



Combined Health and Safety Policy Statement

Parish of Parks & Walcot

St John the Baptist, Park North & St Andrew, Walcot (hereinafter The Church)

Introduction

We believe every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. We see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm. Therefore we want our churches to be places of welcome for all, and indeed believe that church communities are only whole when they include everyone. However, we acknowledge that there may well be barriers, visible or invisible, keeping people away from our churches due to disability. Therefore, we 'The Church', undertake to ensure that everyone including those with disabilities as far as is reasonably practicable, can safely and inclusively access our church in person or via electronic means

This statement will be displayed in our churches and all our procedures, namely, General Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Accessibility and Lone Worker, will be made available for all members of church and any other person using our premises to read and we encourage them to be part of their implementation. These policies have due regard to the policies of the Church of England, Bristol Diocese, the Governments Health & Safety Law and Ecclesiastical Insurance best practise.

Statement of Responsibility - PCC

We The Church undertake to manage Health and Safety on our premises to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that our activities are carried out safely, allow accessibility and do not pose a risk to the health of our employees, volunteers, congregation, visitors, and others who may use the church, churchyard, or any other building for which we are responsible, ensuring that we set a personal example on matters of health and safety at all times. In order to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions we may appoint a person with the relevant skills and knowledge to have responsibility for implementing them, however, we will continue to have overall oversight for ensuring that all our Health & Safety policies are carried out.



Therefore, we will ensure that: -

- A copy of our Health & Safety policy statement is displayed within the church and available on the Parish website.
- A Lone Worker Policy is in place and maintained
- A Parish Safeguarding Officer is nominated, and a PCC member appointed to link with them to, receive reports, ensure regular agenda space for safeguarding and to inform the PCC of any updates and issues.
- A safe, caring, loving environment is provided, with a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse, where the protection of all vulnerable people is in place and monitored, responding without delay to any safeguarding concern raised which suggests that an adult, child, or young person may have been harmed, and challenging any abuse of power.
- Adequate resources are made available to achieve our responsibilities for Health & Safety
- All Accidents / Incidents, hazards or complaints are investigated and where possible, any defects are corrected as soon as possible ensuring they are recorded and reported, if necessary, in line with the requirements of this policy and the law and that all documents and records are retained.
- Diocesan Accessibility Audits are carried out regularly, reporting any barriers we find and making any reasonable adjustments, taking advice from Accessibility assessor if needed and being prepared to apply for a faculty if necessary
- Emergency procedures are understood, and evacuations practised regularly
- Assessments for events are planned and carried out with due regard to safety
- Legislation, guidance and recognised good practice is followed. Seeking specialist Health and Safety assistance, advice, and clarification where necessary, reviewing at least annually and revising where necessary to reflect the current legislation guidance.
- Pastoral care and support, is offered to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person, or vulnerable adult, continuing to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him, or her, an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- Safe handling and use of any hazardous substances are understood and adhered to
- Safeguarding policies and measures are understood by providing clear instructions and adequate training. Giving access to a full copy of the Safeguarding policy to each worker with children and young people whether paid or voluntary. Supporting at all times the work of the Parish Safeguarding Officer and those responsible for work with children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable.
- The training needs of PCC, staff and volunteers are met, and include staff in any consultation with respect to Health and Safety



- Those with disabilities who may already be amongst us as leaders and congregation members are given the opportunity of participating in all church activities, offering help if needed without diminishing their independence, consulting, and inviting them to be involved in any changes that may have an impact on their ability to access our premises and services.

- Risk assessments, safety checks and maintenance are carried out to equipment and premises including but not exclusively:
 - Church buildings, Yards and Car Parks paying due attention to disability access
 - Communication equipment
 - Computer and media equipment
 - First Aid boxes
 - Fire alarms & extinguishers
 - Kitchen equipment
 - Lone Worker alarm call button & Intruder awareness system
 - Emergency exits

Please contact the parish office on 01793 574924 or 07305849090 (Monday to Thursday) to obtain a full copy of any of our policy procedures and guidelines.