

Autistic Christians Support Community

Breaking through the '*you are difficult to accommodate*' barrier.
Hannah

15 February 2025

AGENDA

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|------------------|--|
| 1. 11.00 – 11.05 | Welcome and introduction |
| 2. 11.05 – 11.15 | Hannah: Breaking through the ' <i>you are difficult to accommodate</i> ' barrier |
| 3. 11.15 – 11.45 | Group Discussion |
| 4. 11.45 – 11.55 | Community Update |
| 5. 11.55 – 12.00 | AOB |
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| 12.00 - 12.30 | Social time for those who wish to stay on. |

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Breaking through the '*you are difficult to accommodate*' barrier

Community Update (1)

1. Experimenting with a mid-week/evening option
2. NAS Session on Diagnosis and Benefits Applications: 26 Feb 2-3pm. Sign-up:
<https://doodle.com/sign-up-sheet/participate/838423b5-851a-42fb-b2a6-20f62fd75939/select>
3. Seeking to transition to new email – please respond to ‘GDPR’ emails
4. Looking to get Safeguarding and GDPR statements onto our website – will post on website as ‘Consultation doc’ – allow a month for comments and change requests, then firm up
5. Looking for help in confirming future topics and presenters
6. Looking for 2 or 3 to work with me as co-hosts!
7. BBC Daily Service – 19 Feb (09.45) and iSounds thereafter

Community Update (2)

8. Link to Ann Memmott's document (2021 version)

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/61f2fd86f0ee5/content/pages/documents/20211006-doc-mission-ministry-welcoming-autism-church-guidelines-v01.pdf>

9. Link to church running an autism-led service:

https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11983/service-and-events/events/1152467/?fbclid=IwY2xjawlNuh1leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHVR6n9Qx7Fz_JKOQRigE1ApdIYIYWWhlpCBbkb_fBA1jzH-UaT2MOqnlDzrg_aem_mzPHznv04zub_Kc6lUYH2Q

10. Consultation document on Safeguarding and GDPR not yet on the website. I will inform the community when it has been loaded.

CFE Discussion Schedule 2025

DATE	DAY/TIME	CFE-Autism DISCUSSION TOPIC	LEAD
11 Mar 2025	Tues 8pm	Navigating the Gender Debate	Stewart
15 Mar 2025	Sat 11am	Autism and Creativity	Ruth
15 Apr 2025	Tues 8pm	Living with anxiety: friend or foe?	Stewart
26 Apr 2025	Sat 11am	Creating a dialogue with your church	Stewart
17 May 2025	Sat 11am	Reflections on 'made in the image of God' (from conference)	Sue
21 Jun 2025	Sat 11am	Guest speaker: Ann Memmott plus Q&A	Ann
19 Jul 2025	Sat 11am	TBA	TBA
Aug 2025		Summer Break	

Appendix

Community Update – 2025 Potential Discussion Ideas

Topic	Lead	Schedule
Autism and ADHD	Stewart?	
Helping churches become more 'autism friendly' (Case Studies)	Stewart?	
Update from Peter Coxe at L'Arche	Peter	December 2025?
Rules and Tricks for Autistic flourishing: Can project management ideas help?	Stewart? Rebecca?	
Building helpful and 'impactful' relationships outside meetings	Neil?	
Autistically speaking or being silent – and does God speak?	Piers?	
Humour, Faith and Autism	Jonathan?	
Autism and Other Faiths	Chris?	
Battling with Diagnosis and Govt benefits bureaucracy	Special Session?	
Coping with (or avoiding?) formal exclusion (from ministry, job etc.)	Franceska?	
The Book of Common prayer & liturgy: Good for autistic people?	TBC?	
Autism, Spirituality and Addiction	Courtney?	
Learning from close family and friends: Can they help us find 'ways through'?	Stewart?	
Special Sessions (Webinar options?)		
Building a culture that understands 'hidden distinctives and disabilities'		TBC
How to identify and manage our (often unconscious) Biases?		
How our religious practices can subtly exclude people: And what to do about it		
Diagnosis and Benefits: How to navigate the maze (UK) - Immediate Q&A*		
On-line Services? (weekly, monthly, quarterly?)		
Some positive response, but I would need to explore further what this might look like in practice and whether there might be a 'team' from the group to help with this.		TBC