

## 19 & 20 October 2010 - The Reform National Conference

### Report from Adrian Vincent 4 December 2010

The 2010 Reform Conference had the theme “The counter-cultural church”. I attended with nearly 200 others and was warmly welcomed.

Reform is a network of individuals and churches within the Church of England “committed to reforming the Church of England from within according to the Holy Scriptures.”

There were excellent Bible studies and an excellent presentation by Revd Prof John Nolland and Lisa Nolland on “How all sexual relations outside marriage damage the family unit.” The audio and handouts from their presentations are now on the Reform website here: <http://www.reform.org.uk/pages/conference/nolland.php>

There was also a very thought provoking talk by Revd Dr Mike Ovey and Revd Carrie Sandom on “The unique ministry of women.”

The talk included reference to 1 Corinthians 11, Titus 2, and 1 Timothy 2, which they argued showed that men and women are equal in status, dignity and humanity but have different roles in the church.

Revd Carrie Sandom spoke about her personal situation. Carrie said that she knows of only three women from a conservative evangelical background who have been ordained permanent (now called distinctive) deacons in the Church of England. The Church of England has found it difficult to accommodate women deacons who disagree with the ordination of women to the priesthood. None of those conservative evangelical deacons have been able to find employment by any Church of England diocese. Consequently, Carrie is paid directly by the local church that employs her as a women’s church worker.

A publication of Mike Ovey and Carrie Sandom’s presentation will be available in 2011.