



Faith Seeking Understanding

Autumn 2018



Series aim:

To explore issues around the acceptance and inclusion within church of people who sometimes find themselves unaccepted and excluded.

7.30pm Refreshments

Meeting Room (Wednesdays) or Served (Thursdays)

8.00 - 9.30pm Presentation and Discussion
in the Meeting Room

Session 1 Mental Health
Weds 24th October (Meeting Room)

Welcome

Opening Worship

What do we understand by mental health? Video

The experience of mental illness (Small Groups)

Miriam – mental health consultant and play therapist living
with bi-polar diagnosis

Theology and Mental Illness: Video

Jean Vanier and the L'Arche Community

Bible Study: Luke 8.26-39 Jesus in the country of the Gerasenes

Plenary and Conclusions

Silence and Closing Worship

Session 2 Sexuality: Key bible texts
Thurs 8th November (Serving then Meeting Room)

Welcome

Opening Worship

Six key texts identified

Issues in relation to the use of scripture

'Debating Bible Verses on Homosexuality' (Small Groups)

Two Christian authors offer conflicting views.

What do we think, in the light of this debate?

Plenary and Conclusions

Silence and Closing Worship

Session 3 Sexuality: the case for a conservative approach
Weds 14th November (Meeting Room)

Welcome

Opening Worship

An introduction to 'Living Out' - a British charity and support group for Christians both affirming same-sex attraction and believing that abstinence and maintaining tradition is God's will.

Questions answered by Living Out: reviewing and responding to the Living Out approach (Small Groups)

Plenary and Conclusions

Silence and Closing Worship

Session 4 Sexuality: the case for a progressive approach
Weds 21st November (Meeting Room)

Welcome

Opening Worship

St James and Emmanuel, Didsbury in Manchester is an evangelical church which has experienced a revolution in its practice in relation not only to sexuality but also to other 'Come As You Are' issues...

Video 1: Lizzie's legacy – the case for Inclusion

Questions for discussion (Small Groups)

Video 2: John Bell – why honesty is the best policy

Questions for discussion (Small Groups)

Plenary and Conclusions

Silence and Closing Worship

Session 5 Disability

Thurs 29th November (Servery then Meeting Room)

Welcome

Opening Worship

What is a disability? Video

The experience of disability (Small Groups)

Video: 'Talk to me'

Susan – living with epilepsy

Fiona – relies on a wheelchair

Ben – living with dyspraxia and autism

Theology and disability (Small Groups)

Prof. John Hull – academic, theologian, living with
blindness

Plenary and Conclusions

Silence and Closing Worship

