

Visibly Different

An introduction for the Next Steps Group

In 2019 a working group was convened by the Church of England Evangelical Council with the brief:

'... to explore further the idea of a reorganisation of the present provincial structure of the Church of England in order enable evangelicals and those orthodox on marriage and sexuality to flourish should the Church of England shift (or split over) its position on sexuality. Such a study could help to inform the thinking of Evangelicals in the Church of England and form the basis of a concrete proposal from the CEEC to the wider Church of England at some point in the future.'

This working group met during the course of 2019 and Martin Davie and Stephen Hofmeyr produced a briefing paper for CEEC on behalf of the group. That briefing paper, *Visibly Different*, was presented to CEEC in January 2020 and it has since been used extensively as the basis for the discussions of the matters that it covers both in the CEEC itself and in the Diocesan Evangelical Fellowships.

Visibly Different is not an agreed statement by the CEEC. It is simply a briefing paper for CEEC designed to encourage discussion and stimulate further thought. The reason CEEC is offering it for consideration by the Next Steps Group is because it explains in detail why orthodox Evangelicals feel that differentiation may become necessary in future and the discussions that they are having about what shape they think this differentiation might take.