

St Mary's Church, Allithwaite Internet Policy

When used in a careful and appropriate manner, use of internet based resources can help coordinate the work of the Church, strengthen faith, and minister to the needs of others.

However, it is also recognized that there are also risks associated with internet use, both to individuals and the Church as a whole. Those with access to Church internet resources (web site, email, Facebook, etc.) agree to abide by this policy and will be held to account by the Church Council and Minister.

Appropriate Material

- Church internet resources should only be used for the sharing of appropriate material.
- For the most part, material will relate specifically to the work of St Mary's Church, Allithwaite, but may include links to partner organisations linked with the Church (for example mission partners or training resources).
- The Church will take due care to ensure that linked resources are appropriate, however the Church cannot be held responsible for the content of external resources.
- The Minister and/or Church Council will retain the right to remove any content deemed inappropriate. They may also remove access rights from those who have been found to post such inappropriate content.

Use of Images on Church Internet Resources

Adults

- By agreeing to their photograph being taken, there is implied consent for this image to be used in the work of the Church (both internet based and in print). However, it would be courteous to ask if those in photographs would be willing for them to be used in such a manner.

Children

- No images of children should be used in the work of the Church (both internet based and in print) without the explicit permission of a parent/legal guardian.
- Verbal consent is appropriate where the parent/legal guardian is present at the time of the picture being taken, however written consent would be required when the parent is not present.

Work With Young People

- It is not appropriate to have private non-work related contact with the children and young people that we work with in the form of electronic communication.
- It is recognised that there will be times when it is necessary and important to use electronic communication with young people related to the activities of the Church, however we would always encourage face to face contact as opposed to online methods of communication.

- Any Church member using electronic communication with young people should make their group leader, Church Council or Minister aware of this, and this must be set up as part of a group communication and never on an individual basis.

Social Media

- Sharing your thoughts and reflections with people using social media or email might feel personal and private; but if more than one person can access what you have written it is highly likely that the law would class it as “published,” and therefore subject to numerous laws around libel, slander, copyright, Freedom of Information and data protection. So, if you wouldn’t say something in the local newspapers, or in front of a meeting or in Church, you certainly shouldn’t say it online.
- Even if you delete a comment you have made online, it could still have already been seen by other people and/or re-published on other, unconnected sites. It can be easy to say something in the heat of the moment that you will come to regret, but it could remain permanently online for all to see. So always think carefully and never make personal comments about someone that you wouldn’t also say in public or to them in person.
- Remember that anything you do or say in the public domain will be interpreted by the public as being representative of the Church – even if you feel you are speaking in a personal capacity rather than an official one. Be aware that any controversial or sensitive comments you make may attract attention of the media. If in any doubt then don’t post it.

Passwords

- Password/sign-in information for Church Internet resources should be kept securely.
- Password/sign-in information should be known only to those who have been asked by the Church Council or Minister to use these resources, and to the Church Council and Minister for the purposes of removing inappropriate content.

Confidentiality/Security

- The Internet (including e-mail) is not secure and should never be used for the sending of confidential or personal information.

Guidance

- Any person suspecting misuse of Church Internet resources should contact a member of the Church Council or the Minister, in a confidential manner, as soon as possible. They will then decide how to handle the matter
- Further help and guidance can be obtained from:
Diocesan Communications Officer, Dave Roberts
01228 560079 or 07984 927434 communications@carlisle-diocese.org.uk
or
Archdeacon Richard Pratt
01900 66190 archdeacon.west@carlisle-diocese.org.uk