Sexuality is a divisive issue in the Church today. For many of those who hold different positions on the presenting issues, Christian identity is at stake. The pace of change in society, especially the recent introduction of same-sex marriage, means churches have found their traditional or mainstream teaching on matters of sexuality and marriage increasingly pushed to the margins of the public square. Arguably, this is felt more acutely in established churches, like the Church of England, in which is found a complex and lively mix of national, civic, social, and religious identities. While what has been called the Church of England’s via media has been able to accommodate theological and ethical breadth within a broad understanding of Anglican identity (e.g. The Pilling Report, 2013), in the current environment, various Anglican groups (such as Changing Attitude, GAFCON, Reform, etc.) call for a more decisive decision to either include or exclude people in same sex relationships. These groups, for whom sexuality (or more particularly, homosexuality) has become the measure of Anglican faithfulness, create different ways of constructing and understanding Anglican identity. This is the context in which the one-day conference seeks to explore.

This one-day conference seeks to bring academics working in fields including Theology, Biblical Studies, History, Practical Theology, together with Practitioners, in order to place the current discussions on sexuality in theological, historical, national, and international perspectives. A particular focus will be on how articulation of various positions on sexuality contribute to competing claims to Anglican identity. While the primary focus is on the Church of England, papers may address the national ecumenical context or international dimension of the Anglican Communion and their impact on the way in which the Church of England understands itself.

Proposals for papers are welcome on any aspect of the theme, including but not limited to:

- The current debates on sexuality and/or marriage in historical context
- The impact of the sexuality debates on the Church in the Public Square
- The Bible in the sexualities debates
- The future of debates on sexuality
- The Church, Sexuality, and Pastoral Practice
- The national and/or international context of sexuality and Anglican Identities

Proposals for papers should be sent to j.keady@chester.ac.uk by Tuesday 28th February 2017.

Proposals (not more than 300 words) should include name and professional affiliation.

We anticipate publishing the proceedings of the conference.