

**North Cambridge Chapter** by Frank Price, St Matthew's Church, Cambridge  
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All 19 Alliance clergy in our North Cambridge deanery attend the new alternative chapter. Some of those who are not ReNew members also go to the original chapter. We all go to deanery synod where we make up a small majority, and have used that to vote through LLF motions and to elect evangelicals to diocesan synod. We operate with the consent of the rural dean (Nick Moir) and there is good will, though it is not what he wanted. It's been costly for some of us relationally with other local clergy, but there have been no legal or practical difficulties.

The email we sent explaining what we were doing to other clergy in the deanery was as follows:

“Dear clergy chapter colleagues,

Now that same-sex blessings are available in a limited form, those of us who can't support them have met to discuss a way forward for chapter. We're grateful for Nick's generous offer of separate meetings. So far 16 clergy from North Cambridge have expressed an interest and asked me to convene the group. Here are some of the thoughts they have expressed:

1. We treasure unity. We still think highly of you as brothers and sisters in Christ and appreciate the warmth and support you show us. We'll all be there at deanery synod. Some will withdraw from the current chapter, others will come to both. We all want good relationships.

2. We do this to maintain our integrity. Many feel that same-sex blessings go beyond the limit of what is acceptable for Christian ministers. Carrying on as if nothing has changed might imply that we affirm them as a legitimate option. If we find ways for clergy to distance themselves from these steps while remaining in the Church of England, that limits the damage and division.

3. We aren't a single issue group. We welcome ordained women and men from all traditions, from south as well as north Cambridge, from teams and churches where views may be mixed. The group is for any who affirm statements like Lambeth 1.10. Our aim is to pray and encourage each other from God's word in all aspects of mission and ministry.

4. This is provisional. I've agreed to convene it for two years until the legislation has gone through synod. I still pray that the Church of England might turn back, or at least reach a national settlement that is workable for all of us.

I appreciate these are sensitive issues with strong feelings on all sides. I would love to meet, listen and pray about it with any of you. Yours in Christ,

Frank”