

# Why Jesus was a Man

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It is difficult to believe that the revelation of God which Jesus gave us was intended for men only; and yet, folk say, Jesus was a man and His disciples were all men, as if that settled the matter and established that women should be excluded (or limited) in future from active part in the life of the Church.

Do the people who say this ever wonder why Jesus was a man?

The character Christ revealed, His love for mankind, compassion for the sick and disabled, His special feeling for children, shows features more often found in women. So why didn't God make His representative on earth a woman?

To understand this, one must realise that the position of Jewish women in the first century AD was very different from that prevailing in civilized countries today. Jewish girls had practically no education, they married young, and were expected to spend their lives bearing and looking after children.

A girl who did not fit into this pattern would have been regarded with disapproval or mistrust. Moreover, women could not travel about freely in those days.

Still, even if a female Messiah had faced these hazards, there was the question of followers. One can imagine what scandalous stories would have been thought up by those who were against the new teaching.

So God decided Jesus should be a man, and His disciples men. In the centuries since, women have continued to be occupied with child bearing, and only men were free to take up the work of spreading the good news.

Some men say it is "traditional" to have only male priests, quite forgetting the differences in customs between the first and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

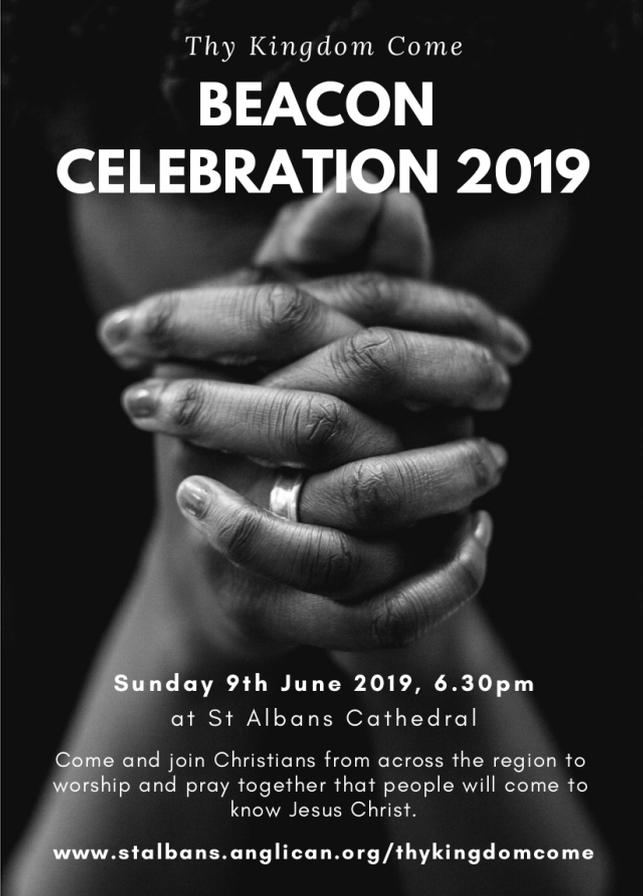
Tradition is a fine thing in many ways, but should not mean one never does anything that has not been done before.

After all, Jesus himself was an innovator. He did and said many things that surprised the people. Did he ever say anything to indicate that He thought women inferior to men?

Remember, His mother and other women stayed by Him when He was on the cross, whereas His disciples fled and Peter denied Him.

Why are some men so afraid of women becoming priests? In some countries, including the USA, women have been ordained without dire results, and many male priests welcome them.

Surely we should all remember that if any idea is only human, it will collapse; but if it is from God, you will never be able to stop it.



*Thy Kingdom Come*

## BEACON CELEBRATION 2019

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at St Albans Cathedral

Come and join Christians from across the region to worship and pray together that people will come to know Jesus Christ.

[www.stalbans.anglican.org/thykingdomcome](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/thykingdomcome)