

# **THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY FOR**



**HOLY CROSS CHURCH  
CHURCH ROAD  
MARK  
SOMERSET  
TA9 4NF**

This document has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the regulations made under it.

The policy is in four sections:

- Section A      General statement of policy
  
- Section B      Organisation and responsibilities
  
- Section C      Arrangements
  
- Section D      Risk assessments

## **SECTION A            General Statement of Policy**

Our policy, so far as is reasonably practicable, is to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for any of our employees, casual labour or voluntary helpers, and to provide such information, training and supervision as they need for this purpose.

We will also endeavour to ensure, our building and systems don't harm, the health, safety and welfare of all members of the congregation, contractors, visitors and others who may visit the church, churchyard and associated premises.

The allocation of duties for safety matters and the particular arrangements that we will make to implement the policy are set out below.

The policy will be kept up to date, particularly in the light of any changes to our buildings or activities. To ensure this, the policy and the way in which it has operated will be reviewed at least every three years and more frequently if there are significant changes and the appropriate amendments made.

To ensure that health and safety matters are kept constantly under review, an item on health and safety will be on the agenda for all meetings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), and employees and voluntary workers will be regularly consulted on their views on health and safety matters.

Signed:

Priest in Charge

Date:



- a. Be familiar with health and safety regulations so far as they concern church premises.
- b. Be familiar with this health and safety policy and its arrangements and report immediately any noted non-observance to the Secretary to the PCC.
- c. Give advice so that, as far as is reasonably practicable, safe systems of work are in place.
- d. Inspect the church at least monthly for cleanliness, tidiness and clutter and report any adverse observations to the PCC.
- e. Inspect the churchyard at least monthly for the proper maintenance of trees, bushes and grass and that walls, monuments and tombstones are safe and report any adverse observations to the PCC.
- f. Give advice on the provision and wearing of safety equipment and clothing where appropriate.
- g. Give advice on the proper maintenance of any church owned plant, equipment and tools and the provision of appropriate training to all operators.
- h. Give advice on the provision and maintenance of adequate access and egress.
- i. Give advice on the provision and maintenance of suitable and adequate firefighting equipment and inspect such equipment at least monthly and report any adverse observations to the Secretary to the PCC.

## **6. Responsibility of the Fabric Person. – Pete Morgan**

Work with contractors to: provide PAT testing for electrical appliances; maintenance of equipment, lightning conductor and fire extinguishers. Also any project work.

## **7. Responsibility of Employees and Voluntary Workers.**

All employees and voluntary workers have a responsibility to co-operate in the implementation of the health and safety policy and to take reasonable care of

themselves and others while on church business or premises. Employees and voluntary workers must therefore:

- a. Comply with safety rules, operating instructions and working procedures.
- b. Use protective clothing and equipment when it is required.
- c. Report any defect or fault in equipment to the appropriate person.
- d. Report all accidents (however minor), injuries, near misses or other potential safety hazards to the appropriate person as soon as possible.

## **6. Responsible Persons.**

The following persons/positions are responsible for safety in specific activities:

Accident book and reporting:	Health & Safety Officer
Fire Extinguishers :	Fabric person/Contractor
Emergency Evacuation:	Churchwardens/Sidespeople
Portable Electrical Appliances:	Fabric person/Contractor
Fixed Electrical Systems:	Fabric person/Contractor
Hazardous Substances:	Churchwardens
Plant and Machinery:	Fabric person/Contractor
Condition of Floors and Stairs:	Churchwardens
Low Level Light Bulb Changing:	Fabric person
Working at High Levels:	Fabric person/Contractor
Manual Handling	H&S Officer
Building Defects/Glazing:	Fabric person/Contractor
Child Protection:	Safeguarding Officer
Personal Safety:	Churchwardens
Fetes and Similar:	Churchwardens



- b. In the event of an emergency, an announcement to leave the building will be made by a sides-person or a member of the PCC.
- c. In the absence of emergency lighting, at least two torches must be available to the Sides-people or members of the PCC.
- d. Persons will assemble in the Packhorse car park and take a body count by ensuring that the persons sitting or standing by them in the church are present.
- e. The emergency services will be contacted by a sides-person or member of the PCC using a mobile phone.

**2.5 Evacuation Drills** – Physical drills will not be conducted, but the PCC and Sides-people will be reminded of the evacuation procedure annually at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

### **3. Electrical Safety.**

**3.1** A list of all of our portable electrical appliances will be held by the Administrator.

**3.2** Every quarter the H&S Advisor will visually inspect plugs, cables and sockets for defects which, if any, will be reported to the Sec to the PCC for remedial action.

**3.3** All of our portable electrical equipment will be inspected annually by a competent contractor as arranged by the Fabric Person.

**3.4** Every quarter the H&S Officer will visually inspect the fixed electrical system for defects which, if any, will be reported to the Sec to the PCC for remedial action.

**3.5** Every five years, a ‘Full Scope’ inspection and test of our fixed electrical system will be made by a competent contractor who is a member of the NICEIC, ECA or NAPIT as arranged by the Fabric Person.



**3.6** Every four years our lightning conductor system will be examined and tested by a competent specialist firm of lightning engineers as arranged by the Fabric Person.

**3.7** We will not sell any second-hand electrical goods.

**3.8** Flexible cables will be positioned and protected so that they do not form a tripping hazard and are not subject to damage.

**4. Gas Equipment Safety** – Not applicable.

## **5. Hazardous Substances**

**5.1** The Churchwarden(s) will limit the hazardous substances to the minimum types and quantities of necessary cleaning materials.

**5.2** When not in use, cleaning materials will be kept in a child-locked container or cupboard.

**5.3** Cleaning persons will be provided with appropriate protective clothing such as gloves.

**5.4** Cleaning materials must not be mixed as an explosion or the release of a highly toxic gas may occur.

**5.5** Cleaning materials must not be stored in unmarked containers.

## **6. Plant and Machinery**

The Administrator will maintain a list and maintenance schedule of all items of church owned plant and machinery.

## **7. Slips, Trips and Falls**

**7.1** A risk assessment is at Section D 7.

**7.2** A weekly inspection of the church floor for relevant hazards will be made – see Risk Assessment 2.1e – and either removed or reported to the Church Warden.

**7.3** A monthly inspection of the churchyard's relevant hazards will be made – see Section B - 5e.

## **8. Lighting**

To ensure adequate lighting the Churchwarden(s) will inspect the lighting weekly and report any low-level bulb failures to the Fabric Person for replacement.

## **9. Working at High Levels**

**9.1** Any part of the internal or external structure which is more than 3.5 metres (approximately 11½ feet) above floor level is regarded as high level.

**9.2** Competent volunteers may work at heights up to 3.5 metres providing one hand can be held on the ladder or stepladder.

**9.3** Competent contractors may work at any height providing suitable access equipment and safety harness, where applicable, is used. The Fabric Person will make the arrangements for such work.

## **10. Preparation of Food.**

Food is served but not prepared in the church.

## **11. Manual Handling.**

**11.1** A risk assessment is at Section D 11.

**11.2** Our policy is to reduce manual handling as far as is reasonably practicable.

**11.3** No single person is to lift a load of more than 20 kilograms in weight- approximately, a heavy suitcase.

**11.4** A single chair in each hand or a stack of two chairs in both hands is acceptable as is a single table in both hands.

**11.5** Whenever possible, the lift should:

- a. Avoid twisting or bending the back.
- b. Use the leg and arm muscles to lift and not the back muscles.

- c. Hold the load close to the body.
- d. The drop should reverse the lift.

**12. Display Screen Equipment.** Not applicable.

**13. Hazardous Buildings and Glazing.**

**13.1** A risk assessment is at Section D 13.

**13.2** Our policy is to ensure that our buildings are safe and without risks to the health, safety and welfare of all who work in and use them. To achieve this the buildings are visually inspected from ground level every quarter by the voluntary H&S Officer who will advise the Sec to the PCC of any defects and the procedures put in hand for temporary safety measures and permanent repairs.

**13.3** An asbestos survey has been carried out and is held by The Secretary to the PCC. It is possible that a very small amount of asbestos is concealed in enclosed spaces and removal is not necessary. Information regarding the possible presence of asbestos will be given to and signed for by any person who needs to know.

**14. Child Protection.**

Our church follows the procedures set out in the current Church of England House of Bishop's Policy Document. The Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Lynne Duckett who is fully trained.

**15. Personal Safety.**

**15.1 Lone Working.** Whenever possible, lone working should be avoided. However, volunteers, such as cleaners or flower arrangers, will at times be alone in the building. It is important that such persons let a close relative or friend know where they will be and for how long so that in the event of accident or illness, rescue is not disproportionately delayed. Such persons are also strongly advised to carry a mobile phone with them.

**15.2 Treasure.** Persons handling cash and valuables are at risk from thieves. Efforts must be made to hide cash and valuables from sight so far as is possible including the use of a safe which must be kept locked

except when in use. Valuables such as church silver should only be in sight after a number of known parishioners are present. The transfer of cash from safe to bank should be made by using a variety of routes and times and preferably with another person present.

## **16. Activities.**

Occasional activities, such as bazaars, craft fairs and so on, sponsored fundraising activities and churchyard maintenance excluding grave digging will require separate risk assessments and the voluntary H&S Officer should be consulted. Grave digging is undertaken by a contractor to the relevant Funeral Director

## **17. Contractors.**

Anyone entering church premises for the purposes of carrying out work, other than voluntary workers, will be regarded as a contractor. All contractors, including the self-employed must:

**17.1** Have their own health and safety policy (where required by law) and be able to provide a copy of it.

**17.2** Produce evidence that they have appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance in place. A record of this evidence will be maintained by the Sec to the PCC for a minimum of six years.

**17.3** Comply with all of the requirements of this health and safety policy and co-operate with the church officials in providing a safe place of work and a safe system of operation.

**17.4** Where plant and machinery are brought onto the church premises by contractors, they must be able to show where necessary that the equipment has been inspected and tested to ensure its safe operation.

**17.5** Contractors may only use sub-contractors or persons other than their own direct employees with the express permission of the church officials. However, responsibility will remain with the contractors.

**17.6** All contractors will be given detailed instructions regarding the areas where they are permitted to work and what they are authorised to

undertake. This 'permit to work' will also specify any safety precautions they must undertake.

**17.7 Construction Design and Management Regulations.** All construction work in the UK is subject to these regulations. So far as is known, there is no competent person within the church professional or volunteer organisation capable of managing such a project. Consequently, the contracted church architect is designated the responsible person for such undertakings.

## **18. Information and Enforcement.**

**18.1 Our local Environmental Health Department.** Sedgemoor District Council – phone 0300 303 7800 and the operator will put you through to the Department.

**18.2 Health and Safety Medical Advisory Service.** In the very unlikely event that this service is required – phone Cardiff Health and Safety Executive on 0845 3450055.

**18.3 Health and Safety Poster.** A poster is not required.

## SECTION D      RISK ASSESSMENTS

### 1.    **Accidents and First Aid.**

a.    Given the size of the congregation, it is not reasonably practicable to ensure a trained first aider is available at all times. No further action required.

b.    The risk rating of an accident occurring in the church and churchyard is assessed as low. Nevertheless, a small first aid box and an accident book with pen should be kept in the Vestry. Action by Administrator

c.    Rules concerning the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 should be kept with the Accident Book. Action by H&S Advisor.

### 2.    **Fire Safety.**

#### 2.1   **Fire Risks.**

a.    **Lightning** - controlled by lightning conductor at west end of church which will be examined and tested every four years by a competent specialist firm of lightning engineers. Any necessary remedial work will be carried out.

b.    **Faulty electrical systems** – controlled by:

Quarterly visual inspection by the H&S Officer of the fixed and portable systems. Any repairs needed will be reported to the Sec to the PCC for action.

Annual testing of our portable electrical equipment by a competent contractor. Unsafe equipment will be safely disposed of.

The inspection and testing of our fixed electrical system by a competent contractor who is a ‘Full Scope’ member of the

NICEIC, ECA or NAPIT. Any necessary remedial work will be carried out.

- c. **Cleaning Materials** – controlled by keeping in a child-lockable container except when in use by designated cleaners.
- d. **Candles and Associated Materials** – controlled by keeping in a locked Vestry.
- e. **Rubbish** – controlled by Fortnightly visual check on a Thursday of whole church by the Fabric Person and safe disposal of any rubbish.
- f. **Arson** – control is not reasonably practicable.

**2.2 Can a Fire be Detected in a Reasonable Time and People be Warned** – the Church is a reasonably small open space with no nooks or crannies apart from the entry porch, Vestry and Kitchen area. Smoke or flames would easily be visible to everyone in the Church. Further control is not reasonably practicable.

**2.3 Can People in the Building Get Out Safely** – there is easy egress, including disabled, through the main North doorway in the porch. There is alternative egress through the West door which can be unlocked without a key and will be left unlocked during events.

**2.4 Is there Adequate Firefighting Equipment** – Yes – see Section C 2.1.

**2.5 Do People Know what to do if there is a Fire** – There are two options for egress. The sidespeople or church wardens will direct the congregation.

**2.6 Firefighting Equipment Checks, Training and Maintenance -**

**Checks** – see Section C 2.1.

**Training** – all PCC members were instructed in the use of firefighting equipment. It is recommended instruction be given on induction training as a sidesperson or every three years – action by H&S Advisor.

**Maintenance** – the firefighting equipment is checked annually (February) by the company providing the equipment.

**2.7 What Effect would a Fire have on our Neighbours** – None, the Church is surrounded by the churchyard and the nearest building is approximately 50 metres away.

**7. Slips, Trips and Falls** – there are no loose floor coverings in the church, with some exceptions the floor is reasonably even and the steps from the nave to the chancel are clearly visible with wide treads and low risers. The car park surface is in good condition. The churchyard grass is kept reasonably short and the paths clearly marked. The only area where slips or trips are a hazard is near the North porch entrance. This has been mitigated by addition of non-slip mats. No remedial action is necessary.

**11. Manual Handling** – day to day activities do not involve the manual handling of any loads heavier or more difficult than the movement of lightweight chairs and fold-up tables. The risk of muscular-skeletal damage is minimal and it is not reasonably practicable to introduce aids or control measures.

**13. Hazardous Buildings and Glazing** – there is no glass below waist height. The quinquennial inspection reduces the risk of falling masonry and no action is required.

**14. Covid 19 Pandemic** – A specific risk assessment has been carried out to ensure our coffee morning and services is conducted safely during the various phases introduced by Government.