

## **Is the nuclear family a happier one?**

### **Changing times and attitudes**

Alan and Rick Thomas-Williams entered into a civil partnership in 2011. Two professional men who moved to Cardiff, they have decided to adopt their first child.

Whilst the number of same-sex families is growing, it is still less than 1% of the total number of families with children.

When you adopted, what was the discussion you had, what were the thoughts, what were the issues that you had to thrash about between you?

“There weren’t any really. I think we always knew pretty early on that we wanted to adopt. I don’t remember having to thrash anything out really, it was pretty normal I guess.”

“We’d both grown up wanting children and, you know, the options are artificial insemination with a donor or whatever, or adoption, and we both knew that this is what we wanted to do.”

For more than thousands of years kids have been brought up by a man and a woman. Evolution, it’s the way we do it, it’s the way biology works. And OK, we mess around with things and we change things. It’s called development and advancement but that’s the way we’ve done it. And now you’re messing around with it, it’s an experiment and we just don’t know how it’s going to work out.

“But if the human race didn’t change anything we’d still all be living in caves.”

“Times do change and if you’re saying we’re not sure how it’s going to work out there have been recent studies in Australia, a study by a university in Australia a couple of months back saying – how they measure happiness I don’t know – children with same-sex parents are 8% happier.

“And the reason they were saying was because the gender roles aren’t there, so instead of me saying: ‘I’m doing this, you’re doing this, because it’s what expected,’ I’m actually doing what I’m best at and you’re doing what you’re best at.”

“We’ve both grown up in divorced families, lots of divorces in the family and we’re used to different shapes and sizes of families.

“We’ve got half siblings, we’ve got step-siblings and that’s relatively normal where we’re from, so I think it’s just an additional family, another family type and people come to terms with that pretty quickly because that’s what they’ve done over the years.”

“I think that these children are growing up in a generation where being gay is absolutely normal. Parents might have an issue. Well, who cares? So long as his friends are fine and he’s fine, I don’t care.”