



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Inclusive Church gets 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. It expressed widespread deep disappointment in the decisions of the House of Bishops regarding the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process in October 2025. It reaffirmed the commitment to a hospitable and generous Church, calling for the House of Bishops to offer leadership that recognises the inclusive majority within the Church of England and honours the decisions voted on 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 came 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 by the signatories also provides a strong indication that challenges the commonly cited narrative about the small size and unsustainability of churches with inclusive theology.

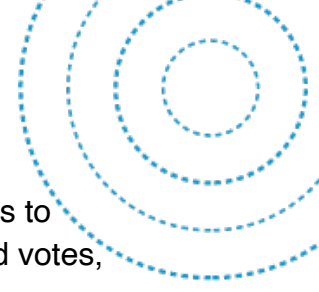
#### **Key themes of the Open Letter include:**

- 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 change: sorrow that the Church's apology to LGBTQ+ people has not yet been matched by concrete action.
- Commitment to use the Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF). Signatories commend the use of PLF in every context as a visible expression of God's inclusive love.
- Refusal to engage in punitive financial action: The letter explicitly rejects withholding Parish Share, choosing instead to invest generously in diocesan life and shared mission.



**Inclusive  
Church**



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- 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 and practical, although there is a small possible margin for error, this impact of that is negligible.

### **Reaction to the Open Letter:**

With nearly 7000 people signing from over 3000 churches, the signatories to the letter represent a broad cross section of the Church of England. They draw on nearly 1 in 5 of our churches, ranging from tiny rural parishes to many of our great cathedrals. This is an open letter, not a survey, gathered rapidly and informally, so is just the tip of the iceberg of unhappiness that exists with the Bishops' decision to put the brakes on to greater LGBTQ+ inclusion through the Living in Love and Faith project.

There are many members of churches belonging to conservative networks who have signed the letter, including people from HTB network churches, churches involved with New Wine, and churches under evangelical or catholic additional episcopal oversight. Signatories from conservative churches include those from large evangelical churches with ministries to students and young people, highlighting the concern of younger generations for the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in how the Church of England works.

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. While it also important to acknowledge that many of those named have experienced a lot of hardship, struggle and exclusion from the church, and the path to this point has not been easy ride, there are far more voices we will probably never hear, as they have long stopped trying to speak up."*

### **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:**





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### 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.

