

THE PARISH OF WEST KIRBY ST. BRIDGET WITH CALDY

INCLUSIVE CHURCH SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER 2025



“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.”

This Parish is proud to be registered with Inclusive Church: we display the IC Declaration (see front page) and we can be found at inclusive-church.org by people searching for a Church which does not discriminate and campaigns for national change.

But isn't discrimination illegal?

The Church of England has exemptions under laws such as the Equality Act 2010, and is permitted to discriminate on the grounds of gender and sexuality.

The General Synod, in a series of close hard-fought votes, has made some progress towards blessing same-sex unions, but there is still a way to go, and much opposition.

It is not legally possible for same-sex couples to marry in the Church of England.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/just-engaged/legal-requirements>

In December 2023, the Prayers of Love and Faith, a suite of resources that can be used in existing services to bless same-sex couples, were formally commended for use by bishops. Those currently leading the process are developing further proposals to allow standalone blessings for same sex couples and agreeing a timetable towards clergy same sex marriages.

[Church of England Evangelical Council](#)

Most people do not know that eight serving bishops and 587 churches in the Church of England limit the things women can do and these include some of the biggest churches in the country. Some don't allow female priests to bless the bread and wine; some don't allow women to preach; some don't allow female priests to apply to be their vicar.

[Women and the Church](#)

More info at inclusive-church.org thinkinganglicans.org.uk cofe-equal-marriage.org.uk or read [The Church Times](#)

What action is this Parish taking?

- We publicise our inclusive welcome and flew the Pride Progress flag in Pride month
- Our Rector would conduct same sex marriages if permitted, and has signed up at <https://cofe-equal-marriage.org.uk/clergy-marry-same-sex-couples/>
- We support the ordained ministry of women at all levels as equal to that of men, unlike many C of E parishes
- We take a contextual rather than literalist approach to the Bible in preaching and teaching
- We seek a more diverse representation in the various Church roles, making adjustments as necessary
- We seek to meet the needs of worshippers who have a range of disabilities; we have level access, are a [Sight Loss Friendly Church](#), and are working to provide an accessible toilet for St Bridget's Church
- We seek to enable people of all ages and abilities to take an active part in church life and experience life in all its fullness
- We are on the [Welcome Directory](#) of faith communities who welcome prison leavers
- We celebrate Inclusive Church Sunday each year
- We welcome all for baptism – the parents do not have to be married, heterosexual or already worshippers

Some progress in the past year

- In July 2025, the General Synod voted to stop using the 1991 document *Issues in Human Sexuality*, with a speaker calling it “a fairly minging document”
- The (Anglican) Church in Wales has elected as Archbishop the Most Rev Cherry Vann, who is in a same sex civil partnership
- The next Archbishop of Canterbury is to be The Rt Rev Sarah Mullally, the first woman in the post after 105 men



What more should we do in this Parish?

- Please suggest how we could meet needs better
- Please let us know if you feel excluded
- We realise that our congregations, activities and committees do not look very diverse. We still have some way to go, but we have made some progress

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of West Kirby:
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