

# Being Together

## Expectations of behaviour in our church community

Jesus told us to love one another as he loves us. As Christians we know our life together is strengthened when our behaviour is consistent with our faith. However, our experience of being together can be difficult, particularly when there are differences. So it is important to be clear about how we will behave towards each other.

### *Being a community:*

- We will **value the wellbeing of others**.
- We will **encourage each other to participate** in the life of the church.
- We will **consider the impact of our behaviour** on others.

### *Relating to each other:*

- We will **treat each other with respect and dignity**, irrespective of ability, gender, sexuality, race, age or contribution to the church.
- We will **act with integrity and honesty** in our interactions with each other.

### *Communicating with each other:*

- We will **communicate respectfully** with others, and not in a way that threatens, belittles or humiliates.
- We will **speak with integrity and honesty**, and refrain from speculation and gossip.

### *Acknowledging difference:*

- We will **respect those who are different** from us and not isolate or ridicule them.
- We will **listen to and seek to understand** the beliefs, opinions and practices of others, even when we do not share their views.

### *Responding to conflict:*

- We will **accept responsibility** for our part in a conflict.
- We will be willing to **play our part** in resolving a conflict.

*(Adopted by General Synod 2014, 45/14)*