



## **Terms and Conditions of Hire for Schools**

The hire of the Parish Centre is arranged on behalf of St Michael's Parochial Church Council (PCC) and is subject to the following Terms and Conditions. In signing the accompanying booking form, you agree to abide by the Terms and Conditions as described in this document. The PCC agrees only to provide those facilities and services detailed in writing on the booking form.

### **CONDITIONS OF HIRE**

1. The PCC reserves the right to cancel or refuse a booking without a reason being stated. Ecclesiastical demands have an overriding priority such that, whilst these are usually planned well in advance, there may be rare occasions when it is necessary to cancel a hiring at short notice. In these circumstances all hire charges paid will be refunded.
2. Parish buildings are open to all sections of the community so long as the proposed use is compatible with the values of the Church of England and are not used by those who unfairly discriminate.
3. The person signing the Booking Form shall be known as 'The Hirer'.
4. The Hirer (or nominated adult, whose name and address must be provided to the Hall Administrator prior to the event) shall be present during the whole period of the booking.
5. The Hirer is responsible for the safety and conduct of attendees, the security of the hall and its contents during the period of hire.
6. The Hirer is responsible for ensuring all attendees abide by extra hygiene and safety measures.
7. The maximum number of people using the upstairs room shall not exceed sixty (60) and the maximum number of people using the downstairs room shall not exceed thirty (30).
8. The Hirer is responsible for occupying only the room they have hired.
9. The Hirer is responsible for any damage that may be done to the structure, fabric, furniture and fittings during or in consequence of the hiring. In the event of any such damage, the PCC may make it good and the Hirer, by the acceptance of the hiring subject to these conditions, shall be deemed to have undertaken to pay the cost of any such restitution.
10. The Hirer must report any damage to the Hall Administrator at the earliest possible opportunity.
11. All of the property brought on site by the Hirer must be removed at the end of the hire period.
12. The Hirer must accept full responsibility for ensuring that the premises are left in a clean and tidy condition at the end of the hire period. Tables must be wiped down and any furniture moved must be returned to its original position. Any outside space used must be left tidy and free of any waste and waste bags.
13. The Hirer must ensure that they bring sufficient black bags for any rubbish generated during their hire, this can be put in the large lidded bin by the entrance (2 bags maximum).
14. Any type of PPE (personal protective equipment) must be double bagged separately from any other rubbish before placing in the bin.
15. All toilets must be flushed and left in a clean and tidy manner for the next hirer.
16. The Hirer is responsible for leaving the premises in a secure manner by ensuring that all windows are shut, lights are switched off, and doors are locked.
17. The PCC accepts no responsibility for illness, accident, injury or death to any person resulting from their own negligence or negligence of the Hirer, or for damage, loss or theft of any property belonging to the Hirer or to other persons attending the premises during the hire period. The Hirer undertakes to indemnify the PCC and to keep it indemnified in receipt of any liability to third parties or otherwise arising out of their use of the complex.
18. Access is by means of a four-digit code given by the Hall Administrator prior to the event, only when all monies have been received.
19. Please do not arrive early, access cannot be allowed due to Safeguarding any residing hirers.

## **20. CHARGES AND DEPOSITS:**

21. Charges shown are for the hour but, where required, a half hour charge can be included in the booking.
22. The minimum booking period is one hour.
23. To secure the date/time, full hire payment is due when booking is made.
24. Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions may result in contact from the Treasurer to discuss further payment to cover the cost of the damage incurred.

## **25. CANCELLATION POLICY:**

26. If you have to cancel your booking:
27. Within two weeks prior to use of the venue: No refund will be given.
28. Two weeks - one month prior to use of venue: 50% of hire amount will be refunded.
29. Over one month prior to use of venue: 100% of hire amount will be refunded.
30. Refunds will be processed within 15 working days.
31. There are no charges for rescheduling dates.

32. All hirers are responsible for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults during their use of the hall. Please see our safeguarding policy below:



## Safeguarding Policy

### 1. Safeguarding

- We are committed to safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults, based on the Church of England document *Promoting a Safer Church* (2017): [www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Promoting-a-Safer-Church-100217.pdf](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Promoting-a-Safer-Church-100217.pdf)
- In addition, we will follow diocesan procedures and recommended good practice, and be responsive to local requirements; and, at the present time, national guidance in relation to coronavirus safety.

### 2. Working practices, selection and training

- The highest standards will be maintained in our contacts with children and young people, and adults in vulnerable contexts.
- All those engaged in such work will be properly appointed and supported in accordance with the *Church of England Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment* (July 2016): [https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2552006/safer\\_recruitment\\_practice\\_guidance\\_2016.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2552006/safer_recruitment_practice_guidance_2016.pdf) and diocesan procedures and advice.
- Volunteers will be given appropriate support and opportunities for training.

### 3. Complaints

- We will respond without delay to every complaint that a person for whom we are responsible may have been harmed.
- We will co-operate fully with the statutory agencies in every situation of complaint and will not conduct our own investigations.

### 4. Pastoral support

- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any person who has suffered abuse.
- We will care for and supervise any member of our communities known to have offended against children and vulnerable adults or who are subject to concerns or allegations of abuse and ensure their right to worship.

### 5. Review and Communication

- The PCC Pastoral and Worship Committee will review this policy annually, bring any changes to the PCC, and alert all relevant volunteers and third parties.

### 6. Contacts

- St Albans Diocese Safeguarding Adviser: Jeremy Hirst  
01727 818107 / 07867 350886 [safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org)
- Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Alison Ferreira (photo right)  
01727 860459 [allferreiras@hotmail.com](mailto:allferreiras@hotmail.com)
- [www.childline.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.childline.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx) : 0800 11 11
- [familylives.org.uk/](http://familylives.org.uk/) - a national family advice charity: 0808 800 2222



Agreed at the PCC meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Signed

Vicar

Churchwardens