Rev Dr Malcolm Brown, who works on public issues at the central office of the Church of England, compiled this booklist to support conversations about same-sex relationships in that Church. We are very grateful to Malcolm for allowing the URC to use it. It is a thoughtful and informed resource, and also a reminder that other Christians are thinking deeply about this issue, as we are.

John Proctor, October 2014

**Short Bibliography**

**Books for resourcing Shared Conversations**

The “Pilling Report”

(GS 1929) *Report of the House of Bishops Working Group on human sexuality*, Church House Publishing, 2013

*This is the report which initiated the shared conversations. Four bishops, three advisers and the Chair, worked together for two years, meeting numerous groups and individuals with different views and experiences, different theological positions and different concerns about the church’s future. The report explores the context for the group’s work and attempts to evaluate the evidence which the group received. Available online at ...*

<http://www.churchofengland.org/our-views/marriage,-family-and-sexuality-issues/human-sexuality/pilling-report.aspx>

(GS 1519)  *Some Issues in human sexuality: A guide to the debate*, Church House Publishing, 2003.

*Although more than ten years old, this report is still one of the most comprehensive guides to the arguments which still divide the church.*

Philip Groves (ed.), *The Anglican Communion and Homosexuality: A resource to enable listening and dialogue*, SPCK, 2008.

Robert A. J. Gagnon and Dan O. Via, *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views*, Augsberg  Fortress Press, 2003.

*Gagnon is one of the leading Biblical scholars who takes a traditionalist position on sexuality: Via is a revisionist scholar. By putting their work together within one set of covers, these two American academics acknowledge that some kind of engagement across the divide is crucial for the church.*

Lisa Nolland, Chris Sugden and Sarah Finch (eds.), *God, Gays and the Church:  Human sexuality and experience in Christian thinking*,  The Latimer Trust,  January 2008

*This is an important collection of essays on the subject from a clearly traditionalist stance. The essays here show that traditionalists approach the subject from a variety of angles, and take viewpoints which engage in interesting ways with contemporary culture.*

Richard A. Burridge, *Imitating Jesus: An Inclusive Approach to New Testament Ethics*, Eerdmans, 2007

*Burridge’s magisterial book on Biblical ethics (winner of the Ratzinger Prize) is not “about” questions of sexuality but offers an approach to Christian Ethics from a Biblical perspective which provides much food for thought and some direct reflection on questions of sexuality, emphasising the theme of inclusivity.*

Timothy Bradshaw, *The Way Forward? Christian Voices on Homosexuality and the Church*,   (2nd edn) SCM 2003.

*This remains an important book which includes the clearly formulated “St Andrews Day Statement” from a group of theologians and scholars who set out the arguments for a broadly traditionalist position. But the book also includes a number of critical essays which do not all take the same view, including Rowan Williams’s reflection on the St Andrews Day Statement entitled, “Knowing Myself in Christ”.*

Jeffrey John, *Permanent, Faithful, Stable: Christian Same Sex Partnerships*, DLT (revised edition) 2012

*This book by the Dean of St Albans has long been regarded as one of the clearest theological arguments about the ways in which same sex relationships can express important Christian virtues. It has now been reissued and updated in the light of the Government’s introduction of  same sex marriage.*

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This book was not on Malcolm Brown’s bibliography. It is very recently published, and one of our ministers has drawn attention to it:

Ian Paul, ***Same-sex Unions, an analysis of the biblical texts***, Grove Books (Grove Biblical Series, B71) 2014

*Ian Paul is an evangelical Anglican. He argues in this booklet that when the Bible speaks about same-sex unions, the language of the text and the view of the author are always negative.*