

The Pastoral Advisory Group: Terms of Reference

1. *As Archbishops we will be establishing a Pastoral Oversight group led by the Bishop of Newcastle, with the task of supporting and advising Dioceses on pastoral actions with regard to our current pastoral approach to human sexuality. The group will be inclusive, and will seek to discern the development of pastoral practices, within current arrangements.*

Archbishops' letter, February 16th 2017

Aim

2. To support and advise dioceses on pastoral responses to issues that arise concerning LGBTI+ clergy and lay people. The PAG's advice will be consistent with current doctrine and ecclesiastical laws of the Church of England, and will seek to emphasise the Archbishops' desire to model a *"radical Christian inclusion founded in scripture, in reason, in tradition, in theology and the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it"* to stress the church's responsibility to offer pastoral care to all people. Its work will therefore be based upon careful engagement with people who embody a range of experiences and viewpoints within the Church of England.

Responsibilities

3. To review the advice currently available to bishops, clergy and others relating to public and private pastoral ministry and prayer for LGBTI+ people in various contexts, including their formal relationships. To make recommendations about how existing advice and guidance might be revised without altering the church's current teaching on these matters, and to propose any such changes to the House of Bishops.
4. To respond to requests for advice from bishops regarding specific cases of pastoral care and discipline involving clergy in same-sex relationships, clergy responding to lay people in same-sex relationships, and other cases concerning LGBTI+ people which may arise in the course of bishops' ministries. The objective is to assist in the sharing of knowledge and good practice and to promote an appropriate level of national consistency in approach by collating the material arising from these cases.
5. To ensure that the work of the PAG is part of a joint communications strategy for both the Teaching Document and PAG workstreams.
6. Exploring together, and hearing from others, what radical Christian Inclusion, *'founded in scripture, in reason, in tradition, in theology and the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it.'*¹, means in the life and mission of the Church: sharing and disseminating

¹ From the Archbishops' Letter, 16th February 2017

examples of good practice in terms of pastoral care of and engagement with those who identify as LGBTI+.

Key tasks

7. To bring draft advice on pastoral ministry to LGBTI+ people in the Church of England for initial consideration by the House of Bishops, having reflected on how pastoral practices might develop within current teaching.
8. To review advice provided in the light of the emerging teaching document, through close collaboration with the Teaching Document processes.

Way of working

9. Requests from other bishops for advice on named cases with regard to area of responsibility (2) above will need to be dealt with as reserved business by the bishops within the group. The bishops will however report to other group members that such reserved business has been discussed and will review with them any general issues arising from the review of particular cases.

Time scale

10. The advice of the PAG will need to be undertaken in careful liaison with work on the teaching document. It is therefore difficult to give a precise timescale for the groups work.
11. Members will be appointed initially to serve on the group until the end of 2019.

Membership:

Rt Revd Christine Hardman (Chair)	Professor Helen Berry
Rt Revd Pete Broadbent	Canon Dr Jamie Harrison
Rt Revd Nicholas Chamberlain	Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett
Rt Revd Jan MacFarlane	Ed Shaw
Rt Revd Robert Atwell	Ven Cherry Vann