



LGBTQ+ Statement – revised 20231114

Longing to be as welcoming, open, and inclusive a church as possible, and embracing the *Honest Church* campaign, we have shaped a statement that we believe accurately and honestly reflects the church community as it is now. Here is that statement:

This is a church where there is support for LGBTQ+ people. Indeed, on 24th November 2021, the Church Council unanimously approved the registry of the premises for same sex marriage.

Individuals or couples who are LGBTQ+ can therefore expect to be welcomed personally and invited to participate fully in the life of the church. There is nothing preventing access to leadership.

Current leaders are likely to be prepared to voice their affirmation and they may occasionally preach or write a blog or magazine article to explain their theological position.

As part of the diverse family of faith, there may also be members of the congregation or leadership who are unsure or non-affirming. This means that an LGBTQ+ person or couple may occasionally meet others who may not be au fait with current inclusive terminology and/or may hear comments that are uninformed, but the culture of the church as a whole is welcoming from a theological and personal standpoint.

Illustrations and modelling may still tend towards heteronormativity but will be likely to be consciously minimised. In fact, sexuality and relationships of any kind are rarely mentioned.

If this sounds or feels like the sort of church community that you could envisage becoming a part of and would like to help to further change for the better, we very much look forward to welcoming you amongst us and indeed worshipping and journeying with you. See you soon!