



#HonestChurch

Here's to being honest.

The campaign

Honest Church is a campaign designed to encourage greater honesty in church about the true welcome that LGBTQ+ people receive and about women's roles in church.

The campaign is not asking churches to ascribe to a particular theology, it is trying to enable churches to have open and honest conversations. If a church does want to become more inclusive, however, the campaign offers suggestions of manageable changes to church life, and links to other organisations that they could begin to get involved with.

Getting involved

honestchurch.org.uk

To start, take the quick quiz to see how inclusive you think your church is.

Then you can engage with the toolkits provided and consider the questions it asks.

Once a congregation feels confident it can have open and honest conversations with people, you could include the Honest Church logo on publicity, or put up a poster in the church. You could also include a statement about inclusion on your website.

Why it's important

When looking for a new church, everyone has something they are looking for, and for some that is a simple question of how welcome they are. Honest Church helps churches be more specific in their publicity and when answering questions about their inclusion. URC Youth know of those who have committed to a church only to find that they are not as welcome or have the opportunities they assumed were available. Young people have to find a new church more often than most as they move for work or study. URC Youth Assembly 2024 encourages churches to engage with Honest Church to be part of the solution to these problems.

An example church statement

We are part of the United Reformed Church, a Christian denomination which has publicly affirmed the dignity of transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people, opposed so-called conversion 'therapy', and which has allowed individual churches to offer same-sex marriage since 2016 if they wish to do so. There are also no limits whatsoever on the role women can play, and for over a hundred years, women have been welcomed as ordained ministers, often occupying the most senior roles in the denomination.

Local churches hold a range of views on inclusion with integrity, so here is a little about our church *[to be completed by the church]*.

A church's story

"Our church has a very robust inclusion statement which made [engaging with Honest Church] a pretty easy process. We have had people from other denominations come to our church for Bible study because they can see how our position aligns with theirs in a way their home churches don't."



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