

Why I am still an Evangelical Christian

The Evangelical Fellowship for Lesbian and Gay Christians

Welcomes people of all sexual orientations and any gender identity

Our aims are:

To **support** evangelical Christians who know that they are homosexual, or who are seeking to explore their sexuality.

To **help** other evangelical Christians to re-examine their understanding of sexuality.

To **encourage** members to **witness** to their faith to others who are homosexual, and to **witness** to their conviction about human sexuality within the Church.

What we offer

Residential weekend conferences twice a year, with discussion on relevant themes, prayer and worship.

A quarterly newsletter (including a prayer corner) and various other publications.

Telephone link persons who act as a point of contact for members.

Liaison with other similar Christian groups in the UK and worldwide.

Affirm (the Baptist Network)

Statement of Affirmation

We affirm that Jesus' saving grace extends to all people and that this includes lesbians, gay men and members of other sexual minorities.

We believe that 'human sexuality in all its richness is a gift from God gladly to be accepted, enjoyed and honoured as a way of both expressing and growing in love, in accordance with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.'

We wish to recognise and affirm those who believe that it is compatible with the Christian faith not only to love another adult of the same sex, but also to express that love fully in a mutual, faithful sexual relationship.

We acknowledge that this is not the view of all Christians, and are conscious of Jesus' prayer (John 17 vv 20-23) that we should seek to be at one with each other.

We believe that it is consistent with our understanding of the priesthood of all believers that each Christian should seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, through prayer, study and in fellowship with the Church, in using God's gift of their sexuality responsibly.

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A SPECIAL AUTUMN CONFERENCE CONVENED JOINTLY BY

The Evangelical Fellowship for Lesbian and Gay Christians
AND
Affirm (the Baptist Network)

Led by: Roy Clements and Avril Mackenzie-Parr

Friday 24th to Sunday 26th October 2014

Holland House, Crothorne, Worcestershire



Holland House is a Retreat, Conference and Laitry Centre that has been used many times by EF.

The main building is a beautiful old Tudor building, with well kept gardens on the banks of the River Severn, in the picturesque village of Crothorne, Worcestershire.

Note that you do not need to be a member of either group to attend this conference.

For information about future conferences visit:

<http://www.eflgc.org.uk/events.asp#Forthcoming>

or phone John on 020 8411 0040.



A life-long Baptist, Avril Mackenzie-Parr still worships in the church building that she was dedicated in as a baby and baptized at the age of 15. As a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, Girls' Brigade captain and regular preacher she has spent much of her life conforming to traditional evangelical Christianity.

Now in a Civil Partnership with Nerina, her partner of 6 years, she and her church have been challenged to look at what it means to be gay and Christian and it hasn't always been an easy journey.

Now part of a new project, where two Baptist churches have joined together to become 'One Church Brighton' with an inclusive ethos, she is working with the new leadership team to see how this can work in reality with love and grace.

The head of politics at a local sixth form college, Avril loves to kick off her 'sensible' shoes of an evening and watch episodes of the West Wing, Mad Men or House of Cards – but as a closet astronaut she would really like to take a spin in Apollo 11 or the USS Voyager!



As a young man, Roy was a research chemist at Imperial College London which is where he got his doctorate. Then, sensing the call of God on his life, he left science to study at London Bible College in Northwood. After three years working with students in university, Christian Unions and then four years as assistant pastor of Nairobi Baptist Church in Kenya, in 1979 he became senior pastor of Eden Baptist Church in Cambridge. Over the next twenty years, the congregation flourished with many students being drawn to Roy's biblical expositions every Sunday morning.

However, in 1999 everything fell apart. His marriage broke down. His books were stripped from the shelves of Christian bookstores. His reputation was in tatters. The reason for this extraordinary reversal? Roy had confessed his homosexual orientation to his wife and a few Christian friends, and they had outed him to the national press. In spite of the public hostility of many in the conservative Christian constituency where he had formerly been a respected leader, Roy has always maintained that his evangelical theological convictions are unchanged.

BOOKING FORM: EF/Affirm Autumn Conference

Friday 24th October 2014 to Sunday 26th October 2014

Holland House, Pershore, Worcestershire

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode Telephone no.

e-mail address

Accommodation preferences: I am willing/we wish to share a room

No Yes (*for couples*)

Yes, with (*name*)

Please book early for your best chance of getting your preference

If you have any special dietary requirements please indicate below.

.....

Data Protection Act: I give permission for the information contained on this form to be used for mailing and booking for the above conference

Signed Date

CONFIRMATION and CONFERENCE PACK, which will include requests for information (lifts, other needs, Friday late arrivals) and, where necessary, a request for the payment of the balance of conference fees, will be sent out no later than mid- September.

If you have any queries, please contact James:

tel. 01234 217655 e-mail: jamesrbeauch@cantab.net

*Return the completed form **with deposit** (non-returnable) to secure your place, or with **full payment** if you wish, to:*

**EF/Affirm Conference 03/14,
24 Grenadier Close, Bedford. MK41 7GG**

Final payments must be received by Fri 3rd September 2014 at very latest.
If this will cause difficulties please call to discuss possibilities.

I/we wish to come to the **EF/Affirm Autumn Conference at Holland House**

from **Friday 24th October to Sunday 26th October 2014**

for **Saturday 25th October 2014 only**

I/we enclose a cheque/postal order for £ payable to **EFLGC**

deposit (minimum **£35** per person but from 3rd September please pay full amount)

full fee of **£160 per person** for the whole weekend

full fee of **£55 per person** for the Saturday only (including coffee/tea, lunch and dinner)

full fee of **£45 per person** for the Saturday only (including coffee/tea, lunch no dinner)

a donation to the **Agape Fund** in order to help someone else to attend

I/we wish to apply for assistance with the conference fee

I/we can pay £