

3 March 2021

Dear Incumbents, Churchwardens in vacant parishes, PCC Secretaries, Chaplains and Readers

Invitation to *LLF* Taster Morning on Saturday 20th March, 10.15am - 1.15pm

As many of you will be aware, the Church of England has embarked on a major project of Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage, known as *Living in Love and Faith (LLF)*. After more than three years of extensive preparation drawn from four working groups (Biblical Studies, Theology, History, and Social and Biological Sciences) the *LLF* team has developed a substantial set of resources.

In order to help us in the Blackburn Diocese learn from the *LLF* resources, and contribute to this national process of discernment, we would like to invite you to an ***LLF* Taster Morning on Saturday 20th March**. This will be held on Zoom, from 10.15am to 1.15pm (with registration available from 9.30am), and will include:

- an overview of the *LLF* process from the national perspective,
- a conversation between two members of the *LLF* team, representing diverse viewpoints,
- a sample selected from the *LLF* course for us to experience together,
- the opportunity to begin thinking about how to engage with *LLF* in the local context, and to ask questions of us as diocesan *LLF* Advocates.

All clergy and licensed ministers are warmly encouraged to attend, and we hope that there will also be a lay person from each parish, chaplaincy and other ministerial setting at the morning.

Some people may be looking forward to *LLF* as a way of engaging with important questions. Others may be nervous. However, as a result of engaging with the *Living in Love & Faith* resources, which can all be accessed free of charge by signing in to the *LLF* Learning Hub at <https://llf.churchofengland.org/>, it is hoped that people and church communities will:

- be **inspired** by scripture's glorious and joyful vision of God's intention for human life.
- have **discovered** how to engage with rich biblical, theological, historical and scientific thinking about human identity, sexuality and marriage in a way that deepens their desire to know God and follow Christ.
- have a deeper **understanding** of the Church's inherited teaching on Christian living in love and faith, especially with regard to marriage and singleness, and of emergent views and the Christian reasoning behind them.
- have heard the voices and **encountered** the experiences of people who would otherwise have been invisible to them.

- have **learned** different ways of reading scripture together well, allowing it to exert its transforming and revelatory power.
- find **help** for everyday Christian discipleship in all its diversity, physicality, messiness and grittiness.
- be **alert** to the interaction between the life of the church and its cultural contexts and equipped to engage in the public square about what it means to be human and sexual.

The ethos of *LLF* is to provide safe and brave spaces where we can listen to and learn from each other, and so we invite you to approach it with an open mind. The taster morning is important for helping parishes, chaplaincies and other ministerial settings plan for the future conversations they will have about human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage by giving them the information they need. It is not intended to be an occasion when those bigger conversations will take place; nor will it be a forum for conflict or adversarial debate.

There will be a process for feedback from our shared learning and discernment in *LLF* to the national church. The details of this feedback process are still being worked out, but the current intention is that it should be completed by November 2021.

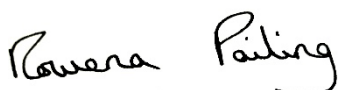
We hope that you will find the taster morning useful, informative and enjoyable. All participants will need to book using Eventbrite: [LLF Taster Morning Eventbrite Bookings](#).

Bookings will close at 12 noon on Wednesday 17th March. If you need assistance with booking, please contact Julie Grimshaw at Clayton House via phone on 07368 197069 or email at julie.grimshaw@blackburn.anglican.org.

In the meantime, if you have any questions for us as the diocesan LLF Advocates, please contact us:

- Revd Canon Dr Rowena Pailing: missioner@blackburncathedral.co.uk
- Revd Jon Scamman: jon@st.tees.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you there.



Revd Canon Dr Rowena Pailing
Revd Jon Scamman
Blackburn Diocesan LLF Advocates