

Thought for the day – Monday 7th February 2022

Revd Kit Gunasekera

Living in Love and Faith

The thought this morning, is simply an encouragement to us all, to engage in Living in Love Faith: The Church of England's learning and consultation on sexuality, identity and relationship. Whatever our views and stance on this issue, we can all learn much from each other. Details of how to do this are below.

I preached yesterday on this at our service. I said that I felt strongly that the church should now change its stance, and rules, and treat those who the LGBTQI+ community as everyone else, and there should be no distinction made between clergy and laity. I also said that I have changed my mind twice over the last 30 years or so, and that i have held both views with equal degrees of certainty in the past. And so, that I totally respect those who disagree with me, and that each one of us should make up our own minds on this issue. You can read my sermon [here](#) and listen to it [here](#).

Whatever the church decides as the way forward, there must be a huge cultural change. The current stance and silence on this issue is having a huge mental health, and physical toll on many LGBTQI+ church members, who cannot feel they can share and be who they are for fear of being misunderstood, unaccepted and rejected. I was hugely impacted by reading Vicky Beeching's book last week, and commend it to you. Details below.

I commend this to all of you, specially those who consider yourselves members of St James church. Please get involved, it is your church, and this is such an important issue. In all our thinking and learning, may we do so prayerfully, and loving one another, and as the song says which we sang yesterday, *...hand in hand we will grow together as one.*

And if anyone would like to chat with me about this issue, whether or not you hold the same view as I do, I am always available, and you will find a listening and respectful ear!

God bless and love,

Kit.

A Prayer for Living in Love and Faith from the Church of England:

God, whose name is Love,
Whose gift is life,
Whose word holds all in being;
Bless Living in Love and Faith to your church
As we seek to grow together
Into the truth of our humanity and longings,
Into communities where all find welcome,
Into the fullness that is your image in us;
Through the Word made flesh,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen