

The email that started it all sent by Chris on 30th May 2018

Hello Robin

Welcome to Brittany and I hope that you will be very happy and successful here.

If you are able to open a church in Redon I cannot promise to be a regular attender but you will be there in my thoughts.

I should explain that I work for (name of charity withdrawn) which is a bit of a mouthful so most people call me Chris. As an illustration of what I do I will be returning to Syria for 8 nights on 4th June and then I will be going to Yemen. As you can imagine it is not easy work but when a child crawls onto my lap and says thank you and gives me a hug and a smile it makes it all worthwhile.

I am gay and face up to quite a lot of prejudice from the Bretons but also from some Brits who tend to be good to my face but behind, not so. I don't experience that in the church so usually it is an escape. I am entirely in support of same sex marriage and cannot understand why the Church of England does not embrace it. If I wanted to get married I would have to do so in the Lutheran Church.

My partner lives in Paris and he works for a language school. We see each other quite regularly but when I am in Paris we attend St Michael's.

I hope you will open a church in Redon. I will attend and support when I can.

Kindest regards.

CHRIS

Here is the reply from Robin Adams dated 12 July 2018 which has caused so much offence.

Chris and Rodney,

You should know up front that Our Church supports the spirit of Lambeth 110 resolutions on sexuality.

See below

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/document-library/lambeth-conference/1998/section-i-called-to-full-humanity/section-i10-human-sexuality?author=Lambeth+Conference&year=1998>

We do not think that homosexuality is natural or healthy. We believe that everyone is broken in some way and the healing power of Jesus comes through the spiritual gifts in the Church body to restore us to be the best that we can be. This is the good news we intend to proclaim as best we can.

I am very interested in the refugee work in Syria and Mexico, as I have supported ministries in both places. I hope we are able to meet and get to know each other better soon.

Pastor Robin

<https://pastorrobin9.wixsite.com/website>

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R. T.Adams

This is the transcript of what Chris Wilkinson said to the meeting in Redon called to establish an Anglican Communion in the town.

Held on 14th June 2018 at the Redonnais Bar and later at the home of Isobel Bailey.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Chris Wilkinson and I live a few Kms from Redon and I now work for Medecins sans Frontieres. My partner of 10 years Rodney lives and works in Paris. Yes we are gay and happy with that.

But when I introduced myself to your preacher I didn't expect this:

We do not think that homosexuality is natural or healthy. We believe that everyone is broken in some way and the healing power of Jesus comes through the spiritual gifts in the Church body to restore us to be the best that we can be. This is the good news we intend to proclaim as best we can.

Yes that is what your preacher wrote to me.

He went on to refer me to the pages of the Lambeth 1988 conference which as a member of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement I am only too well aware of. That was a mistake as I will explain later.

When your preacher says **WE do not think that homosexuality is natural or healthy** he means **YOU**

If that is what **YOU** believe then I regret that I cannot work with **YOU** if **YOU** are part of the **WE** that believes it is OK to spread hatred, prejudice and discriminate against me and Rodney because we don't easily fit into the far right interpretation of the scriptures.

Believing in God means we recognise that we are all God's creatures, made by God to be on this earth. Being gay is not a lifestyle choice, it is not an illness it is not a malformation at birth that can be prayed or converted away. It is not something that can be healed.

It is only something that can be hidden and I've had enough of that.

Who I am, is what God made me and I am very happy with the man he produced thank-you very much.

As you referred to the Lambeth Conference 1998 resolution on Human Sexuality and I ask you to consider how this fits in with Robin Adams email of welcome.

It is now 20 years old.

We commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ.

This conference calls on all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to all irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn irrational fear of homosexuals.

Yet Robin Adams thought it was OK to write in such hate terms without even knowing me, without even meeting me or Rodney.

Robin Adams I would not be comfortable receiving the sacraments from you or from anyone else who presents prejudice, hatred and discrimination. Your welcome to me is incompatible with the Lambeth accord and with our attempts as humans to follow Christ's example.

Your email of welcome has shocked and upset not just me but also Rodney to find having left his homeland and his family behind in the 1980s to escape homophobic persecution from the troubles from the politicians and from the pulpit only to find it alive and well here in France and perpetrated by a fellow Ulsterman.

I say to my friends and others here today that I am ready to help you establish a church here in Redon and Rodney and I will do all we can to make that possible but only if you rid yourselves of this figure of prejudice, hate and discrimination and send him back from where he came. He has no place in the church of the millennium.

Robin Adams I don't despise you, clearly you have lost your way and your faith. Gay people don't choose to be gay but you have chosen to attack us for who we are. I will pray for you that your attitudes and your broken faith can be healed by God.

Chris T Wilkinson
3 La Vacherie
56220 St Jacut Les Pins
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Rodney Logan
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75019 PARIS
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5 September 2018

The Venerable Meurig Williams
47 rue Capitaine Crespel – boîte 49,
1050 Brussels,
Belgium

Dear Revd Meurig Williams

We need your help and advice on whether we are welcome to worship in the Anglican Church in France. However, first please allow us to tell you a little about ourselves.

I, Rodney, was born in N Ireland and was brought up in a strict Protestant family and environment. During the troubles, being gay was not something I could admit to so I fled to France 30 years ago where I have always felt very comfortable. My French is good. I am a language teacher.

I, Chris was born in Yorkshire and was brought up in a church going family. I had a boyfriend when I was 14 but with the intolerance of the time he committed suicide at 15 years and 6 months because he could not cope with the hatred from his family. My brother is a Canon in the Birmingham Diocese. I am lazy when it comes to learning French. I work for MSF caring for Unaccompanied Syrian Refugee Children.

Our reason for writing to you is very serious in our minds. We have always felt very welcome at Church of Christ in Brittany and more frequently at St Michael's in Paris but a recent incident in Brittany has worried both of us.

I, Chris was invited to join the team trying to establish a Church of England community in Redon, a town just a few kilometres from where I live. I think the intention is that the church in Redon would be an outreach of the church in Ploermel and as the priest there was new I wrote an email of welcome to the Revd Robin Adams, though he prefers the title Pastor. By coincidence also a man born in N Ireland. This is what he wrote back:

Chris and Rodney,

You should know up front that Our Church supports the spirit of Lambeth 110 resolutions on sexuality.

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/document-library/lambeth-conference/1998/section-i-called-to-full-humanity/section-i10-human-sexuality?author=Lambeth+Conference&year=1998>

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I am very interested in the refugee work in Syria and Mexico, as I have supported ministries in both places. I hope we are able to meet and get to know each other better soon.

Pastor Robin

I hope you can now understand the issue, though we ourselves have some difficulty understanding how his message of prejudice, hate and discrimination fits with the welcome of the Lambeth resolutions and discussions. We are worried that this man has a history with the Episcopalian Church in the USA and its version of worship. Would the bishop not have investigated his beliefs and practices before licensing him as priest at Ploermel.

So our question to you is are we welcome in the Diocese of Europe as a gay couple or is your view that we are in some way broken but maybe we can be cured? I would point out that neither of us feel broken or in need of being cured. We are happy with the way God made us.

We realise that the Anglican Church has a difficult issue with sexuality because of the different views within the Anglican Church around the world. If however your welcome is one of prejudice and rejection as described by the Revd Robin Adams then we would wish to stay away from the Anglican Church in France.

We would be happy to meet to discuss this with you if you wish but Chris will need good notice because of his work. We hope to hear from you.

Our respective email addresses are as follows and we are both happy for you to use email as a method of communication if you are happy with that.

chris@dubna.co.uk
rodney@clavel.co.uk

Yours truly

Chris Wilkinson

—

Rodney Logan

On 16 July, 10 August, and 25th August we wrote again questioning his use of "Propaganda" in relation to our original email and the lack of response.

On 24th November Abigail and Wilfrid Grater visited Chris in his home to discuss the problem Chris and Rodney were facing and the following letter was sent to Robin Adams by email and letter but only produced a reply when it was referred to on the Church's Facebook Page.

This is the letter sent to Robin Adams on 26 November 2018

Dear Robin

I, Chris, had a long, loving and uplifting meeting over tea with Abigail and Wilfrid and as a consequence Rodney and I both feel encouraged to write to you again having received no response to our 3 previous emails. We are sending you this as an open email / letter and also sending it to you by La Poste just in case you are having problems with your email.

You will recall that when you met Chris at the meeting in Isabelle's garden in Redon you promised you would meet us to discuss your views on gay men in the Church of England. We wish you to keep your promise because it is through dialogue that we can join the Lambeth Conference and understand how this issue can progress into acceptance.

We want to determine in a relaxed conversation with you whether we are just welcome but also accepted and not just by the congregation but also by you.

We will not now apply any precondition or any judgement on what you have said in the past or what you now have to say to us and we will be polite and only confront you on your beliefs in the hope of seeking a better understanding of your point of view.

The dates we have in mind for a meeting are as follows:

Thursday 27th December 2018

Thursday 28th December 2018

Thursday 29th December 2018

Thursday 30th December 2018

Can we suggest at 1500 for afternoon tea.

As you can imagine we have great demands on our time with work and family and friends over Christmas so can we suggest that you let us know by 3 December which of these dates is convenient for you to come to La Vacherie to meet us. We also realise that 4 dates in the busy Christmas period might be difficult for you and if the dates above are not convenient then I hope we can arrange a date early in 2019 when we can meet. However, because of work commitments, Rodney and I will need to agree a date with you 4-8 weeks in advance to ensure that we can both be available.

CHRIS and RODNEY

Sent from Chris's Samsung S9+ in Larnaca, Cyprus

This is the reply Chris received from Robin Adams on 30th November 2018 which excluded Rodney and appears to seek to drive a wedge between our love for each other. It also caused further offence by banning us from the Church and denying us communication. We have of course ignored the communication bit.

We are concerned that any priest of the Church of England today would believe that homosexuality is a lifestyle choice.

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

The major problem between us, and the reason for my silence has been my feelings of being bullied by you. Not, you will take note, you're chosen lifestyle. Congratulations! you are the rudest person I have encounter in my year in France. When I greeted you pleasantly you refuse to shake my hand and then inserted yourself into the agenda disrupting our meeting and insulted me and others for 30 minutes with warrant. I was trying to get past this by the end of the meeting and make allowances for the obvious pain you have encountered. I thought perhaps I was on the receiving end of transferred anger. But since then your e-mails and Internet behaviour have disturbed me greatly. Bullying is something the diocese takes seriously and it has safeguarding implications. Terminating communication with an abrasive and obsessive person seemed to be the safest option, so off into the spam box you went.

I am now willing to give you a second chance and will agree to another face-to-face meeting. It will be between you and I only, at a neutral location. Our only issue to resolve at that time will be why you have been behaving so rudely and what you are willing to do to fix the problem. After I am satisfied that we have made progress we can then set up a further meeting to discuss the meaning of Lambeth 1.10 with you and your partner.

It is not possible to meet until the spring of next year, so I will contact you at that time to arrange a location and time.

Do not contact CCB or myself until we have meet and successfully resolved the bullying issue. This is your chance to prove yourself trustworthy.

Sincerely

R. T. Adams

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.
<https://www.avg.com>

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[Rodney Logan](#)
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[7 January 2019](#)

[The Most Reverend Primate, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby](#)
[Lambeth Palace](#)
[LONDON SE1 7JU](#)
[ANGLETERRE](#)

[Dear Justin Welby](#)

[Being gay in the Church of England](#)

[We are enclosing a dossier of correspondence with the Church in Brittany, the Archdeacon and now the Bishop.](#)

[I anticipate that you will be concerned over the position in which gay men in the Church of England in Europe find themselves, being barred from worship.](#)

[We wish to ask you to use your good offices to help resolve the issue.](#)

[Yours truly](#)

[Chris Wilkinson and Rodney Logan](#)

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[The Venerable Meurig Williams](#)
[47 rue Capitaine Crespel – boîte 49,](#)
[1050 Brussels,](#)
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[Dear Revd Meurig Williams](#)

[Dear Meurig](#)

[Being gay in the Church of England](#)

[Having not received anything further from you we have now written to the Bishop and Archbishop as we feel we need to make progress.](#)

[We hope that your silence does not mean that you are unwell, if so we wish you a speedy recovery and a very Happy 2019.](#)

[Enclosed is the dossier of correspondence.](#)

[Yours truly](#)

[Chris Wilkinson and Rodney Logan](#)