

A SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOME OF LLF

FATHER LOUIS DARRANT, 29 JANUARY 2026

**CHAPLAIN OF MALAGA, AREA DEAN OF SOUTHERN SPAIN,
BISHOP'S LGBT+ LIAISON OFFICER**

Thinking further about how one would describe the outcome of Living in Love and Faith, it's perhaps helpful to remind people that the General Synod had voted in favour of introducing two things which have not been delivered:

(a) the ability for churches to offer standalone services of the Prayers of Love and Faith; and (b) the possibility for clergy to be in same-sex civil marriages.

In return for allowing these work strands to proceed, the conservative minorities (evangelical and traditional catholic) were asking to belong to a third province, which would be created specially for them in addition to the provinces of Canterbury and York.

Instead, they were being offered 'delegated episcopal oversight' - i.e. the ability to be overseen by a 'flying bishop' just on matters of sexuality, but for all other purposes to remain in their existing province (either Canterbury or York) with their existing bishop.

This wasn't considered enough by the conservative minorities, resulting in a stalemate. The House of Bishops did not want the church to split over it, and they weren't keen on delegated episcopal authority anyway. So they postponed work on both (a) and (b), brought LLF to a close and said there was no need for delegated episcopal oversight after all, since nothing was changing.

Where are we at?

The Living in Love and Faith process is being brought to an end at the February General Synod by the Bishops asking Synod to pass a resolution setting up (in particular) a new Relationships, Sexuality and Gender Working Group to take forward discussions and report back to the (by then new) General Synod by late 2028 on -

- the legal process that would be required for introducing standalone Prayers of Love and Faith**
- the required legislative changes that would be needed for clergy to be able to enter same-sex marriage**

The full text of the Synod resolution (to be voted upon on 12 February) is

That this Synod:

- (a) recognise and lament the distress and pain many have suffered during the LLF process, especially LGBTQI+ people;**
- (b) affirm that the LLF Programme and all work initiated by the February 2023 LLF Motion and subsequent LLF Motions will conclude by July 2026;**
- (c) thank the LLF Working Groups for their committed and costly work, which will now draw to a close with the conclusion of this synodical process;**
- (d) commend the House of Bishops in establishing the Relationships, Sexuality and Gender Working Group and Relationships, Sexuality and Gender Pastoral Consultative Group for continuing work.**

What is happening in our Diocese?

- (a) Advisory Group to be extended with the appointment of Archdeaconry Representatives to assist me in my role.**
- (b) Continuing support for Chaplains and Chaplaincies seeking advice on local issues**
- (c) Advocacy for individuals needing particular support**
- (d) A mailing list and web presence to share resources and create connection**
- (e) Support for ordinands - wellbeing from the beginning of their ministries**
- (f) A retreat for LGBT+ clergy**
- (e) Supporting the emerging Together for the Church network in our Diocese**

"Confident Faith, Gospel Action" - understanding this work through the lens of our Synod Theme

- 1. Our fundamental identity as Christians rests in our baptism, not in our sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender or any other category. All are equal and to be recognised as people within whom the divine image dwells.**
- 2. Jesus calls us into friendship with him and by extension into friendship with all whom he calls. The Church is his Body not our own design. Our responsibility is to embody that welcome in every aspect of our life, both corporately and individually.**
- 3. Inclusion is at the heart of the Gospel. How can we move from an attitude of problems to solve to an attitude of gifts to receive? How can we celebrate the presence and participation of people of people from different backgrounds? God has always called us.**
- 4. Recognise the importance of these issues in terms of our mission. The Gospel offers the possibility of living distinctively in a society which is looking for a safe place to belong and to grow. There is entirely good news and gives the possibility of speaking confidently and respectfully in times such as these.**



Reaching for the Hem

7.30pm Monday 9 February



Presider: **The Rt Revd Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Newcastle.**
Preacher: **The Very Revd David Monteith, Dean of Canterbury.**

In February, General Synod considers final proposals for *Living in Love & Faith*, a multi-year exploration of the place of LGBTQIA+ people's relationships and ministry in the Church of England. This Eucharist offers a space to bring the hurt, anger and disappointment many are feeling. **All are welcome.**

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livestream via Facebook, YouTube, smartins.digital

<https://togethercofe.org.uk/> <https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/>