

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER



LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

First envisioned in 2017 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Church of England's **Living in Love and Faith** course is designed to support Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage, and to encourage information sharing and personal reflection.

Given that same-sex marriage, and blessings of same-sex marriages, are controversial within the Church of England, the PCC feels that now would be a good time to educate ourselves about the relevant biblical, theological, historical and scientific perspectives – not necessarily to change anyone's mind, but just to inform ourselves as individuals and as a parish church.

An analysis in 2022 of responses from 6,448 people who had taken the course revealed that most found it to be a positive experience, and 73% would recommend it to others.

The course comprises five 1.5 hour sessions, each one including an opening reflection about learning together; teaching videos; videos of real-life stories; a discussion; bible study; and prayer and reflection. The sessions will take place in the vestry of Ashford Church on the following dates:

- Friday November 22 2024 at 2.00 pm.
- Friday November 29 2024 at 2.00 pm.
- Friday December 6 2024 at 2.00 pm.
- Friday December 13 2024 at 2.00 pm.
- Friday December 20 2024 at 2.00 pm.

For those who might want to learn more, the course is backed up by an extensive collection of very accessible resources including online and printed documents and books; podcasts; and videos. These can be found at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>

If you are interested in signing up for this course, or would like to learn more, please contact Ian Pykett on 07985 042 392 or i.pykett@btinternet.com

"Living in Love and Faith doesn't impose its views: it listens to different theological and biblical views, and enables us to explore what God's will is for the Church ... my deepest prayer is that, in living together in love and faith, we demonstrate the same love for one another as we have received from God himself."

*The Most Reverend Justin Welby,
Archbishop of Canterbury.*