

Same-Sex Marriage and Blessings

To all couples considering sharing their lives together: **Congratulations on your commitment!**

At this church, we strive to be an inclusive and welcoming community. We would be delighted to welcome you, get to know you, and celebrate your love. However, we believe in being open and honest about what is currently legally possible within the Church of England.

The Current Legal Position Currently, Church of England laws prevent clergy from conducting same-sex weddings. This is a legal ban that applies to us regardless of our desire to welcome you. Regrettably, this means we cannot officiate your wedding service or sign the legal marriage registers.

What We Can Offer: Prayers of Love and Faith While we cannot host the legal wedding, we *can* offer spiritual support using the Church's newly authorised "Prayers of Love and Faith."

If you choose to have your legal marriage at a Registry Office, you are incredibly welcome to come to church afterward. Under current regulations, we can offer these prayers and a blessing of your rings **during one of our regular public services** (such as a Sunday morning service).

This allows our whole community to pray for you and celebrate your union publicly. (Please note: we are not yet permitted to hold these as standalone, private services).

Fees Because these prayers are part of our regular worship and not a statutory wedding service, there is **no fee** involved.

Let's Talk We know this may be different from the wedding day you envisioned, and we are sorry for the limitations these laws impose. However, you are welcome here. We would love to meet you for a coffee to congratulate you in person and discuss how we can celebrate your commitment within our regular worship.