

**Imagine it's Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024: We're celebrating 16 years of the first Open Table community and 9 years as a network. We've achieved three years' funding. What does OTN look like? [Members' & volunteers' responses]:**

- 34- 35 communities, coming together once or twice a year. A big festival.
- Little groups in which people were sharing how their lives are from week to week, and personal growth is happening for individuals.
- Information packs for churches to assist them with inclusivity / acceptance.
- Support for Relationship & Sex Education in schools.
- Similar activities online as offline.
- Enough Open Table services happening in different parts of the country so that they are accessible to far more people.
- A community in every diocese.
- A presence across every deanery, with not necessarily a congregation, at least somebody who is responsible for outreach to the LGBT plus community.
- Christians At Pride: each individual carrying a banner with the name of an inclusive church on it. Those that don't see their church represented in those banners will go back to say, why do we not have a banner? We're not an inclusive church, why are we not an inclusive church?
- Services for renaming and same-sex blessings.
- OT is more authentically ecumenical – involving more host churches in more denominations.
- Open Table is now a recognized part of the scene in all the LGBT networks, the secular networks. We're expected, people are not surprised when we turn up at Pride and we're not surprised when we turn up at Pride either. There are more groups now than there were back in 2021. We've now been able to have a regular weekend away together once a year.
- We won't have to try to make people to come, they would just come.

- We've got that much of a community, we don't have to rely on the Lottery, we could fund ourselves.
- There'll be that many leaders and bigger congregations because we progressed so far.
- Open Table is influencing the wider church - the ethos and inclusivity and everything about Open Table needs to be in the whole of the church.
- The Open Table Network doesn't exist at all because the whole of the church is inclusive and welcoming of all.
- A big service somewhere, let's take over a cathedral, and fill the place, really celebrating, as a community.
- It's been agreed that the Bishop and his husband are going to visit! (or the Archbishop and her wife?)
- It looks like a slow and systemic acceptance that we exist and we are valid. We have our communities, but that is not the only place where we can go. There is so much more as well, we have spread, we are everywhere. We have been telling stories. We have been sharing ourselves with everyone we meet and we have been changing people's hearts. Sometimes one at a time, sometimes in groups or conferences, sometimes just quietly, it has been happening.
- I see a network of Open Tables across all borders... nationally and internationally, offering a space for ALL Christians to feel safe and welcome. I see Open Table as a gateway, a safe haven for those of us who need, but also a beacon for good Christian practice.. (All-inclusive as God's children together.) I see Open Table linking in with like-minded organisations and I see it as being in the forefront of exemplifying and sharing good Christian practice. I imagine an army of trainers capable of supporting inclusive Christianity and isolated members of LBGQTQIA+. As Open Table grows, so will the joy of its members. I believe that with the love that is shared, we will light up the world. No longer will we be oppressed by those who in their hearts must surely know God's love has no limits. And maybe, just maybe, they will put down their stones.