

BREAKING OUT

Our first National Conference

We are not alone. We are growing. And we can help each other.

Saturday 11 July 2026 • All Saints Church, Wolverhampton



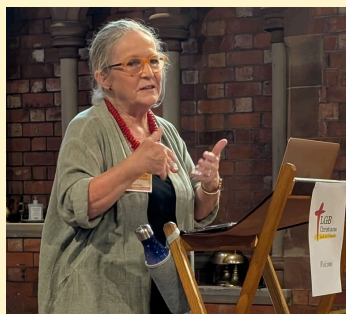
LGB Christians First National Conference. Keynote speaker Professor Tina Beattie (centre front row.)

30th July 2026

Dear Friends,

It was a pleasure to see you in Wolverhampton earlier this month for our first National Conference. We hope you find this summary of our time together an encouraging reminder of why the issues we are facing matter so much.

And why **NOW** is the time for us to **break out**, see that **we are not alone**, that support for our stance is **growing** and that **we can help each other**.



“We enjoyed a rousing keynote from Professor Tina Beattie...”

writes **Mark Chater**, noting that group activities reflected on scripture, while strategy sessions helped define a course for LGBC. Everyone who came found the day meaningful, encouraging, inspiring and supportive.



What we heard from one another

We reflected on some of Jesus's sayings in Matthew's Gospel and made connections with our own experience. Here is a small sample of what people shared.

♦ Sharing experiences of couples and individuals made to feel unwelcome in church because of being gay or lesbian, or being gender critical.	♦ Recognising the impact of hearing comments such as "Can I pray over you?" and "You must divorce your [same-sex] wife".
♦ Exploring what it feels like to be confronted by questions and comments such as: "Are you having sex?", "This is an inclusive space — you can't say that you are same-sex attracted", or "We are not ready for you yet."	♦ Christians picking and choosing which parts of scripture they wish to apply, and weaponising scripture against people.
♦ "I long for a church that doesn't practise bibliolatry."	♦ Being told to "be kind!" when others are being pious rather than kind — and being treated as unkind when we do not share their views.
♦ We long to be treated with respect and openness: to be respected as equals, and to live without judgement, discrimination or shame.	♦ I long for a church that recognises the validity and pre-eminence of love and justice in relationships, especially gay marriage.
♦ We are working for the end of "No Debate" among Quakers. We would like more LGB gender-critical people to join us.	♦ We have generally suffered a lot, but we remain open and loving.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Christians are a sign of the expansiveness of the Kingdom of Heaven

In various ways it was expressed that we show the church a sign of the expansiveness of the Kingdom of Heaven. We do this through our commitment to follow the teachings of Christ, so that our relationships and committed partnerships can become vehicles for healthy human evolution and growth; that they may become a container for creative responses and action in our families and communities; and through the strength, forgiveness, humility and faith we live out in the face of continued marginalisation and rejection.

We were very grateful to receive the concluding prayer from our host, Rev Ray Gaston, which we share here with you. The prayer is a reassuring reminder of the courage, refuge and strength available to us in the presence of God, within our hearts. Courage and strength that we shall surely need to persevere and prevail.

A CONCLUDING PRAYER from Rev Ray Gaston

"Holy and steadfast God, you gather your people from the places where they have been pushed aside, spoken against, or treated as unwelcome. You are the refuge and strength of the oppressed, and so we come before you as LGB Christians in the UK, seeking your courage, your clarity and your peace."

We bring before you the reality we face: the hostility directed at us for holding sex-based convictions; the attempts to silence our voices; the campaigns that misrepresent our lives; and the fear that speaking the truth can lead to exclusion or attack. Give us the courage to face these trials, the strength to persevere, and the trust and hope that your justice will prevail."

Conference moments



Professor Tina Beattie delivering the keynote address.

With gratitude

We owe a big debt of gratitude to our host and organising team; to the stewards who made everything run smoothly; to the security professionals who kept us safe; to the church for welcoming us; to Tina for inspiring us; and to everyone who came and formed an instant community.

A fuller report is coming

A full report will be added to the website soon, including a recording of Professor Tina Beattie's complete address with slides...

In the meantime, here is **Philomena Heffernan's** first sketch of her personal memories of our day together.

Visit the [LGB Christians website](http://lgbchristians.org.uk) to read her account and keep up to date with all the latest news and events.

Standing up for our community - Urgent Action

As you will be aware, LGB Christians was one of [51 organisations](#) targeted by an [Amnesty UK](#) report published three days before the conference. Amnesty has since, quite rightly, found itself on the defensive. We have no intention of allowing our integrity and reputation to be called into question. Further on in this summary, we highlight other [regressive threats](#) that spring from what we are maintaining are **basic and deeply damaging misunderstandings** at best and **abuses of the most heinous nature**, at worst. We will publish our response to Amnesty as soon as possible.

Background reading

[Sex Matters: "Amnesty faces backlash"](#)

[The Amnesty UK report \(PDF\)](#)

Please donate to help us challenge what we regard as defamatory accusations and secure a suitable public apology. This will require us paying tightly controlled and only absolutely necessary legal costs.

MAKE A DONATION



We Are Under Attack; Preparing to Campaign

The Amnesty report is not the only regressive threat we are facing. There is also the **Puberty Blocker Trial** and the proposed **Conversion Practices Bill**, both of which we believe are homophobic in practice and carry very serious health and safeguarding risks.

The Puberty Blocker Trial - James Esses

Read and consider the parliamentary petition calling for scrutiny of the trial.

[View the petition](#)

The Conversion Practices Bill - Dermot Kehoe

Read an analysis arguing that the draft bill is unnecessary, illiberal and politically motivated.

[Read the analysis](#)

Labour's War on Gay Rights - Andrew Doyle

Find out how the proposed new **Conversion Practices Bill** risks reviving attempts at conversion of Lesbian, Gay and Bixexual **men and women** in the attempts to protect **Trans people** from a threat that has little data to back it up.

[Read the article](#)

Latest from the Website



Our Lady of the Dancefloor: Madonna as the gay mother — and divine medium

Since our last newsletter, our columnist **Benjamin Morse** (who was at the conference) has written a reflective piece for us.

“My musings on the potentially trite topic of why the Queen of Pop has been such a significant figure for gay men centre around my experience of her as a Christian forging his way through the fragmentation and rootlessness of contemporary life.” - **Benjamin Morse**

[READ BENJAMIN'S ARTICLE](#)



Stuck in the Middle with You

Philomena Heffernan shares her personal memories of the day with her own opinion on Tina's memorable contribution.

“Professor Tina Beattie’s keynote was the highlight. She opened with Stealers Wheel’s ‘Stuck in the Middle with You’ — appropriate to our shared experience of long-standing Christian condemnation, now joined by newer marginalisation, even within church communities, for questioning the prioritisation of gender identity over biological sex.

‘It comes at a high cost to speak out - but it would be a far higher cost not to.’

Tina Beattie

That line captured the day’s quiet courage. She called theologians to take the gender debate seriously and to bring a robust Christian understanding of the body back into the conversation.”

READ PHILOMENA'S
ARTICLE

Spread the Word!



We'd be very pleased if you would like copies of our flyer to share and distribute.
Just let us know the quantity, 10/20/30 and we'll post them.



LGB Christians and our friends
Challenging Homophobia: *Championing Freedom, Faith & Sex-Based Rights*
27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3AX
info@lgbchristians.org.uk

We couldn't be doing what we're doing without the help, talent and dedication of volunteers. **Thank you to all who have given and who continue to give time, skills and talent.** If you wish to know more about volunteering opportunities please let me know.

We hope you returned home pleased and stimulated by the day.

Thank you for journeying with us.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Kirker
Secretary
LGB Christians

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