

St Mary Magdalene, Picton

The parish community of St Mary Magdalene, Picton participated in 2013 in the celebration of the civil union of a same-sex couple who have been long time members of the parish. In 2016 our Parish Council had a number of discussions on the issue prior to the meeting of General Synod 2016, and some members of our parish wrote to express their views to our Bishop.

Our Synod Delegates participated in the meeting offered by the Diocese in April 2018, and then had a group discussion with their incumbent, Archdeacon Charles Morris. Our Parish Council discussed the issue once again in June 2018.

The consensus view coming out of our first hand experience since 2013 and all of these discussions is that while within our parish there are a range of views regarding the marriage of same-sex couples, our overriding desire is for the welcome and full inclusion of same sex couples in the life of our church, and for many (though not all) of our parishioners, this includes marriage. Across the parish, including among those with reservations, there is a keen desire to be respectful of those with different views from their own.