Llandaff Deanery Motion

for Diocesan Conference 2021

**The following motion is presented by the Deanery of Llandaff:**

The Diocese of Llandaff believes that human sexuality is a gift of God to be cherished and honoured. It is an intrinsic part of who we are as human beings and an expression of God’s glorious diversity in creation. The clergy and people of the Diocese assert that anything which seeks to suggest that there is something inherently sinful in those who are non-heterosexual or which seeks to try and change their sexuality is wrong. It is both abusive and traumatising, as those who have experienced such ‘therapy’ can testify.

The Conference agrees:

1. to support and adopt the ‘Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy in the UK’ as quoted below;
2. to call on all licensed ministers in the Diocese of Llandaff to refuse to offer or participate in offering conversion therapy in any form.

We join our voices with The Royal College of Psychiatrists and other healthcare professionals in asserting that the practice of gay conversion therapy inflicts life-long damage on those who are forced to undergo it and has no place in any church or congregation within our Diocese.

**Memorandum of Understanding**

The Memorandum defines conversion therapy as follows: ‘Conversion therapy’ is an umbrella term for a therapeutic approach, or any model or individual viewpoint that demonstrates an assumption that any sexual orientation or gender identity is inherently preferable to any other, and which attempts to bring about a change of sexual orientation or gender identity, or seeks to suppress an individual’s expression of sexual orientation or gender identity on that basis. It goes on to say the practice of conversion therapy, whether in relation to sexual orientation or gender identity, is unethical and potentially harmful.