

Health & Safety Report

This report was made to the 2020 annual parochial church meeting [APCM] for the year ending 31 December 2019.

Fortunately, there were no major health and safety issues reported during 2019, and no new entries recorded in our accident and incident book.

A major review of our existing health and safety policies and procedures was undertaken in October to bring our procedures up to date and incorporate the latest recommendations from the Health and Safety Executive and our insurers. This resulted in the issue of a revised Health and Safety Policy document in December. Our new policy is to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that our activities are carried out safely and do not pose a risk to the health of our employees, volunteers, congregation, visitors and others who may use the church, churchyard or any other building we are responsible for.

In addition to the new policy document a new fire risk assessment was undertaken, resulting in new training guidelines and fire evacuation plan. The revised procedures were put in place and briefed to clergy and responsible volunteers for our Christingle service on 24 December, thereby permitting the safe distribution of lighted candles to children in the congregation.

We plan to further review all our practices and procedures in 2020 and prepare a comprehensive set of risk assessments, and act upon them to enhance our existing health and safety measures. This will include, but not limited to, installing additional permanent lighting to external footpaths and steps, replacing all dry powder fire extinguishers with Co2 extinguishers and installing emergency lighting in the church.

Dennis Cowdrey