

THE SIBYLS

A Christian Spirituality Group for Transgender People

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Beardsley, C. O'Brien, M. Wooley, J. (2013): "Exploring the Interplay: The Sibyls' Gender, Sexuality and Spirituality" Workshop" Theology & Sexuality".

This is an interactive workshop which builds on trans, queer and intersex perspectives. An exploration of identity, role and practice, it requires honesty and attentive listening from participants. Produced for a day conference at St Anne's, Soho in 2007, it has been offered (and developed) with LGBT Christian organizations, the LGBT Health Summits 2010 and 2011, and the York Spiritual Directors' Course in 2012 and 2013. Originally a trans-led workshop, at more recent events leaders have identified as lesbian, gay, and trans, and 'spirituality' has always been broadly defined. This article outlines the background to the workshop, its genesis and contents, before discussing the major themes that emerged on these occasions. The authors commend the carefully-managed group listening exercise, and the "interplay" model "identity-role-practice" devised by Michelle O'Brien, as templates for the wider listening process in the Anglican Communion in the hope that it will include gender identity and spirituality in addition to sexuality.

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