

# Come as you are

A chaplaincy service for LGBTQIA+ people and those close to them



The service provides pastoral and spiritual care for LGBTQIA+ people and their friends and family. It is a safe space where you can be confident that your lived experience will be listened to with compassion and respect.

LGBTQIA+ people can find it difficult to find safe places in which they can open the conversations they need to have. Others with questions or pastoral needs relating to issues of gender or sexuality often experience the same difficulty.

Although congregations of all theological persuasions may seek to respond in a faithfully Christian way to LGBTQIA+ people, there is no consistency in what this actually means. This can result in LGBTQIA+ people not knowing how they will be greeted, or even if they will be permitted to serve.

The chaplaincy service aims to provide the highest standard of pastoral care across the whole church and in the best traditions of the ministry of chaplaincy. It is an initiative of the Bishop's staff, who have set clear expectations of inclusion and respect towards LGBTQIA+ people.

**Who is it for?** We're here for LGBTQIA+ people aged over 18 who live in the Diocese, their families and friends, clergy and pastoral leaders... and anyone who has pastoral needs, concerns or questions relating to issues of gender or sexuality.

**How do I know it's safe?** The chaplains are committed to, and understand the need for, complete confidentiality.

**What does it cost?** The service is completely free of charge to those who use it.

**How do I find out more?** Visit [oxford.anglican.lgbt](http://oxford.anglican.lgbt) to find out more and hear from our chaplains.

 **DIOCESE of OXFORD** LGBTQIA+ Chaplaincy Service