

Hiring Policy For St Paul's Church/Church Hall – the HOPE Centre



Policy

1. We welcome all in our community who will join us in our expressions of Christian faith and our facilities are for hire to those whose activities are clearly in line with the fruits of the Holy Spirit as described in the Bible at **Galatians 5 v 22 & 23**. 'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.'
2. We will not hire the hall to groups ("excluded groups") that:
 - 2.1 promote combat (whether offensive or defensive) or *could* encourage those participating to subsequently join such groups; and
 - 2.1 promote atheism or have their roots in a non- Christian spirituality.
 - 2.2 carry out activities which may cause undue offense to our leadership, ministers or congregation
 - 2.3 involve animals (with the except of assistance dogs)
 - 2.4 partake in ball games or other similar activities which may damage the property

(For the avoidance of doubt this means that we would not hire to martial arts and associated groups, yoga groups and non-Christian healing groups.)

3. We reserve the right to refuse hire to groups, people or organisations.

Policy Implementation:

Parish Office Administrator should be able to make decisions on whether to hire or not, based on these guidelines.

In the event that the Parish Administrator cannot make a decision the question of hire should be referred at first instance to the Hall Committee for a decision and if they consider it necessary, to the PCC Standing Committee for a decision.

Hall users should be reminded of the importance of specifying clearly the nature of the activities involved.

If anyone in the church has cause to be concerned about the nature of the activities being undertaken in the Hall, this should be raised with the Parish Administrator at first instance and if the situation cannot be resolved through her, the concerns should be raised with the Hall Committee.

Policy should be reviewed annually, as part of St Paul's long term vision and strategy work.

Reviewed December 2022 by the Hall Committee