

Towards being a welcoming and inclusive church

As a church committed to knowing Jesus and making Jesus known, we want to be a welcoming and inclusive church. The focus of this paper is on including people who are same-sex-attracted, but we recognise that being an inclusive church is a far broader matter as we seek to reduce any barriers that prevent us from embracing the rich diversity of the society we wish to reach and serve.

1. Our church family meetings are open to people who are same-sex attracted.
2. We will not tolerate derogatory language or stereo-typing attitudes towards anyone, either up-front or in conversation between church family members.
3. We want everyone in our church to know that we all experience sexual brokenness and are all encouraged to confess our own sexual sins.
4. We aim only to mention same-sex sexual relationships up-front in the context of other sinful patterns of sexual behaviour, always holding out the promise of forgiveness offered to all through faith in Christ crucified.
5. We want everyone in our church to hear the same call to radical self-sacrifice of themselves in response to God's giving of himself in Jesus and to honour that sacrifice, especially for those choosing to live celibate lives.
6. Living out our calling to self-sacrifice, we encourage church family members to share meals, homes, holidays, festivals, money, family life with others from different backgrounds and life situations, including those of a different sexual orientation.
7. We will promote, value and practically support God's gifts of either singleness or marriage equally in our church family's life together.
8. We will encourage everyone in our church to develop an identity founded first and foremost on their union with Christ.
9. Recognising the gifting of celibate same-sex-attracted Christians, their sexual orientation will not prevent them from exercising those gifts or serving in leadership in our church.
10. We will not pressurise anyone into expecting or seeking any "healing" or change in regard to sexual orientation, that God has not promised until the renewal of all things.

Agreed by PCC, 8 July 2025