



Guidance for registered churches

Inclusive Church has always encouraged individual churches to formally register with us. These notes are for those churches seeking to explore this as a possibility, as well as churches already registered.

Becoming a 'Registered Inclusive Church'

The process to becoming a registered Inclusive Church may take some time and should not be rushed. It can be a helpful time for congregations to reflect on issues related to inclusion in the widest sense. Formal registration as an Inclusive Church requires a resolution from the leadership (PCC or equivalent) stating support for the Inclusive Church statement of belief. (See below)

Inclusive Church often receives requests from new or emerging churches. All churches considering registering with Inclusive Church must be able to demonstrate that they meet regularly for public worship and that they have appropriate safeguarding policies in place for children and vulnerable adults.

An application for membership as a church will be considered by the trustees at the meeting following the receipt of an application.

Once registered you will regularly be updated with information related specifically to our registered churches; as well as receive our monthly e-newsletter.

It may be helpful to have an open church meeting or a special leadership meeting to discuss Inclusive Church, or maybe use a Sunday where it can be raised in a sermon as an issue. Inclusive Church are able to resource such events with speakers/facilitators as well as literature. Please contact the National Coordinator for more information.

For Registered Churches

Once registered, churches should schedule a regular review to monitor how things are going within the church on issues related to inclusion.

Registered churches are encouraged to participate as fully as possible in the life and work of Inclusive Church. Here are some suggestions:

- making copies of the regular newsletter available to the congregation
- having a link to Inclusive Church on your church website. A logo is available from the National Coordinator
- Consider giving to Inclusive Church as part of your church's away giving

- Regularly referring to Inclusive Church and the issues that it is involved with in worship (sermons, prayers etc.).
- Consider sharing in Inclusive Church Sunday each year. You could ask someone from Inclusive Church to preach – contact the National Coordinator for more information.
- Displaying the Inclusive Church parish poster prominently in the church. This is available from the National Coordinator as a document that you can print yourselves, or we can mail you laminated A3 or A4 copies (for a small cost!)
- Ensuring that your clergy and lay leaders have read the Inclusive Church Book series. Consider buying a set of books for the church. If you have a church bookstall, ensure that the series is part of your regular stock.
- Use the Inclusive Church Resources in your church. Details of Radical Welcome, Living Christianity and the Small Group Study Resources are available within the website. Many of these resources are free and available as downloads.
- Consider joining Inclusive Church at national, diocesan, or regional events (e.g. Greenbelt, Pride, Synod, Annual Lecture)
- Encourage individuals to become actively involved with Inclusive Church – there are lots of ways to help. We are keen to establish a network of ambassadors in dioceses and regions across the UK. We have groups that are working on publicity, newsletter, website and finance, as well as the core areas of our work. If you know someone who may want to get directly involved – we can use them (or you)!
- Encouraging other churches in your local area, deanery or diocese to also register as an Inclusive Church.

Thank you for your support for Inclusive Church.

Further Reading:

The Inclusive Church Resource Series:

Disability

Mental Health

Poverty

Sexuality

Gender

Ethnicity

All of the above titles in this series are published by Darton Longman & Todd

Space for Grace – Creating inclusive Churches: Giles Goddard (Canterbury Press)

Prayers for an Inclusive Church: Steven Shakespeare (Canterbury Press)

The Inclusive God: Steven Shakespeare and Hugh Rayment –Pickard (Canterbury Press)

For more information please contact the National Coordinator:

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The Inclusive Church 'statement of belief'

Adopted at the 2013 Annual Meeting

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.

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