

## **Cascade Conversation – Listening across the Spectrum**

As part of the process for discussing same sex relationships throughout the Church, a Cascade Conversation – Listening across the Spectrum will take place in the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry on 29-30 April. Each Diocesan Bishop has been asked to send seven participants to this event. There will be a small group of contributors at the event who will offer input to discussions at various points. They are: Father Edward Hone (Roman Catholic Redemptorist priest based in Luxembourg), Ms Ruth Jeffries (social worker specialising in kinship care and lay member of the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness and member of the Same Sex Discussions Design Group), the Rev Dr Marjory Maclean (Church of Scotland Minister in the Carse of Gowrie, former Depute Principal Clerk of the Church of Scotland and member of the General Assembly Theological Commission on Same Sex Relationships and the Ministry), the Rev Canon David Porter (Archbishop of Canterbury's Director for Reconciliation) and the Rt Rev Keith Sinclair (Bishop of Birkenhead and member of the Church of England House of Bishops Working Group on Human Sexuality).

The participants will meet in facilitated groups for discussions throughout the Cascade Conversation. The facilitators are themselves being co-ordinated by Mr Hugh Donald, the director of the *Place for Hope* initiative in the Church of Scotland which was established to address issues of reconciliation, particularly in a church context.

The Cascade Conversation is being held because the subject of human sexuality is one on which there are differing views and because it raises controversial and challenging issues not just for the Scottish Episcopal Church but for all denominations. During the Cascade Conversation, it is hoped that participants will engage with the subject, and with one another, in a way which synodical procedure does not always permit. In trying an alternative way of addressing a complex subject such as human sexuality, it is hoped that the Church as a whole will both learn and benefit.

Towards the close of Cascade, it is expected that participants will meet in diocesan groups so there can be some consideration of how matters might be followed up afterwards. A summary of the event will be reported in the next edition of *inspires online*.

