities	32,044	30,588
Governance costs	639	550
<i>Net operating surplus (deficit)</i>	16,151	6,430
Balance carried forward	28,039	23,415

Certified statements of financial activity presented to our AGM are available on our website and the Charity Commissions website. For financial matters contact our Treasurer: office@inclusive-church.org - please quote FINANCE as the subject.

Vision statement and contact information



The Inclusive Church vision is as follows:

"We believe in inclusive Church - a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to

discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

How to get in touch

Registered Office:

The Warehouse,
54-57 Allison Street,
Digbeth,
Birmingham,
B5 5TH.

Ruth Wilde
National Coordinator

T: 07935 374877

E: office@inclusive-church.org

W: www.inclusive-church.org