



Church and Hall Hire Policy

This policy sets out guidance for the hiring of St Martin's Church Hall complex and St Martin's Church.

Purpose and Intent of Use: Activities and events held in our halls complex and main church building should align, or be in sympathy, with the Christian faith, mission, and values, while maintaining a safe and respectful environment for the wider community. The church has a responsibility to uphold its spiritual mission, and this policy is designed to guide hirers in aligning their activities with these goals.

1. General Principles:

- The activity should promote values of love, respect, community, integrity, and kindness.
- The activity should not promote violence, discrimination, hate speech, or any behaviour that is harmful or contrary to the Christian understanding of human dignity. (see appendix for further details)

2. The Review and Approval Process:

- **Booking Form:** All hirers must submit a booking inquiry form detailing the nature of the event. They may then be required to provide further information, such as the intended audience and/or any materials to be used (posters, flyers, etc.).
- **Review of booking:** The halls administrator and/or office manager will review the booking request to confirm that it is not in conflict with Christian principles.
- **Additional Information:** If the event requires additional information or permission, the hirer will be contacted for clarification and to discuss how the event can be adjusted to meet the church's guidelines. The request may also be referred to a member of the senior leadership of the church.
- **Safeguarding:** Where the hirer's activity involves children, young people, or adults at risk, the hirer must have their own safeguarding policy and procedures that meet current UK legislation and best practice. A copy of the hirer's safeguarding policy must be provided to the Parish Safeguarding Officer upon request, for verification of its existence.
The hirer is responsible for ensuring that all staff and volunteers follow safer recruitment practices, including obtaining DBS checks where required.
The hirer agrees to comply with the parish's safeguarding policy and understands that failure to do so may result in termination of the booking.
- **Final Approval:** Once the event is deemed compatible with the values and mission of the church, a formal confirmation will be issued. If not, the booking will be denied, and the hirer will be advised to find an alternative venue.

3. Respect for the Church Environment: All events must respect the sacredness of the church environment, ensuring the facilities are used with care and respect.

4. **Conclusion:** By ensuring that all activities at St Martin's Church and halls are in alignment with the teachings and mission of the Christian faith, we maintain our commitment to providing a welcoming space for the wider community. Hirers are encouraged to share the details of their events and collaborate with church leadership to help create an environment that promotes positive engagement and aligns with our spiritual mission, and our Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy.

This policy was approved by the PCC at its meeting on ... 15 June 2026

Review date ... June 2029

Appendix

Types of Activities Not Allowed: The following activities or events are prohibited without exception:

- **Occult Practices:** Events promoting or engaging in occult, witchcraft, astrology, or any practice contrary to Christian teachings.
- **Anti-Christian Teachings:** Any activity that promotes anti-Christian or anti-religious ideologies, materials, or demonstrations.
- **Sexual Exploitation or Adult Content:** Activities or events that promote pornography, explicit sexual content, or any form of exploitation or harm.
- **Hate Speech and Discrimination:** Activities involving hate speech, racial or gender discrimination, or any form of prejudice.
- **Substance Abuse:** Events centred on or promoting illegal drug use, alcohol abuse, or excessive drinking.

Activities Requiring Additional Information and Permission: The following types of activities or events require further review and permission from church leadership:

- **Political or Advocacy Events:** While we support freedom of speech, any political or advocacy event that involves divisive rhetoric, or that could lead to conflicts with the Christian faith, requires a meeting with church leadership to ensure it aligns with the values of the church.
- **Cultural Events:** Events celebrating specific cultural practices or ideologies must be assessed to ensure they are in harmony with the church's Christian identity. Events that could be perceived as promoting divisive, exclusionary, or harmful cultural practices may require more discussion.
- **Fitness and Wellness Classes:** Physical activities such as yoga or meditation that have spiritual or philosophical elements unrelated to Christianity may require additional review. If these practices promote teachings contrary to Christian principles, they may not be allowed.
- **Private Events:** Weddings, parties, or celebrations that involve themes or practices at odds with Christian values (e.g., secularism, non-Christian religious ceremonies) may require church leadership's approval before booking.

Examples of Activities That May Require Additional Review or Permission:

- A community health fair promoting non-Christian spiritual healing practices.
- A political rally or campaign event that could create division or undermine unity within the community.
- A meditation class that incorporates teachings from non-Christian religions or philosophies.
- A marriage ceremony that includes practices from non-Christian faiths or secular humanist ceremonies.
- A music concert featuring secular or controversial themes that are not in alignment with Christian moral standards