The draft texts, proposed by the bishops of the Church of England, will be considered by General Synod in February alongside other proposals in response to a six-year process of listening, learning and discernment on questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage known as Living in Love and Faith.

The bishops have also made a direct public apology to LGBTQI+ people for the way in which the Church has rejected or excluded them, admitting: “We have not loved you as God loves you, and that is profoundly wrong.”

The apology is set out in a pastoral letter from the bishops of the Church of England which also recognises that they disagree over same-sex marriage and proposes a way forward which could be put in action within months.

A report - Living in Love and Faith: A response from the Bishops of the Church of England about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage – sets out the bishops’ proposals and recommends areas for further work.

There is also a book of draft worship resources – Prayers of Love and Faith. It is a range of prayers and readings which could be used in a church service, such as a Service of the Word or a Service within a Celebration of Holy Communion.

Read our press release for more about the Bishops’ immediate response to the Living in Love and Faith journey and download the full report below.

- A response from the Bishops of the Church of England about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage (503.22 KB)
- Draft Prayers of Love and Faith (692.51 KB)
Resources

In their discernment and decision-making, the bishops have drawn upon the resources produced as part of the LLF process. These include the LLF Book and a number of LLF essays that can be found in the online library on the LLF Hub and are listed in this document.

Marriage, civil marriage and holy matrimony

- A Brief History of Marriage Law - Julian Rivers
- Family and Household - Nathan MacDonald
- Theology of Marriage - Simon Oliver
- Christian Theology and the Family - Susannah Cornwall
- Blessing and LLF - Isabelle Hamley
- Blessing - Walter Moberly

The Church and disagreement

- Unity, Division and Living in Love and Faith as the Church of England - Andy Angel
- Inclusion and Exclusion in the New Testament - Jennifer Strawbridge
- Change in the Church: How the Church can change its mind, with particular reference to moral questions - Will Adam
- Holiness and Inclusivism in Isaiah and Ezekiel: An Exercise in Theological Exegesis - Nathan MacDonald

Sexuality and disagreement

- Can channels of grace be in conflict? - Walter Moberly
- Disagreement about the Bible - Mike Higton
- Moberly-Wright Conversation - Walter Moberly and Chris Wright
- Further Thoughts - Walter Moberly and Chris Wright
- How does God communicate through the canon of Scripture? - Chris Wright
- Conscience - Sean Doherty

Bodies and sex
The Body: Holiness and Sin - Amy Daughton

Bodies, Gender and Sexuality - Isabelle Hamley

Reflections on the Song of Songs - Walter Moberly

Source URL: https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/bishops-response-living-love-and-faith