

Are you **LGBT+** **Christian** in Oxford?

FirstSunday

positively inclusive christian fellowship

www.FirstSunday.info

who we are

FIRST SUNDAY is fellowship for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, or questioning their sexuality (LGBTQ).

We meet at St Columba's United Reformed Church in Oxford, UK. You don't have to be LGBTQ or a Christian to come along. When we meet, we do so on the first Sunday of the month.

FIRST SUNDAY means different things to different people. It means making friends over a coffee, chilling out in a scene place without the attitudes you sometimes get on the scene (such as emphasis on good looks or age), exploring God and Christian spirituality for gay people, deep conversation.

is it dodgy?

It depends who is asking the question. Someone asking the question from the LGBTQ community or gay press can be reassured that the answer is "no"; we are not ex-gay, we are pro-gay in our attitude and approach. Someone asking the question from a division of the Christian church might decide that the answer is "yes" for the same reason.

If you are asking because you don't know what you think personally, then all we can suggest is to come along and decide for yourself.

We can't tell you what to think.

what's in a label?

You are so much more than your labels. You are a person, a unique individual, with many things about you. Your sexuality is one of them; and it may define other characteristics about you. But it does not 'sum you up'. The church and the gay scene are equally guilty of these condescending contractions of self identity when it comes to sexuality. You could add, 'the church is the more guilty party'.

Like it or not, though, we all have labels; every one of us. Labels are used as a shorthand way of explaining a set of characteristics. Sometimes they are defined out of hatred and fear. Sometimes they are defined by the fields of science or anthropology. Whether they are developed out of wanting to deny, or conversely out of our very human and inquisitive wanting to know, they are always inadequate.

FIRST SUNDAY might loosely be defined as Christian fellowship for LGBTQ people, but this is a shorthand way of defining something far more complex than that.

It is a messy, diverse, wonderful tangle. It's about individuals, and their stories shared.

history

FIRST SUNDAY started in October 2004. It's organised by St Columba's Oxford, which is part of the United Reformed Church. It's not just run by people from St Columba's. Planning meetings are openly held; opinions and ideas are valued. Things we've done in the past include:

LGBT storytelling, Film screening, Guest speakers on subjects like same-sex weddings and sexuality for women, with titles like 'how can Evangelicals be accepting?'; even live musical acts.

www.FirstSunday.info

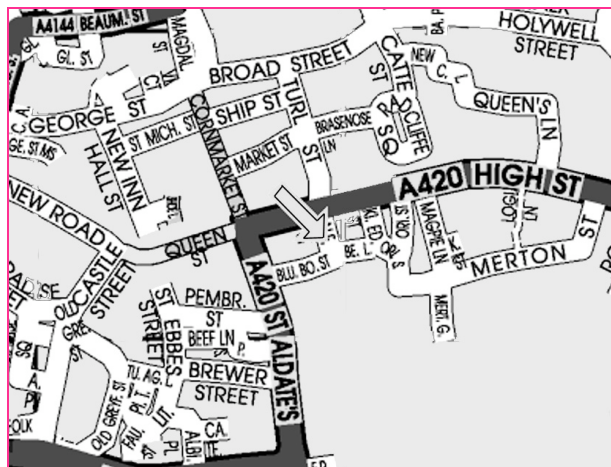
Our website is getting bigger and better all the time. It's where you can find out what's on when, send us your ideas for new events, check out our music playlists, that kind of thing.

It's also the largest and most comprehensive listing of online UK resources for LGBTQ+Christian concerns you'll get anywhere on the Web:

- LGBTQ Christian organisations across the UK by region,
- UK-wide orgs and groups,
- general resources

getting to St Columba's

It's always best to check our website to find out what's going on when, and where it's at. We meet on the first Sunday of most months, 7:15pm – usually at St Columba's United Reformed Church, Alfred Street (off the High). Here's how to get to the church buildings:



directions

Walk up the right hand side of High Street with your back to Carfax. From the cross roads junction, Alfred Street is the first turning on the right. It is a single carriageway road with cobbles. The nearest car parking is at Westgate or other central car parks. Alfred Street is close to many main bus stops in the city centre.

get updates with...

FIRST SUNDAY ANNOUNCE

If you want to receive regular mailings and stay informed, at no cost, fill out the details below and we will add you to our email mailing list service:

Name(s):

Email*:

Tear off this bit and return it to a badged **FIRST SUNDAY** person at this event, or using the address below. People wearing badges are there for listening and referral if you need anything.

about this form

Your contact details will only be used to send you information about **FIRST SUNDAY** events and will not be disclosed to any third party. If you need to contact us in writing, you can reach us at:

FIRST SUNDAY

St. Columba's United Reformed Church,
Alfred Street, Oxford, OX1 4EH

*= or other contact.