



## **Health and Safety in the Churches, Churchyards and Church Halls**

This statement was adopted at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and will be reviewed annually. Last reviewed and updated May 2026.

The personal safety of each member of our church families is important to us.<sup>1</sup> As churches we are responsible for providing a safe environment for everyone to worship and serve in, while recognising that everyone has a clear responsibility for their own health and safety. To help with that, we adopt the following principles:

1. For activities in church, churchyard and church hall there will be a minimum of two people 'on duty' i.e., services, wedding rehearsals, funerals, maintenance, etc.
2. Where two persons should be together and only one turns up, that person should not start any tasks, but make contact with the other person or the Churchwarden(s).
3. If a member of the congregation has to enter church alone or after dark, they're encouraged to consider locking the door behind them. It is recommended that any hirers follow the same approach.
4. The contact details for a member of the church leadership team will be clearly displayed within the building.
5. Church members are not to put themselves at risk if accosted by someone wanting to steal from church. People are more important than property and if there is risk of harm, the perpetrator should be allowed to make good their escape without confrontation, and the alarm raised only when it is safe to do so.
6. All such incidents should be reported to the Incumbent and the Churchwarden(s) as soon as it is practical who will keep a record of such incidents.
7. Any money and valuables will be kept locked in the safe and we will vary the days and times money is taken to the bank. Where possible two people will do this to ensure accountability and safety. The safety of the person(s) taking the money to the bank is important. The person normally responsible for banking should always carefully consider whether they should ask someone to accompany them, especially on occasions where there is a large amount of money to be banked (e.g., following special fundraising events).
8. Under no circumstances should a person on their own use a building's lift.
9. Outside lights are installed to ensure the safe unlocking/re-locking of the building during darkness.
10. No one is required to attend a meeting that they feel uncomfortable at.
11. Any meetings that give cause for concern will be attended by two people. Where this is not possible, the churchwarden(s) will be informed of the meeting beforehand, and following the return home.

Each person involved in activities within the church community will agree to abide by this policy.

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<sup>1</sup> This policy applies to unpaid volunteers. Separate policies apply to those employed by the Parish or Diocese.