

Workshop - liturgies for same-sex blessings and marriages

Authority to hold services

Church Services after a Civil Partnership: Nigel Seed, Chancellor of the Diocese of London
<http://inclusive-church.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/Chancellor%20Nigel%20Seed%20Guidance.pdf>

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#13 The Church needs to find a way of honouring and affirming those Christians who experience same sex attraction who, conscious of the church's teaching, have embraced a chaste and single lifestyle, and also those who in good conscience have entered partnerships with a firm intention of life-long fidelity.

#16 We believe there can be circumstances where a priest, with the agreement of the relevant PCC, should be free to mark the formation of a permanent same sex relationship in a public service.

House of Bishops Pastoral Guidance on Same Sex Marriage

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2014/02/house-of-bishops-pastoral-guidance-on-same-sex-marriage.aspx>

Acts of worship following civil same sex weddings

20. The 2005 pastoral statement said that it would not be right to produce an authorized public liturgy in connection with the registering of civil partnerships and that clergy should not provide services of blessing for those who registered civil partnerships. The House did not wish, however, to interfere with the clergy's pastoral discretion about when more informal kind of prayer, at the request of the couple, might be appropriate in the light of the circumstances. The College made clear on 27 January that, just as the Church of England's doctrine of marriage remains the same, so its pastoral and liturgical practice also remains unchanged.

21. The same approach as commended in the 2005 statement should therefore apply to couples who enter same-sex marriage, on the assumption that any prayer will be accompanied by pastoral discussion of the church's teaching and their reasons for departing from it. Services of blessing should not be provided. Clergy should respond pastorally and sensitively in other ways.

Resources

<http://changingattitude.org.uk/resources/services-of-blessing-for-same-sex-relationships>

- A Covenant of Special Friendship
- A Service of Celebration following a Civil Partnership
- The blessing of civil partnerships: Jim Cotter
- Form of service for a marriage 1
- New Westminster Rite for Celebration of Gay and Lesbian Covenants

<http://changingattitude.org.uk/resources/publications/changing-attitudes-rough-guide-to-the-civil-partnership-law>

Jim Cotter: **The Service of My Love: The Celebration and Blessing of Civil Partnerships - a pastoral and liturgical handbook**. http://www.amazon.co.uk/Service-Love-Celebration-Partnerships-Liturgical/dp/1870652479/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1411552206&sr=1-1&keywords=The+Service+of+my+Love+Jim+Cotter £7.08

Geoffrey Duncan: **Courage to Love, an anthology of inclusive worship material**: 2002, DLT, resources in the Celebrate! Rejoice! section.

Equal Rites: Lesbian and Gay Worship, Ceremonies and Celebrations: Ed. Kittredge Cherry and Zalmon Sherwood, 1995, Westminster John Knox Press

An Order for Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/pastoral/marriage/civilmarriage.aspx>

No alteration to the text of the service is allowed without permission. Permission is not going to be given to a text altered for use following a civil partnership or same-sex wedding.