

STANTON IN PEAK HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Introduction

A fire risk assessment was carried out on 18 February 2010 by Phil Davies and Tom Hadfield which formed the basis of this report recording the findings of the assessment, including any recommended action.

Possible Causes of Fire

Bearing in mind the design of the building and the functions within it, the risk of fire is considered to be low. Nevertheless the possible causes of fire are as follows:-

1. Electrical faults
2. Central heating boiler faults
3. Use of candles
4. Arson
5. Untidiness in storage

Remedial Action

Conscious of these risks, it is the policy/practices of the Parochial Church Council to take action as follows:-

1. Electrical faults – that the electrical system be inspected every five years by a qualified electrical engineer, and any reported deficiencies be made good.
2. Central heating boiler – that the system be serviced every year by a qualified engineer.
3. Use of candles – the general practice is to light only two candles on the altar during services, and the nominated person arranging the service is made aware of the importance of snuffing them immediately on the termination of the service. Candles are only maintained lit for services in the presence of officers/congregation and are never left lit in an unoccupied Church. Unused candles and matches/lighter are stored in a cupboard in the vestry which is locked at all time outside Church services.
4. Arson – the Church is locked:-
 - April to October – between early evening and morning
 - November to March – all day and night, except at weekends, between morning and early evening.

Situated in the centre of the village, the Church is overlooked by vigilant, neighbouring residents, and any suspicious visits on the premises would be likely to be noted and would be brought to the attention of a local Church member.

There are no flammable materials stored unlocked in the Church.

5. Untidiness in storage – materials are stored tidily, both outside and within the Church building.

Detection of Fire

The design of the building is such that any fire arising during the occupation of the Church would be detected immediately by those within the building, who would have sufficient time to vacate it. Fire within an unoccupied Church would be detected by local residents or passers-by, but less quickly.

Exits

The two Church doors (the main door and the door in the chancel) are considered adequate to serve as emergency evacuation exits in the event of a fire. It is recommended that an appropriate “emergency exit” sign be fixed above the door in the chancel.

Fire Fighting Equipment

When the original risk assessment was prepared, the Church had recently been inspected by an approved fire equipment engineer (Chubb), and based on their recommendation, an order was placed for:-

- The replacement of three appropriate fire extinguishers situated in the porch, in the chancel, and adjacent to the organ.
- The annual inspection of these appliances.

Fire exit information

Appropriate signage should be displayed, indicating fire exits. An announcement should be made at major events relating to fire exits

Approval

This report was submitted to and approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12 April 2010. Reviews: 11 April 2011, 2 April 2012, 17 April 2013, 29 May 2014, 15 April 2015.

Associated documents: Health and Safety Policy, Belltower Risk Assessment, Child Protection Policy