



# LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

Christian teaching & learning about identity, sexuality, relationships & marriage



## What is LLF?

The Church of England's Living in Love and Faith (LLF) project seeks to be a 'learning journey'.

LLF sets out to inspire people to think more deeply about what it means to be human, and to live in love and faith with each other. It tackles the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change.

## How will it do that?

At the heart of the project is a five-session course, which is shaped to encourage reflection, discussion with others, and feeding back. It emphasises six 'Pastoral Principles' to enable honest speaking and respectful listening in as safe a space as possible. All churches and all churchgoers are invited to participate, with feedback from discussions anonymised and collated at a national level. The whole process is supported by a broad range of online and print resources, including the LLF Book, a set of podcasts, life story films and an online library for 'going deeper'.

## What pathway might my parish take to engage with LLF?

We are offering a range of ways to help parishes engage with this important national project. Your pathway might include some or all of these options; parishes are invited to submit any feedback by the end of November 2021. There are more details about each step on page 2 of this leaflet.

- Attend a 90-minute **Overview & Taster events** for clergy & church leaders to understand the LLF process better.
- All those leading groups should book on our **Group Leader briefings** to help those considering or planning to lead a group – introducing LLF & refreshing group facilitation skills.
- Consider our **Diocesan Course for Leaders** – a chance to experience the full course before leading others.
- Think about whether you wish to work with an **LLF Companion** to support your journey.
- Run your own course or attend the **Diocesan Course for Church Groups and Individuals** – we'll sort the tech, you just need to book and turn up! Bring a group and a leader and have your own breakout room or come as an individual and we'll put groups together.
- Submit your **feedback** – through the course itself or by sending an email. Details of how to do this are on the diocesan website.

"My hope is that people will be open and courageous. Living in love and faith involves the whole church, and we encourage you to take part too."

Stephen Cottrell,  
Archbishop of York

Jonathan Kimber is our diocesan LLF Advocate. Please contact him on [jkimber@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:jkimber@cofe-worcester.org.uk) to arrange a companion, let him know your plans or if you are stuck at any stage of the process. More information is also available on the diocesan website: [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/lif.php](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/lif.php)

*"My deepest prayer is that in living together in love and faith we demonstrate the same love for one another as we have received from God himself."*

*Justin Welby,  
Archbishop of Canterbury*

## Start a discussion about LLF in your church

- Think about a course leader who can enable a good conversation, even if there may be some disagreement.
- Will you run the course yourself or join with a diocesan course?
- What does a braver & safer space look like for your church? Will you partner with a church from a different tradition?
- Will you meet over zoom or wait until it is safe to meet in person? (Some may find being in their own home an easier way to deal with potentially challenging materials while for others it may be more important for everyone to be in the same room.)



More information about all of these opportunities is available on the diocesan website. They will be running a number of times.

### Overview and Taster events

- A 90 minute online event.
- Designed especially for clergy and church leaders, to address:
  - What's LLF all about?
  - What's the quality and tone of the materials?
  - What are some options for helping my church engage?
  - What support and resources are available?
- Dates available in April - May.

### Group Leaders briefings

A 2 hour event, designed for those who are considering or planning to lead an LLF Group.

Focussing on:

- Overview and intro to LLF.
- Refresher of group facilitation skills.
- Consideration of online and face-to-face factors.
- Attention to particular considerations with this course material.
- Running in April, May, June and in the Autumn.

### Diocesan Course for Leaders

Designed for and open to: clergy, other church leaders, and people planning to lead an LLF Course group.

- A chance to experience the course for yourself before leading others, or planning how to engage.
- Dates in April and May.

### Diocesan Course for Church Groups & Individuals

We'll sort out the tech; you just need to book and turn up.

- Come as a group from a benefice with your own leader.
- You'll see the course video with everybody else, then be in your own breakout rooms for discussion.
- Some benefices might send 2 or more groups, each with a leader.
- It will also be possible to sign up as an individual and be part of a created group.
- Dates available from June onwards.

### Companions & Chaplains available

The companion's role will be to accompany and support a particular church or combination of churches, as they plan LLF engagement and lead LLF discussion groups. Contact Jonathan ([Jkimber@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:Jkimber@cofe-worcester.org.uk)) to arrange this.

Chaplains are available to speak to anyone who may be finding this process difficult contact:

Stephen Buckley: [stephenbuckley481@btinternet.com](mailto:stephenbuckley481@btinternet.com)

Christine Holzapfel: [c.holzapfel15@gmail.com](mailto:c.holzapfel15@gmail.com)

### What's the timing?

This church-wide engagement period is due to end in Nov 2021 – and we are well aware of the magnitude of other issues currently facing us. It would be great if at least some from your church could engage.

Feedback, gathered in a variety of ways, will be an important part of the learning and listening process that will enable bishops and members of General Synod to discern a way forward for our Church during 2022.

Discussions around LLF will relate directly to profound aspects of people's identity, lives and beliefs. Strong personal feelings are involved. Not all of us are fully comfortable exploring and discussing such topics. Please offer and encourage safe space for good and brave conversation – the course is designed with this as a high priority. However, it is for each person to choose whether, when and how they engage.

