



*Eeva John is pictured left*

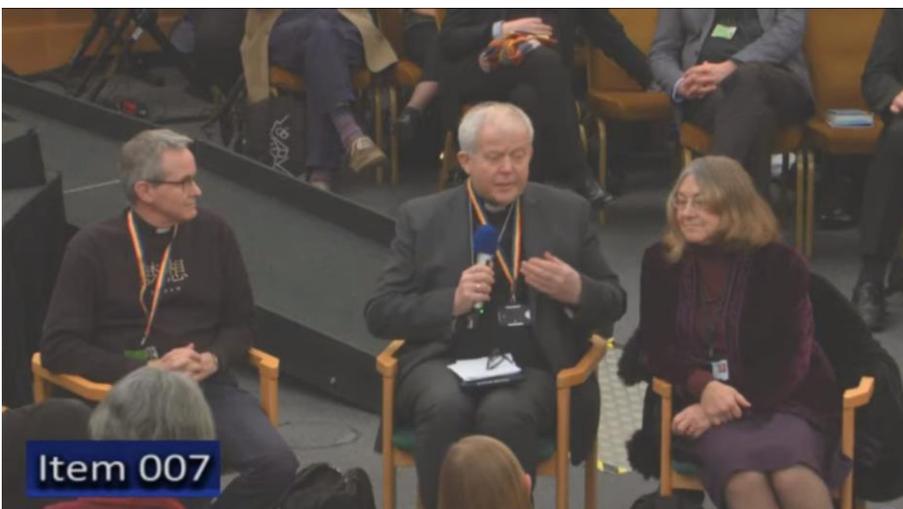
### **Living in Love and Faith**

"Conversations shaped by scripture and enriched by stories of lived experiences are part of what came together to create the Living in Love and faith resources."

That was the message of Eeva John, the enabling officer for the LLF Group.

Eeva said that the last 3 years of meetings and discussions as part of the project had "not been plain sailing", as she spoke of "tears of frustration and confusion" as well as "moments of epiphany".

Synod also heard from some of the Co-ordinating Group, including Bishop Nicholas, who have been working together for more than 2 and a half years.



[Watch footage here](#)

The group sat together and reflected that there was a difference between listening and agreeing.

Bishop Nicholas said:

"One of the things that struck me, one of the things I enjoyed in the group, was talking with people who are different.

"It is not a case of me right and you wrong, but something about our standing in different places and seeing things differently and so I have come to appreciate how a community works and not just us as individuals. That has been a really powerful thing. Some of the experiences we have shared, from different perspectives, have felt very similar experiences.

"That sense of leaning into it, and where 2 or 3 people are gathered together in a way that tries to make sense of Christian faith and Christian life, has been a really powerful experience and it feels like it is a new way of working for us."

The Bishop of Coventry, the Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth, who is overseeing the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process told its parliamentary body on Tuesday that the project is a "call to action" for the church and he said he hoped that the release of the resources would mark the start of a period of "whole-church learning".

Resources from the LLF process (a book, online library, films, and series of podcasts) are due to be published before the next meeting of the General Synod in July. They are intended to be used within dioceses, deaneries and parishes for discussions around love, relationships, marriage and sexuality.

In an update to the General Synod meeting today in London, Bishop Cocksworth said the LLF resources were a chance to "embark on a new way of doing things", as he repeatedly spoke of his desire to see a "change in culture" within the church:

"It is a call to relationship, relationships of openness, honesty, mutual vulnerability. It is a call to engage with difference, to step out of the comfort zones of our like-minded church communities, to meet those who understand things differently from us."

He added:

"It is a call to confession and repentance as we discover and come to terms with our prejudices, blind spots, fears, hypocrisies, and to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our learning together."

Bishop Cocksworth said that the purpose of the LLF process was not to state definitively what the Church believes about sexuality but build "resonance" between people:

"So that they can not necessarily agree, but at least speak truly of what they believe as they speak of Jesus and the Scriptures and the faith that we have received, and then hear the other person do the same and begin to at least understand each other.

"And this is the big test, to see whether it is possible to come to a deeper understanding together of Jesus," he said.

"So it's not been a case of everyone signing on a line: this is exactly what we believe. But there has been that common commitment."

The bishop reiterated this later, when he said the LLF process was an opportunity to learn rather than to cut a "deal".