



HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Introduction

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care ... " 1 Peter 5v2
"Be ready to do whatever is good ... " Titus 3v1

The Scriptures enjoin church leaders to set the highest example in caring for each other and in the stewardship of our environment. Our attitude to health and safety flows from this.

The Policy

The Connexion's general policy, so far as is reasonably practicable, is to provide and maintain safe and healthy work conditions for all members of our congregations, our employees and volunteers as well as contractors and other members of the public who enjoy our services. The Connexion will provide safe equipment and systems of work, information, training and supervision as is needed for this purpose.

The safety of children and vulnerable adults in relation to abuse is dealt with in a separate policy.

Policy Implementation

The responsibilities of the trustees and church leaders for the implementation of this policy is set out below. A copy of this policy is to be posted at each member church's premises and brought to the attention of church members at annual church meetings or similar opportunities.

Review

The policy and its implementation will be reviewed periodically, at least every five years, the result of the review recorded in trustee minutes and any changes circulated to the member churches.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Date

Implementation of the Policy by the Trustees.

The trustees will:

- Keep the policy up to date, particularly in the light of changes in legislation. Arrange to receive information on health and safety issues that are relevant to churches and circulate appropriate information to the member churches .
- Have Health and Safety as a regular item on trustee meetings
- Monitor the implementation of the policy by member churches
- Ensure that where they are directly responsible for local Connexion activities that the arrangements are to standards equivalent to those expected of local churches below.

Implementation of the Policy by the local church leadership

The local church leadership will:

- Appoint someone locally to be responsible for Health and Safety issues, to be familiar with the Health and Safety Regulations as far as they affect church premises and to put in place local arrangements for Health and Safety.
- Ensure that the Health and Safety policy and arrangements are observed
- Ensure that the church premises are clean and tidy and the grounds are safely maintained.
- Ensure that safe access and egress is maintained
- Ensure adequate fire fighting equipment is available and maintained
- Ensure that any safety equipment and clothing provided is used and that all plant and equipment and tools are properly maintained and that the operators have had appropriate training.
- Ensure that food hygiene regulations and procedures are observed
- Assess the risks to Health and Safety locally and take action to eliminate or minimise those risks.
- Ensure members of the congregation and others affected are aware of the safety policy and the actions they are responsible for to maintain safety.

Responsibility of Employees and voluntary workers

Employees and voluntary workers have a responsibility to cooperate in the implementation of this policy and to take reasonable care of themselves and others whilst on church business.

Therefore they should:

- Comply with any safety rules and procedures
- Use any protective clothing and equipment required
- Report faults in equipment
- Report all accidents, injuries or other potential hazards as soon as possible
- Not misuse anything provided in the interests of health and safety.

Local Arrangements for Health and Safety

The arrangements for Health and Safety will differ from church to church. Therefore each church is expected to address the following sample issues in the way that is most effective locally:

- Accidents and First aid, Fire Safety, Electrical Safety, Gas Equipment Safety, Hazardous substances, Safety of Plant and Machinery, Slips trips and falls - conditions of floors, steps and paths, lighting, working at high levels, preparation of food, manual handling – lifting, carrying and moving food, display screen equipment, hazardous buildings, personal safety, risk assessments,
- Contractors (Certain work on buildings is subject to The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007.)
- Guidance on these topics and how to carry out risk assessments is contained in "Church Health and Safety Policy with guidance notes" which has been circulated to all churches. Further copies are available from Ecclesiastical, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ
- The trustees recommend that each church works through the above topics using these guidance notes.
- Other issues may crop up not dealt with in this type of guidance - so think widely. For example, road safety can often be an important issue for churches close to busy roads.
- Local arrangements for Health and Safety should be clearly communicated to those affected preferably in writing, signed by the local leadership, and reviewed at suitable intervals.