

Relating well together

Pastoral principles into practice:
to ensure the flourishing of all

As a Bishop's Council, we have agreed to work to embed the Pastoral Principles into all aspects of our work.

We seek to model these principles in order to ensure the mutual flourishing of all within the Diocese.

We will be working with other areas of the diocese to help them adopt these principles and support their implementation.

The Bishop's Council invites the PCCs to adopt these principles and to reflect on them once a year at or following the APCM meeting.

*These principles were approved by the Bishop's Council on
30 January 2025*

The review period for this guidance is **1 year**.
Date of next review: **January 2026**

Pastoral Principles into Practice: to ensure the flourishing of all

**The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, generosity, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control.**

We seek to develop a culture within our churches where the fruits of the Spirit are able to grow.

We recognise the responsibility we all have in enabling that to happen.

Based on the Pastoral Principles for Living and Learning Well Together, we will ensure that we are –

1. Addressing ignorance and paying attention to power.

To help us do this, we commit to:

- Being more aware of our ignorance about each other's experiences, challenges and perspectives.
- Listening more attentively and speaking more bravely.
- Noticing how power affects our relationships and church communities.
- Being more careful about the way power is handled in our church communities.

2. Talking about confidence and casting out fear.

To help us do this, we commit to:

- Helping people articulate their fears, both as individuals and as members of our church communities.
- Creating relationships and communities that help people feel safe.



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3. Talking about respect and acknowledging prejudice.

To help us do this, we commit to:

- Becoming more aware of our prejudices as individuals and as a community.
- Helping each other address some of the prejudices that affect our relationships and attitudes.

4. Talking openly and speaking into silence.

To help us do this, we commit to:

- Paying attention to areas of life about which we as individuals and as a church community are silent.
- Understanding the impact of silence on our relationships and life as a church.
- Addressing unhelpful silence in our church community.

5. Talking about integrity and admitting hypocrisy.

To help us do this, we commit to:

- Examining and confessing some of the ways in which we, as individuals and as a church community, may be guilty of hypocrisy.
- Encouraging each other to be honest and humble in our words and behaviours.