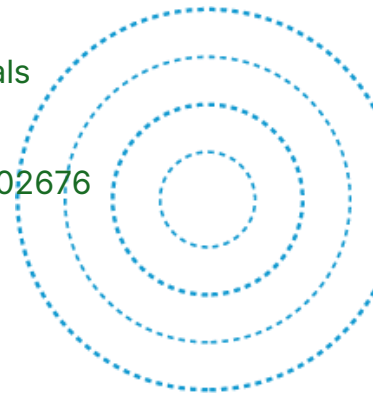


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Inclusive Church



October 2025

Open Letter from Members of the Church of England

We, the undersigned, are clergy and lay members of the Church of England, who are deeply disappointed by the recent decisions of the House of Bishops regarding the *Prayers of Love and Faith* (PLF)¹ and the continued absence of a clear pathway for clergy to enter same-sex marriages.

We affirm publicly that:

1. We long for the Church of England to become a truly hospitable Church for LGBTQ+ people, where all may find authentic welcome, safety, and joy in the life of Christ's Body.
2. We lament that, despite words of apology for the Church's treatment of LGBTQ+ people,² those words have not yet been matched by our deeds.
3. We give thanks, and are grateful for, the witness and example of ecumenical partners and denominations with whom we work, who offer a full welcome to LGBTQ+ people, and who have seen the Gospel flourish as a result.
4. We commend the use of the Prayers of Love and Faith³ in every context, as a step towards the equality we seek. We will seek to use them in our own parishes and communities as a visible expression of God's inclusive love and where we are personally unable to do so, we will nevertheless ensure that this ministry is offered.
5. We will not withdraw our Parish Share, or other financial contributions, in protest. Instead, we choose to invest in the shared mission and ministry of our dioceses, believing that generosity, not punishment, reflects the character of Christ.



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6. We commit ourselves to pray for the House of Bishops as they navigate these decisions, and for the healing and renewal of the whole Church as we continue to discern God's call.

Recent surveys and votes in General Synod have consistently shown that the majority of those within the Church of England now seek greater inclusion and affirmation of LGBTQ+ people⁴. It is not right that these voices remain unheard, nor that the Church continues to inflict the pain of exclusion and rejection on LGBTQ+ people, their friends, families and allies.

The *Living in Love and Faith* (LLF) process has received significant investment of time, money, prayer, theology and discernment. It has engaged deeply with scripture, tradition and reason, whilst seeking to also listen to lived experience. We do not support coercion or silencing of any view, but rather commit to open, honest and compassionate dialogue that honours individual conscience and fully hears the call to love one another as Christ has loved us.

We call on the House of Bishops to offer leadership and direction that honours the inclusive majority of the Church of England and truly values LGBTQ+ people. We speak now, not in defiance, but because we *live in love and faith*, believing that the Church is at her best when we love courageously and listen deeply. We stand together, trusting that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth.

Yours faithfully...

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¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/update-living-love-and-faith-october-2025>

² Resolution of General Synod, February 2023 <http://churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/bishops-response-living-love-and-faith>

³ Prayers of Love and Faith <http://churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/prayers-of-love-and-faith.pdf>

⁴ These include Times survey of CofE clergy Aug 2023; survey of Anglicans including laity Feb 2023 and the *Are You In* survey from Inclusive Church in Autumn 2024.

