

# **Breadsall Church Health and Safety Policy**

## **Environmental Protection**

### **1. Introduction**

The risk of our actions has had and continues to have an important effect on the environment. Over recent years we have seen significant changes to our climate resulting in more dramatic severe weather events with flash flooding and periods of high temperatures becoming a normal occurrence. Although within our community we cannot majorly influence the world weather we can take appropriate actions to mitigate the risk to Breadsall Church and our community and we can find ways to reduce waste and minimise our own carbon footprint.

### **2. The Church and Community**

#### **2.1 Energy**

Some of the major areas to consider is the reduction in our carbon footprint through the optimisation of our energy use. It is beholden on the church to only use as much electricity as necessary to maintain the buildings in a safe manner and to enhance the experience for our congregation. The PCC should constantly review its energy policy with its suppliers and ensure we constantly strive to reduce our electricity usage through good practice and common sense whilst maintaining a safe and pleasant environment for our community.

#### **2.2 Buildings and ground maintenance**

Being aware of potential freak weather systems can drive a policy to provide a risk mitigation plan. The PCC should regularly review its maintenance practices of the building and the surrounding churchyard. Guttering and towers will be regularly checked and cleaned and pointing replaced as necessary. This will ensure that excessive water is adequately drained through the proper courses and does not damage the fabric of the building. Furthermore the roof and slates should also be appropriately checked through an approved supplier and any loose slates should be replaced as necessary. An annual review of the building should occur as a minimum and also after any serious weather event.

Managing the churchyard is also a major part of this process. Trees which are within the churchyard should be properly maintained and pruned and those which are close to the building should be monitored as removed when they are in danger of being felled through high winds. This action is important for the safety of the Church itself but also for parishioners using the grounds.

#### **2.3 Waste**

It is important to manage waste responsibly. All old electrical appliances , paper and other recyclable goods should be separated from standard waste and recycled in the appropriate receptacles provided or taken to the local council waste recovery centre and placed in the correct containers.

Health and Safety Committee, November 2017

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