

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 July 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 I am Chris Wilkinson and I live a few Kms from Redon and I now work for (name of charity withdrawn) . 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.