

St Andrew's Church

Short Street, London, SE1 8LJ, UK
(near Waterloo Station)

7.00pm, Friday 28th June 2013



Brenda Harrison 2nd Memorial Lecture

What is She like?

A contemplative activist reflects on the experience of God

Speaker: Rev Colin Coward

Who is Brenda Harrison?

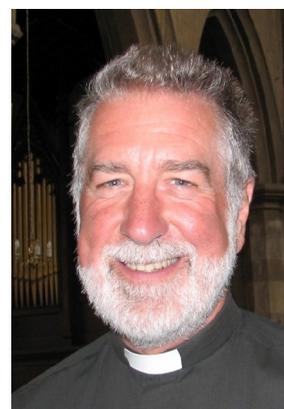
By Colin Coward

Brenda Harrison, who died in 2010 at the age of 61, had worked tirelessly for the full inclusion of LGBT people in the Anglican Communion through her involvement with Changing Attitude.

Born in the east end of London, Brenda Harrison followed a career in the Home Office. In 1971 she was appointed as Immigration Officer in the first intake of women to the service and undertook diplomatic postings to Pakistan and Sierra Leone. Following early retirement in 2003 she became Administrator for Changing Attitude and later, a trustee. She was instrumental with others in creating a strong, independent LGBT Anglican witness.

Brenda had also been an active member of the Evangelical Fellowship for Lesbian and Gay Christians (EF) since 1987, serving as co-convenor for several years from 1997. In 1998 she was elected Co-President of the European Forum of Lesbian and Gay Christian Groups, serving in this capacity until 2004, and again from 2006. She attended the World Council of Churches' General Assemblies in 1998 in Zimbabwe and 2006 in Brazil, delivering workshops on LGBT sexuality. She was deeply committed to the work of the Forum and the member groups, some of them involved in challenging environments to support LGBT Christians. In 2007 Brenda was appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Lesbian and Gay Religious Archive Network.

As a campaigner with a passion for justice, always totally committed to the groups she was involved with. She had many irons in the fire, crossing boundaries of culture and church tradition, forming international networks and friendships. But more than her practical skills, Brenda brought her cheeky smile and a bouncy attitude to meetings and events Brenda was an inspiration to so many—a determined fore-runner who campaigned as a lesbian Christian for many of the things some now enjoy and take for granted. Brenda wanted the campaigning to continue until all are able to enjoy freedom in the Kingdom of God. Her inspiration and love touched so many over the years.



About Colin Coward

Our speaker for the second Brenda Harrison Memorial Lecture is the Rev Colin Coward, Director of Changing Attitude. Colin is a priest who originally trained as an architect and subsequently as a psycho-therapist. He now describes himself as a contemplative activist. In 1995 he founded Changing Attitude, a small project intended to facilitate conversations in the Church of England. God had other ideas and as a result of involvement with the Lambeth Conference in 1998, Changing Attitude has evolved to become an international Anglican ministry with groups in Ireland, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria and Kenya. Colin ministered for 19 years in inner-city parishes in the Diocese of Southwark and now lives with his partner tucked away in a village near Devizes, Wiltshire.