

Christian Voices
COMING OUT

40 years of prophecy,
protest and pride.

Jim Cotter	Jim Cotter was an Anglican priest and one of LGCM's first members; he described himself as a 'pilgrim soul' and 'wordsmith', often precariously on the edge of institutions, but with much support and friendship from within. He wrote extensively on prayer, sexuality, HIV and healing, mental health, hospitality and pilgrimage. He returned to parish ministry as parish priest of Aberdaron, RS Thomas' former parish on the edge of the Lleyn peninsular. He died in April 2014.
Savi Hensman	Savi Hensman was born in Sri Lanka and moved to London, where she still lives, at the age of 2. She came out whilst at university and joined GCM, as it then was, in 1982. She has written regularly for its magazine, whilst her professional career has been in the voluntary sector in equalities and social justice. She writes for Ekklesia, who have recent published her book, <i>Sexuality, Struggle and Saintliness</i> . She has been a Trustee of LGCM for a number of year and is currently Chair.
Jeremy Marks	Jeremy Marks founded Courage, a ministry for gay and lesbian people seeking to reconcile their faith and sexuality, in 1988. In 2000 Courage changed its direction dramatically, becoming affirming of loving same-sex relationships, and recognising the harm that had been done to many people subjected to the 'ex-gay' approach. Courage celebrated 25 years in 2012 and its formal ministry came to a close, but Jeremy continues to provide pastoral support to individuals and churches.
Colin Coward	After training initially as an architect, Colin Coward was ordained in the Church of England and was involved in parish ministry before training as a psychotherapist. In 1995 he was involved in establishing Changing Attitude, and was its Director for 20 years – for which achievement he was awarded and MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2014. In retirement he lives in Wiltshire, where he blogs at unadulteratedlove.net .
Christina Beardsley	Christina Beardsley was born in rural Yorkshire, studied at Sussex and Cambridge universities and after theological college moved to her first post in Portsmouth diocese. She lived as an out gay man during the early part of her ministry, and since her transition has worked as a hospital chaplain. Christina is married to her long-time partner and husband Robert, and has been an active campaigner for LGBTI issues with Changing Attitude, as well as being involved with the Sybils transgender support group.
Alison Webster	Alison Webster is a theologian with an interest in issues of sexuality and gender, and social justice. Beginning her career with the Student Christian Movement, she worked from 1991 for the Institute for the Study of Christianity and Sexuality. Her book <i>Found Wanting</i> , published in 1995, gave voice to a wide variety of women's experiences. Alison has worked in Worcester and current Oxford diocese, where she leads on social justice issues.

Cecilia Eggleston	Cecelia Eggleston was brought up in Sheffield as a Roman Catholic, and after university trained and worked as a teacher. She became involved with the Metropolitan Community Church and has worked with MCC in both London and Africa. She's currently pastor of Northern Lights MCC in Newcastle, where she and the congregation play a central role within the LGBT community and have a particular ministry arising out of their involvement with the annual Pride festival.
Liz Stuart	Liz Stuart is a theologian and teacher, whose work has been in the area of sexuality, gender and liberation theology. Her involvement with LGCM led to her being commissioned to edit <i>Daring to Speak Love's Name</i> , a book of prayers for LGBT people. Publication was controversial – a story Liz tells as part of her interview for the project. Liz is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Winchester.
Linda Hurcombe	Linda Hurcombe is American by birth but has lived in the UK for many years, initially in inner city London and now in rural Shropshire. She has been heavily involved in political feminism, protesting at Greenham Common and was one of the founding members of the Movement for the Ordination of Women. She has spoken on BBC Thought for the Day, and has written a number of books, notably <i>Dispossessed Daughters of Eve: Faith and Feminism</i> (SPCK 1981). She is currently a trustee of LGCM.
Geoffrey Hooper	Geoffrey Hooper struggled to accept both his vocation to priesthood and his gay sexuality. Discarding masks of denial and self-deception he ended his thirteen year marriage and moved from comfortable parish ministry in the Cotswolds to East London. There he headed-up a large charity at the cutting edge of alleviating social deprivation and lived openly in a gay partnership. After being awarded a MBE he moved close to his daughters in Wales to work as a NHS and Relate psychotherapist. Geoffrey's memoir, <i>An Honest Life</i> , was published in 2014.
Stephen Crosby	Stephen Crosby was born and has lived much of his life in rural Lincolnshire. He has ministered as a reader in a number of different parishes, but has encountered obstacles and injustice in exercising his calling to recognised ministry. Despite living in an isolated rural community with few other gay people, he met his partner through an LGBT Christian network in Lincoln diocese and he and Simeon are now happily civil partnered, and living in Durham following Simeon's retirement
Chris Wardale	Chris was bought up in Yorkshire and after studying at Newcastle university, passed through the Church of England's selection processes with ease and began his ministry in a colliery town in the North East on the first day of the miners' strike. He was very publically outed on his arrival into a new post in Darlington. In 2005 he was the first clergy person to enter into a civil partnership, with his long-term partner Malcolm Macourt.

Richard Kirker	Richard Kirker trained for ministry in the Church of England but following his ordination as deacon, his path to priesthood was blocked as a result of his openness about his sexuality. He became LGCM's first General Secretary and later Chief Executive, a role he filled for almost 30 years. Richard continues to live in the East End, close to LGCM's birthplace at St Botolph's Aldgate, and its subsequent home at Oxford House in Bethnal Green. He remains active in a number of voluntary roles, including at the LGBT archives at the Bishopsgate Institute.
Diarmaid MacCulloch	Diarmaid, like Richard, trained for ministry in the Church of England, but was prevented from being ordained priest as a result of his refusal to conceal his relationship with another man. Having previously trained Methodists for ordained ministry, he returned to academia, particularly church history and the history of Christianity. He is currently Professor of the History of the Church at Oxford University. He writes and broadcasts widely, most recently the series ' <i>Sex and the Church</i> ' broadcast on BBC2 in May 2015. He describes himself as a 'candid friend of Christianity.'