



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday 9th December

Inclusive Church receives support from every Diocese and Cathedral in the Church of England for Open Letter about Living in Love and Faith.

The Open Letter [Link](#) was signed by almost 7000 individuals, clergy and lay members of the Church of England, expressing widespread deep disappointment in the decisions of the House of Bishops regarding the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process in October 2025. Signatories reaffirmed their commitment to a hospitable and generous Church, and called on the House of Bishops to offer leadership that recognises the inclusive majority within the Church of England and honours the decisions made by General Synod.

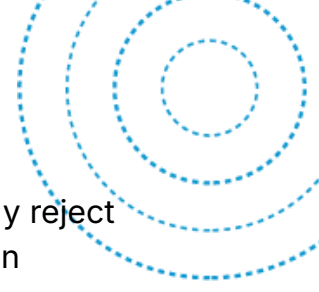
The responses in summary:

- Inclusive Church received over 7000 requests from members of the Church of England to be named as signatories.
- Those members come from more than 3,000 churches.
- Responses were received from every Diocese and every cathedral.
- 39% of signatories are ordained; including 13 cathedral deans, 14 archdeacons and 7 bishops.
- Signatories include parish clergy, chaplains, ordinands, Readers, churchwardens, PCC members, youth workers, and congregants from rural, suburban, and urban settings*.
- The information provided challenges the commonly cited narrative that churches with inclusive theology are few in number, small in size and unsustainable.

Key themes of the Open Letter include:

- Affirmation of a hospitable and generous Church: Signatories commit to fostering communities in which LGBTQ+ people may find genuine belonging within the life of Christ's Body.
- Lament that apology has not led to action: there is shared sorrow that the Church's apology to LGBTQ+ people has not yet been matched by concrete change.
- Commitment to use the Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF). Commending their use in every context as a visible expression of God's inclusive love.



- 
- Refusal to engage in punitive financial action: signatories explicitly reject withholding Parish Share, choosing instead to invest generously in diocesan life and shared mission.
 - A call for courageous leadership: The letter asks the House of Bishops to recognise the inclusive majority reflected in recent surveys and Synod votes, and to offer clear direction that honours the dignity of LGBTQ+ people.

*Residential postcodes provided have been aligned with diocese boundaries wherever possible; the impact of any margin of error should be minimal.

Reaction to the Open Letter:

The response to the IC Open Letter represents a broad cross section of the Church of England, from tiny rural parishes to many of our great cathedrals and sizeable urban worshipping communities.


They draw on nearly 1 in 5 of our churches, ranging from tiny rural parishes to busy urban centres. This is an open letter, not a survey, gathered rapidly and informally, it represents only 'the tip of the iceberg' of widespread unhappiness at the decision to halt progress towards greater LGBTQ+ inclusion through LLF.

Significantly, some signatories are members of churches belonging to conservative networks, including people from HTB network churches, churches involved with New Wine, and churches under additional episcopal oversight. This demonstrates that such churches are not as theologically homogenous as is often portrayed. Recognising this diversity is essential for good pastoral practice and for understanding the lived experience of local congregations.

A number of signatories have taken considerable personal risk in coming forward. Part of the purpose of the Open Letter was to give voice to those often unheard and overlooked. When individuals chose to name their church, we have respected that choice. A church appearing on the list must not be assumed to be fully affirming; the opposite may be true. We encourage all engaging with the Open Letter to approach the data with this nuance in mind.

Inclusive Church are committed to transparency. We believe the Church is best served by honestly acknowledging the breadth of conviction among its members. That honesty can feel uncomfortable, but it is necessary for building communities grounded in trust, grace and truthful conversation, especially where views differ. Our calling is to hold that diversity with love.





Signatories are included from conservative churches with large youth and student ministries; highlighting the concern among younger generations for LGBTQ+ inclusion in the Church of England.

Chair of Inclusive Church, Ven. Allie Kerr, said:

“The scale and depth of support for this Open Letter speaks to a Church longing for clarity, compassion, and genuine inclusion. People want to move forward together, but they also want their LGBTQ+ family members and friends to feel safe and truly welcome in the church.”

National Coordinator, Revd Chantal Noppen, added:

“These signatories represent a hopeful, faithful movement within the Church. Their shared commitment to generosity, hospitality, and honest dialogue deserves to be heard. Many have endured hardship, struggle and exclusion in their journey with the Church, and their willingness to speak out is profoundly courageous. For every person who has signed, there are many more whose voices we may never hear, because they stopped trying long ago.”

ENDS

Inclusive Church has sent the Open Letter and the list of signatories to the Archbishop of York, Archbishop-designate of Canterbury, each Diocese in the Church of England and to Helen Fraser the lead on LLF.

Media Enquiries:

Chantal Noppen, Inclusive Church National Coordinator
natco@inclusive-church.org 07734 809327

Notes for Editors:


[Inclusive Church](#) was founded in 2003 in direct response to the handling of the nomination of Rev'd Dr Jeffrey John to be Bishop of Reading. Our remit has widened considerably since then, and we work ecumenically.

Inclusive Church intentionally takes an intersectional approach to inclusion and raising awareness of the impact of exclusion, across nine areas (disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.)

The Inclusive Church Network continues to grow; more than a thousand churches have formally chosen to join, publicly affirming our vision and committing to work towards it.

Each church signs up to the Inclusive Church Statement:





“We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

Inclusive Church emphasises that its role is not to campaign but to equip churches with a clear understanding of the experiences, hopes, and convictions of its members across a number of areas where discrimination occurs.

