

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Social media (eg Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and similar platforms) is a very public way of enabling us as Christians to live out our calling. One of its many joys is that it is immediate, interactive, conversational and open-ended. This opportunity comes with a number of downsides if users do not apply the same common sense, kindness and sound judgement that we would use in a face-to-face encounter.

These guidelines are built on universal principles. While we expect those posting on behalf of the parish, especially on the parish accounts, to abide by this policy we hope that everyone who engages with the parish's social media accounts will agree to the same principles.

By engaging with the parish's social media accounts, we agree to:

- Be safe. The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults must be maintained. If you have any concerns, ask the PCC Safeguarding Officer, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer
- Be respectful. Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful.
- Be kind. Treat others how you would wish to be treated and assume the best in people. If you have a criticism or critique to make, consider *whether* you would say it in person, and be mindful of how short messages can come across in tone.
- Be honest. Don't mislead people about who you are.
- Take responsibility. You are accountable for the things you do, say and write. Text and images shared can be public and permanent, even with privacy settings in place. If you're not sure, don't post it.
- Be a good ambassador. Personal and professional life can easily become blurred online so think before you post.
- Disagree well. Some conversations can be places of robust disagreement and it's important we apply our values in the way we express them.
- Credit others. Acknowledge the work of others. Respect copyright and always credit where it is due. Be careful not to release sensitive or confidential information and always question the source of any content you are considering amplifying.
- Follow the rules. Abide by the terms and conditions of the various social media platforms themselves. If you see a comment that you believe breaks their policies, then please report it to the respective company.

How will we respond to people who breach our social media community guidelines?

We would hope to resolve any complaints and criticisms in direct conversation with the individuals concerned. However, if this is not possible or if illegal, defamatory or

discriminatory material is posted or content that raises safeguarding concerns the vicar and PCC may decide to remove unsuitable and offensive material and delete comments to our social media accounts. As a last resort, this would include blocking users or reporting posts.