

Following the passing of a resolution at the Diocesan Synod in Hereford, a spokesperson for the Church of England said: "We are aware of the resolution passed by Hereford Diocesan Synod calling for the General Synod to debate a motion on services of prayer and dedication for same-sex couples.

"The diocesan synod's decision does not change the teaching or practice of the Church of England, whether in Hereford or anywhere else in the Church.

"Under the Standing Orders of the General Synod, the motion will fall to be debated at the Synod at a time to be decided by its Business Committee.

"Clergy of the Church of England are unable to marry couples of the same sex and, under the House of Bishops' Pastoral Statement on Same Sex Marriage, 'services of blessing' should not be provided for those who enter into civil partnerships or same-sex marriages.

"It is recognised, however, that there is real and profound disagreement in the Church of England over questions relating to human sexuality and the House of Bishops has recently embarked on the preparation of a major new teaching document on marriage and sexuality.

"We are seeking to find ways forward rooted in scripture and the Christian faith as we have received it and which values everyone, without exception, not as a 'problem' or an 'issue', but as a person loved and made in the image of God."

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