

FREE EVENT

# Pedestals, pulpits & pews

## Perspectives on bullying in the Church of England



An online morning conference with optional afternoon work-streams organised by ABEL.

31 May 2022

Conference: 10:00-12:50

Work-streams: 14:00-15:30

Plenary: 15:45-16:00

The aim of this conference is to bring together a body of knowledge and perspectives on bullying in the Church of England. While little has been published by the Church of England about bullying, there are many stories of bullying in the church. The 2008 document Dignity at Work produced by the then Deployment, Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee for Ministry Division became outdated following the implementation of the 2010 Equalities Act.

This conference seeks to begin a journey of gathering current perspectives on bullying in the Church of England. In doing this, it hopes to inform current discussions on how the church can become an environment of mutual flourishing where misuse of power is taken seriously and addressed in consistent, open, accountable and transparent ways. It has been organised by a team who have gathered together in the light of current discussions on bullying in the Church of England and who have both practical and academic interests in this

area. For those who would like to contribute further there will be a number of facilitated afternoon work-streams. A summary of the morning talks and the work-stream conclusions will be collated into a document for wider circulation to be sent to both Archbishops. It is hoped that the results will also be presented as a poster at General Synod.

The conference will be introduced by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury. Speakers include Anne Lee, Lorraine Turner, Sandra Cobbin, Augustine Ihm, Clive Billenness and Andrew Goddard.

*Book tickets on Eventbrite: [http://bit.ly/abel\\_may2022](http://bit.ly/abel_may2022)*



ABEL - Against Bullying, Encouraging Love – was founded at the end of 2021. Our purpose is to create a forum where bullying in the church can be explored in an evidence-based way and where academic research and different perspectives and expertise can be shared and collated to inform the central church of these issues.

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## Programme

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|-------|--|
| 10:00 | Welcome and opening prayer<br>Host: Rhona Knight                       |
| 10:05 | Introductory words<br>Rowan Williams                                   |
| 10:15 | Perspectives on bullying: Setting the scene<br>Anne Lee                |
| 10:35 | Perspectives from research: Dignity at Work<br>Lorraine Turner         |
| 10:55 | Research into episcopal understanding about power<br>Sandra Cobbin     |
| 11.15 | Coffee break   |
| 11:30 | Perspectives from experience: gender, race and LBGTQI<br>Augustine Ihm |
| 11:50 | New perspectives: cyber bullying<br>Clive Billenness                   |
| 12:10 | Theological and ethical perspectives<br>Andrew Goddard                 |
| 12:30 | Panel Questions  |
| 12:50 | Plenary review and close<br>Alan Gregory, St Augustines                |

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The afternoon online work-streams will run from 14.00-15.30 and will conclude with a plenary from 15.45-16.00.

The work-streams will bring together the different perspectives of conference attendees to reflect on the content of the conference and consider how it can inform local, diocesan and national church.