

Do you think that the church should speak out on social issues or restrict itself to spiritual matters only?

The church should speak out on both but in a spirit of guidance, not judgement.

Is there any aspect within the church which you feel has been neglected and should be improved on?

None that I am aware of.

Do you have a favourite prayer?

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I can not change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

Inclusive Church

The PCC discussed the 'Inclusive Church' statement at its meeting in November and had a very lively time. The issues raised are profound and, for some, very difficult. The PCC felt that it would probably be right for us as a Parish to sign up to the statement and align ourselves with the views contained in it, but we were rather anxious about committing the Parish to something which some members of the congregation were unable to support. As very few members of the congregation have expressed a view we thought we should give you another opportunity to have your say if you wish to do so.

We're going to put some slips of paper at the back with the statement printed on them and we'd like anyone who feels supportive of the statement to sign one. If you feel strongly against it you can sign to say that too. We hope that this will give the PCC a clearer idea of where we as a congregation stand on the matter. We'll then discuss it again at the March PCC meeting which is on Wednesday 16 March. Do please let us know what you think.

The statement is concerned primarily with the Ordained Ministry and expresses

support for the view that no-one should be barred from Ordination as a Bishop a Priest or a Deacon on the basis of their gender, race or sexual orientation. It's topical because the Church will soon be discussing whether women should be permitted to become Bishops. If we sign up to this we are saying 'yes' to women Bishops. The thorny bit of course is 'sexual orientation'. If we sign up to this we shall be supporting the view which says that gay people should not be disqualified from Ordination just because they're gay.

Here's the statement again:

We affirm that the Church's mission, in obedience to Holy Scripture, is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every generation. We acknowledge that this is Good News for people regardless of their sex, race or sexual orientation. We believe that, in order to strengthen the Gospel's proclamation of justice to the world, and for the greater glory of God, the Church's own common life must be justly ordered. To that end, we call on our Church to live out the promise of the Gospel; to celebrate the diverse gifts of all members of the body of Christ; and in the ordering of our common life to open the ministries of deacon, priest and bishop to those so called to serve by God, regardless of their sex, race or sexual orientation.

Michael Camp



...actually, I've decided to give up abstinence for Lent...