

## A 'trans & Christian' trilogy that began with the Sibyls' Book.



When Tina Beardsley and Michelle O'Brien co-edited 'the Sibyls book', *This is my body: Hearing the theology of transgender Christians*, published by Darton Longman & Todd in 2016 they had little inkling that it would become Volume 1 of a trilogy. But this is what has happened!

You can purchase the paperback of *This is my body* on the DLT website:

<http://dltbooks.com/titles/2168-9780232532067-this-is-my-body>

and if you prefer an ebook, clicking 'buy now' on the DLT page will take you to this Amazon page where it is available in Kindle or paperback formats at bargain prices:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=9780232532661&i=stripbooks&tag=dlt0a-21>

*Transfaith: a transgender pastoral resource* authored by Chris Dowd and Tina, and based on Chris's doctoral research, was published by Darton, Longman & Todd two years later in 2018.

<http://dltbooks.com/titles/2218-9780232533118-transfaith>

Again, the Kindle version of *Transfaith* is available at a discount price just now at Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=9780232533125&i=stripbooks&tag=dlt0a-21>

Now Tina and Chris have authored a third volume, *Trans Affirming Churches: How To Celebrate Gender-Variant People and Their Loved Ones* which has just been published (March 2020) by Jessica Kingsley Publishers. The book includes practical advice for churches

about how to make Christian communities safe and welcoming for trans people and their loved ones and is based on workshops held in the north and south of England.

There is a 20% discount if you buy *Trans Affirming Churches* from the Jessica Kingsley website using this code: TAK20 and which is valid up until the end of the year.

Here is the book on the JKP website:

<https://www.jkp.com/uk/catalogsearch/result/?q=Trans+Affirming+Churches>

Amazon currently has £2 off *Trans Affirming Churches*

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Guide-Including-Trans-People-Church/dp/1785925326/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=EKGW7ZWL3ORB&dchild=1&keywords=trans+affirming+churches&qid=1587639983&srefix=trans+affirming+%2Caps%2C147&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Guide-Including-Trans-People-Church/dp/1785925326/ref=sr_1_1?crid=EKGW7ZWL3ORB&dchild=1&keywords=trans+affirming+churches&qid=1587639983&srefix=trans+affirming+%2Caps%2C147&sr=8-1)

And at Blackwells online it's available as an e-book (full price) and for £1 off – and free postage - as a paperback:

<https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/Trans-Affirming-Churches-by-Chris-Dowd-author-Christina-Beardsley-author/9781785925320>

**Buy books and support the Sibyls:** the royalties from *This is My Body & Transfaith* come to the Sibyls so please buy these books to support our work. Thank you.

The Sibyls is a UK-based confidential Christian spirituality group for transgender people, intersex people, their partners and their supporters. We also welcome intersex people. The Sibyls offers companionship along the journey, and information/advocacy to churches.

All who support us are welcome. The Sibyls is an inclusive Christian group. We just ask that you abide by the ethos and purpose of the group and are on the same spiritual journey. No subscription is asked for. No conformity with specific faiths, creeds or doctrines is required.

For more details see the Sibyls website [www.sibyls.co.uk](http://www.sibyls.co.uk)

Or email us in total confidence at [enquiries@sibyls.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sibyls.co.uk)

## Details of each book follow

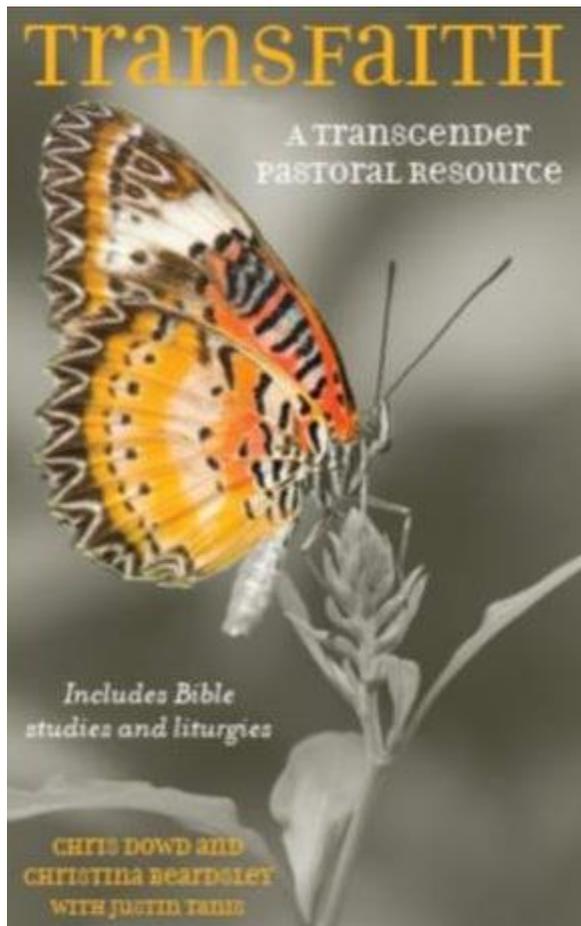
New Book for the Sibyls and their supporters.  
*Trans Affirming Churches: How to Celebrate  
Gender-Variant People and Their Loved Ones*  
19 Mar. 2020  
by Tina Beardsley & Chris Dowd



We are all aware that there remains a lack of knowledge and understanding about trans people in the church, and how we, as trans people who are religious, can experience bias in our faith communities. With the help of their many years of experience working with trans people negotiating their relationships with religious institutions, the authors (one of whom is trans) have created this accessible, valuable guide that will educate and improve churches' relationship with trans people. Combining first-hand interviews, Chris and Tina's own experiences and scripture analysis, this thought-provoking guide uses this combination of ancient and contemporary stories to outline a theology that welcomes and includes all people whatever their gender identity or sexual orientation. Written from this inclusive Christian perspective, the book answers questions about trans people that are specific to church communities. The book is available from all good booksellers. Please buy the book, share with others and encourage others to buy the book.

Paperback: 176 pages: Publisher: Jessica Kingsley Publishers (19 Mar. 2020)  
ISBN-10: 1785925326 ISBN-13: 978-1785925320

This is the third book in a series. [Click Here](#) for information on all three books



## *Transfaith: A Transgender Pastoral Resource*

by Chris Dowd &  
Christina Beardsley with  
Justin Tanis

*Transfaith: a transgender pastoral resource* was published by DLT in March 2018. Just like the Sibyls' book' *This is my body: Hearing the theology of transgender Christians*, which has sold well, the royalties from the sales of *Transfaith* will go the Sibyls. So... the more books you buy and promote the better off the Sibyls will be!

Based around the findings of Chris's research into twelve trans people's spirituality, the book

also includes:

- A chapter on trans terminology – how it's evolved, the current surge of creativity, and the shift from medical language to the personal and the spiritual.
  - A chapter about gender in the Book of Genesis, and a fascinating look at the shaky so-called Natural Law 'objections' to trans people
- A chapter exploring how, in the light of trans people's spiritual narratives, the character of Job, from the Old Testament book of that name, is a possible 'transcestor'.
- 13 'insights' that will help churches to reflect and respond pastorally when they encounter trans people.
- A chapter by trans academic Justin Tanis on what it's like for trans people in the US just now, including the religious scene
  - 4 Bible studies, with discussion starters: Christ as the 'new Adam', Joseph from Genesis, Psalm 139 and the raising of Lazarus.
- 7 liturgies to mark the life stages of trans people and their loved ones.
- A bibliography

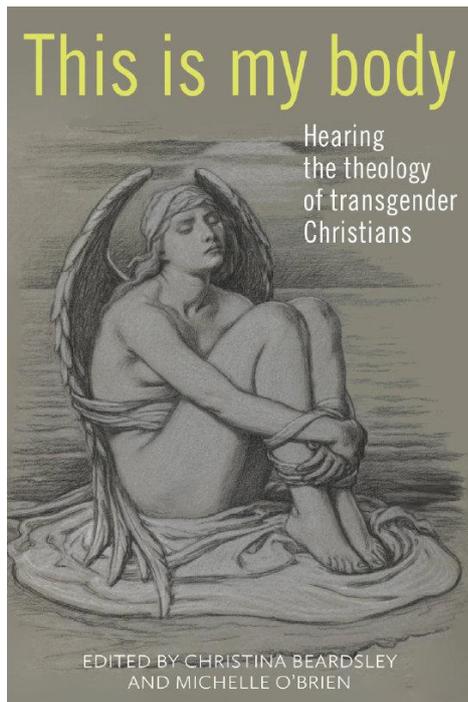
*Transfaith: 'a transgender pastoral resource'*

Paperback 224 pages

Authors: Chris Dowd, Christina Beardsley and Justin Tanis

Publisher: Darton Longman and Todd

ISBN 978 0 232 53311 8



## *This is my Body: Hearing the theology of transgender Christians*

Published in May 2016

Edited by Christina Beardsley  
and Michelle O'Brien

‘THE SIBYLS BOOK’

Twenty years ago Sibyls members were displeased with what the Evangelical Alliance had to say about trans people in what claimed to be a report, *Transsexuality\**. Just three years later, there was similar disappointment with the Church of England's fence sitting, contained in Chapter 7 of its report on *Some Issues in Human Sexuality\*\**. We were annoyed that other religious people kept writing things about us while our own experience as transgender Christians was nowhere represented in this literature.

We saw the need for a publication of our own. In it we would tell our stories, outline the latest scientific evidence, and set the theological record right as far as being transgender was concerned.

That's how the idea of the Sibyls Book was born. Sibyls members began to send in their contributions and chapters were gathered from relevant specialists. The book is published by the internationally respected religious publisher: Darton, Longman and Todd. <http://www.darton-longman-todd.co.uk/>. The book's title is *This Is my body: Hearing the theology of transgender Christians*. It was released in May 2016 in two formats: an e-book version and a paperback version. The recommended retail price for the paperback is £14.99, plus postage and packing. The book is available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle versions and in other bookshops. Do think of buying additional copies to pass on to family, friends and church leadership.

The book has two parts

Part 1: The Workshop, Theology, Social Science & the Arts

Part 2: Sibyls' Stories

Jasmine Woolley's chapter is about the social construction of gender. Terry Reed of GIREs\*\*\* brings us up to date with the latest scientific background. Chris Dowd dissects common misunderstandings of what it means to be trans. Mercia McMahon contributes a chapter on Trans Liberating and Queer Theology. The Trans Awareness Group from a

member's parish engages with Chapter 7 of the Church of England document *Some issues in Human Sexuality*. Jay Walmsley describes the early days of Sibyls, the late Michelle Le Morvan considers the essence of her spirituality, and Sibyls tell their own stories of faith. Helen Belcher, on the other hand, ponders how transition can lead to loss of faith. Elaine Sommers 'Faith, Gender and Me' can be found between the book's covers as can Susan Gilchrist's 'Taking a Different Path' which proposes a radical new approach to the issues of gender and sexuality. Michelle O'Brien, one of the editors, explores intersex perspectives on medicine, diversity, identity and spirituality, while Tina Beardsley, who is the other editor, adds some history (including a brief biography of an older Sibyls member) and theology, and there is more about the Sibyls' workshop, Gender, Sexuality, and Spirituality.

#### Pre-publication comments

The foreword by Exeter theologian Dr Susannah Cornwall, concludes: "The editors of this collection have assembled and curated a series of narratives which testify to the breadth of experiences – some uplifting, some justly angry, some heart-breaking – of trans people navigating their relationships with the Christian Church. It is my hope that the book will become a landmark text and testify to the many theological possibilities that full acknowledgement of a diversity of bodies, genders and sexes brings to life together."

#### Some commendations

'Announces the growing confidence of trans Christians and our refusal to be treated as second class and welcome under sufferance.' Rachel Mann

'I read these essays with a growing sense of excitement. Here is a highly readable theology rooted in the experience and faith of trans people'. Professor Adrian Thatcher

\* Please note that the Evangelical Alliance have kept the conclusions of their report on their website while removing the main body of the

report. <http://www.eauk.org/church/resources/theological-articles/transsexuality-report.cfm>

\*\* <http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/uploads/documents/0715138685.pdf>

**SUSAN THE ABOVE LINK DOESN'T WORK AND THE ONE ABOVE LEADS TO AN ARCHIVED SITE**

\*\*\*Gender Identity Research and Education Society [www.gires.org.uk/](http://www.gires.org.uk/)

*This Is my body: Hearing the theology of transgender Christians*

THE SIBYLS BOOK *This is my body* was listed as Number 1 of the top 35 LGBTQ Christian books of 2016 by QSpirit -- including queer theology, Bible, history, memoir, fiction and church life for all ages.

See: <http://qspirit.net/books/>

*This Is my body: Hearing the theology of transgender Christians*

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Darton Longman & Todd (26 May 2016)

ISBN-10: 0232532060

ISBN-13: 978-0232532067