

**Church Times, London, Friday 18 January 2019**

**The Oxford ad clerum and the response to it**

Your report on the Oxford ad clerum used the abbreviation LGBTI+ (used in the ad clerum itself) twice. In the Revd Miranda Threlfall-Holmes's article (Comment, same issue), the term LGBTQIA+ is used. I have discovered what LGBT stands for, but the rest of the alphabet used is not explained, and a "+" could be taken to indicate sexual activities that the writers or organisations concerned are unwilling to make explicit. Are they, perhaps, P for paedophilia, or SM for sado-masochism?

It is probably too much to expect that anyone will ever be open and frank about this subject. The impression is being given that your publication and our leaders in the Church of England are intent on promoting such diverse sexual activities as preferable to that which is procreative and within a committed faithful relationship between a man and a woman.

When Ely Cathedral flew the rainbow flag to demonstrate solidarity with a Gay Pride, it may have given the general public the impression that all parishes in the diocese had abandoned support for traditional marriage.

Surely, the full membership of the Church of England should be given the opportunity to make its views felt. Perhaps a referendum would be appropriate?

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