

Church Building Dog Policy

The PCC of St Nicholas' Church is committed to ensuring that the church building is a safe, welcoming and well-maintained space for worship, community activities and visitors. This policy applies to all visitors and users of the building.

General Principle

To ensure the comfort, safety and wellbeing of all who use the church building, only recognised assistance dogs are permitted inside the church during services, meetings, rehearsals, events and other organised activities. Visitors who are viewing the church outside of organised activities may carry a small dog whilst looking around the building. Dogs must not be allowed to walk freely within the church and should always remain under the owner's control.

The PCC reserves the right to ask that any animal be removed if its presence causes disruption, presents a safety concern or compromises the enjoyment of the building by others.

Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs (including guide dogs, hearing dogs and other registered assistance animals) are welcome at all times.

Handlers are responsible for their assistance dog while on the premises, including ensuring appropriate behaviour, noise and cleanliness.

Reasons for this Policy

This decision has been made by the PCC in order to:

- Protect the historic fabric of the building, which includes carpeted areas and delicate furnishings.
- Maintain appropriate hygiene standards, particularly where food is served or where children and vulnerable people are present.
- Ensure a safe environment for elderly and infirm members and for children and young people, including those who may have allergies or fear of dogs.
- Support the wide range of church and community activities held in the building, where the presence of dogs may not be appropriate.

Outdoor Areas

Dogs may be permitted in outdoor churchyard areas where appropriate, provided they are kept on a lead and any mess is cleared up immediately by the owner.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of PCC members to ensure this policy is respected. Any concerns should be raised with a Churchwarden or the Priest-In-Charge

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the PCC.

Approved by the PCC of St Nicholas' Church: 22nd July 2026

Next review: May 2028



Reverend Tim Mitchell | Priest in Charge
Chair of the PCC