



The Parish of St Mary the Virgin

Ringmer

Registered Charity No 1131869

Inclusivity Policy

The Inclusive Church Network statement of belief:

We believe in inclusive Church – church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

1. As a member of the Inclusive Church Network, the PCC endorses the Network's 'statement of belief' and ensures that all church members, and those volunteering or working for the church, respect this statement through their activities within the church:

2. As a member of the Inclusive Church Network, the PCC believes in

(a) the equality of opportunity and values all individuals, and seeks to promote diversity and to respond to the needs of all in a fair and equitable manner,

(b) that all people have a right to employment, volunteering opportunities and services which are free from direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality.

The PCC works to ensure all church members, and those volunteering or working for the church respect these values through their activities within the church, seeking thereby to reduce unfair discrimination in society and to eliminate such practices within the church.

3. The PCC will seek to meet its responsibilities in relation to the laws prohibiting discrimination on grounds of race, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation and religion, as well as its broader commitment to justice and equality.

4. All individuals at every level within the church have some level of responsibility for ensuring that this Policy is carried out, and breaches of this Policy will be regarded as disciplinary offences. Training in promoting equality and respecting diversity will be sought, when and as appropriate, for church officers and other church members.