

THE PARISH OF WEST KIRBY ST. BRIDGET WITH CALDY

INCLUSIVE CHURCH SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER 2026



“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>

The nine-year project [Living in Love and Faith](#) (LLF) came to an end after a long and impassioned debate at General Synod, in which members aired their disappointment and frustration with what had and had not been achieved with regard to provision for LGBTQ+ people in the Church.
[The Church Times, 27 Feb 2026](#)

Most people do not know that eight serving bishops and nearly 600 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 fly 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 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
- The PCC has written twice to our bishop, expressing concern about the church's stance on sexuality
- We hold a monthly service at which [The Prayers of Love and Faith](#) may be used if a couple requests them

National news...

- In July 2026, a [General Synod motion](#) that *it is legitimate to affirm there are no fundamental objections to being in an intimate same-sex relationship and that such a relationship can be entirely compatible with Christian discipleship and ministry* was passed by clergy and laity but not by bishops
- In Jan 2026 the Rt Rev Sarah Mullally became Archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman in the post after 105 men
- 2026 is a General synod election year and [Inclusive Church is working](#) towards a more representative Synod



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:
Registered Charity 1131379