

St. Mary the Virgin Church, Temple Balsall Birmingham Diocese

set within The Foundation of Lady Katherine Leveson

Social Media Policy

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin has approved the use of social media and appointed Steven George, a Computer Consultant employed by the Foundation to monitor communications.

Mr. George is responsible to the Incumbent and Parish Information Holder, Reverend Kathleen Lloyd-Roberts who will ensure that safeguarding policy and procedures are followed, should any inappropriate material become apparent.

The above arrangement has been approved by the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser.

Our Policy

St Mary's has signed up to the Church of England Digital Charter set out below:

Truth - we should hold ourselves to high ideals of checking that what we post online is fair and factual.

Kindness - we are all different and that makes the world an interesting place – and at times a challenging one. Think the best of people, whether they share our views or are speaking against them and aim to be constructive in the way we engage.

Welcome - in the language we use and the way we interact. It's easy for Christians to speak in another language using words that those outside the Church might not relate to.

Inspiration - we are called to be witnesses of our faith and to use social media in a way that genuinely engages others.

Togetherness - we are one Church and other members of this Church are our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is crucial we treat those around us in this way.

Safeguarding - if we have any concerns about the wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, we will contact the relevant diocesan safeguarding adviser.

Agree to the Church's and Archbishops' social media guidelines which are set out below and are universally based.

We believe that our social media channels and individuals' own channels should always be run in a way that reflect our values.

As Christians, the same principles which guide our offline conversations should apply to those which take place online. Interacting through social media does not change our understanding of confidentiality, responsibility and Christian witness. Our actions should be consistent with our work and Christian values and every individual is responsible for the things they do, say or write. These guidelines aim to help us to do so.

- **Be safe.** The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults must be maintained. If you have any concerns, ask the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator.
- **Be respectful.** Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful.
- **Be kind.** Treat others how you would wish to be treated and assume the best in people. If you have a criticism or critique to make, consider not just whether you would say it in person, but the tone you would use.
- **Be honest.** Don't mislead people about who you are.
- **Take responsibility.** You are accountable for the things you do, say and write. Text and images shared can be public and permanent, even with privacy settings in place. If you're not sure, don't post it.
- **Be a good ambassador.** Personal and professional life can easily become blurred online so think before you post.
- **Disagree well.** Some conversations can be places of robust disagreement and it's important we apply our values in the way we express them.
- **Credit others.** Acknowledge the work of others. Respect copyright and always credit where it is due. Be careful not to release sensitive or confidential information and always question the source of any content you are considering amplifying.
- **Follow the rules.** Abide by the terms and conditions of the various social media platforms themselves. If you see a comment that you believe breaks their policies, then please report it to the respective company.

Agree to the following additional guidelines when using social media with children, young people and vulnerable adults:

National Guidelines

Being Connected to Zoom Safely

Safer Environment and Activities

Church of England - Birmingham good practice guides

Video Calling Young People

Video Calling Children

Copies of the above documents are available from the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator.

Conclusion

In order to comply with the Church of England Digital Charter and social media guidelines we will remove the content of inappropriate posts on our social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram including but not limited to:

Racism of any kind.

Politically motivated content.

Hate speech.

Credible threats or direct attacks on an individual or a group.

Nudity or other sexually suggestive content.

Content that contains self harm or violence.

Fake or imposter content.

Direct selling of goods or services or disguised selling.

Anything that could be deemed offensive.

Fundraising not specifically authorised by the Foundation or St. Marys Church.

Contact Details

Parish Office, St Mary the Virgin, Old Hall, Temple Balsall, B93 0AN

You can contact the Information Commissioners Office on 0303 123 1113 or via email <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/email/> or at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5AF.

Approved by PCC 13 March 2022

Dated

Revd. Kathleen Lloyd-Roberts

Incumbent

Sheila Betts

Churchwarden

Lorraine Horlor

Churchwarden.....