

DRAFT
**Responding to the Sacred:
Gender and Liturgy in Conversation
University of Stirling, Iris Murdoch Conference Suite**

Members of the SEC Liturgy Committee are organising a conference, *Responding to the Sacred: Gender and Liturgy in Conversation* in May 2020. This two-day conference will bring together theologian and liturgist practitioners but also activists, academics and scholars of gender to discuss directions for liturgical revision.

The conference is planned for Friday 29 and Saturday 30 May, 2020. The lead organiser is Dr Alison Jasper (Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Stirling) and a member of the SEC Liturgy Committee. The conference will include plenary sessions with notable speakers from the perspectives of both academic and practitioner theologians and liturgists.

The following have confirmed their willingness to speak/respond.

Dr Bridget Nichols (Church of Ireland Theological Institute) is a lecturer in Anglicanism and Liturgy and a member of Societas Liturgica. She has published widely in this area.

Professor Lisa Isherwood (University of Winchester) is Director of the Institute for Theological Partnerships and Professor of Feminist Liberation Theologies at the University of Winchester, UK. She writes and teaches on religion, gender & sexuality, biblical studies and feminist theology.

Professor Beverley Clack (Oxford Brookes University) is Professor in the Philosophy of Religion. She is a member of the Executive Board for the journal *Feminist Theology*, and a member of the Methodist Church. Her article 'On Returning to Church' in *Modern Believing*, July 2016 (pp. 229-240) describes her return to Church after a long period of absence. From 2012-16 she was City Councillor for St Clements Ward in Oxford, and from 2016-2018 she was a member of the Labour Party's National Policy Forum. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

The Revd Dr Merete Thomassen (Lutheran Church of Norway, and University of Oslo) is an Associate Professor in Liturgical Studies at the Faculty of Theology. She wrote her PhD thesis on gender and liturgy with reference to the ecumenical decade of churches in solidarity with women 1988-1998 and was closely involved in liturgical revision in Norway in the first decade of the 21st century. She is currently visiting fellow at the University of Glasgow during Spring 2020.

The Revd Dr Marion Chatterley (SEC) is Vice Provost at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. She is honorary LGBTQ+ chaplain at the University of Edinburgh, co-facilitates a monthly LGBTQ+ and spirituality group and has a ministry amongst people who are living long-term with HIV. She is already involved in encouraging conversations on a theology of gender identity within the Diocese.

Dr Bill Paterson (PhD) (Be Mindful Fife) is a mindfulness coach. He has worked at the front line of mental health in Fife; teaching Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy; Mindfulness Based Living Course; Compassion Based Living Course for young people (11-18 year old). Between 2016-17 he spent 18 months on secondment to CAMHS, and continues to work with LAAC. He is also interested in the subject of masculinities and has considerable practical experience of running men's groups.

Dr Armand Léon Van Ommen (SEC & University of Aberdeen) is a lecturer in practical theology at the University of Aberdeen and a member of the SEC Liturgy Committee. His research focuses on liturgy, ritual, narrative, suffering and reconciliation. Recently he has been developing an interest in liturgy through the eyes of those who are autistic.

The Revd Dr Harriet Harris (SEC and University of Edinburgh) is a philosopher of religion and University Chaplain and Head of the Chaplaincy Service at the University of Edinburgh.

Session Chairs:

tbc

Conference outcomes?

- Identification of key issues/protocols to guide the process of liturgical reform going forward 2020-2024
- Identification of liturgical consultants (formation of a network)
- Identification of editorial team for edit

APPENDIX 1: DRAFT PROGRAMME

Responding to the Sacred: Gender and Liturgy in Conversation

Friday 29– Saturday 30 May 2020 – Iris Murdoch Suite and Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling

FRIDAY 29 MAY

12.30–14.00 Registration & Buffet Lunch

14.00–15.00 **First Panel – Made in God’s Image**

Beverley Clack & Harriet Harries: Beverley will talk about questions raised in relation to the (gendered) nature of God and humankind and Harriet will respond.....

Chair: Ann Tomlinson?

15.00–15.30 Tea, Coffee, Biscuits

15.30–16.30 **Second Panel – Responding to the Masculine**

Bill Paterson and Léon Van Ommen. Bill Paterson will talk about questions raised in relation to the changing nature of masculinity and his work with men’s groups. Léon Van Ommen will respond in terms of how this might be integrated into the discussion of liturgical change.

Chair: Jenny Holden?

18.30-20.00 Conference Reception & Dinner – Stirling Court Hotel

SATURDAY 30 MAY

10.00-11.00 **Third Panel – Contextualising**

Bridget Nichols and Merete Thomassen: Bridget Nichols will give an overview of gender and liturgy in the wider Anglican Communion to provide the context for discussion and Merete Thomassen will respond drawing on her experience of liturgical revision in the Lutheran Church in Norway.

Chair: David Jasper

11.00-11.30 Tea, Coffee, Biscuits

11.30-12.30 **Fourth Panel – Embodiment**

Lisa Isherwood and Marion Chatterley: Lisa Isherwood will talk about body and feminist theology from her experience of teaching and academic leadership over many years, and Marion will respond.....

Chair: Iain Paton?

12.30–13.30 Buffet Lunch

13.30-14.45 **Reporting Back: Things to Think About** (Elaine Cameron?)

14.45-15.30 **Liturgy. Modelling some ideas** (Carrie Applegarth, Emily Aldritt?)

15.30-16.00 Tea, Coffee, Biscuits & Departure.

