



Church Visits – one year on

Churchwarden training day 2025

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Church Visit & Articles of Enquiry

- Articles of Enquiry
- Every year
- On line
- Tick boxes
- Basic legal minimum
- Takes 10 mins
- Minimum requirements
- On your own

Church Visits

Every 3 years

6 pages

more text, more nuance

Deeper dive

1-2 hours meeting

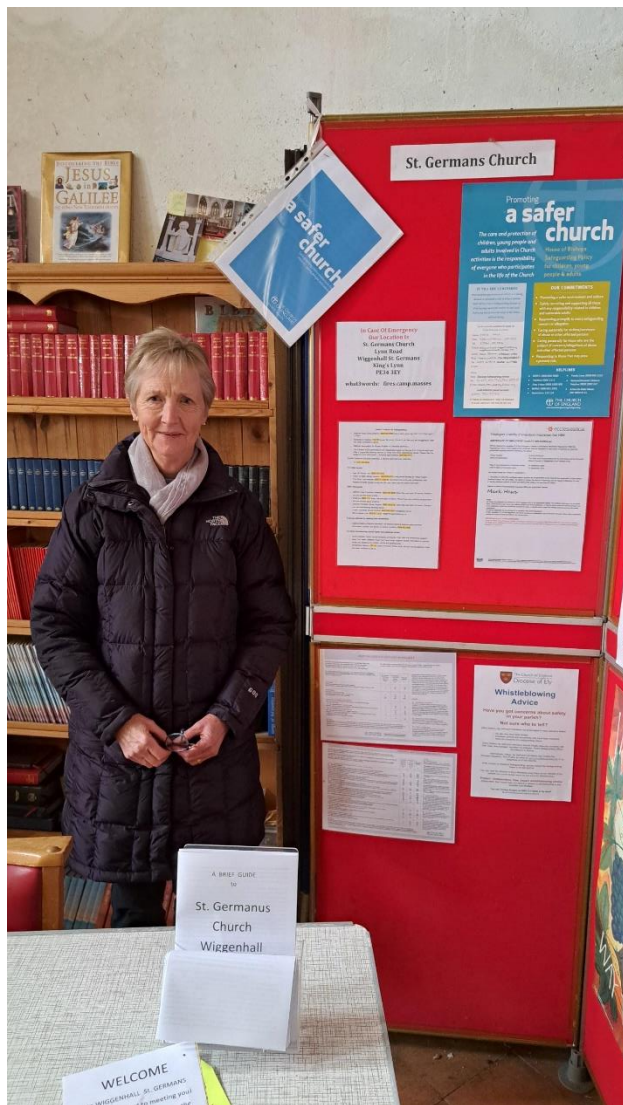
Best practice self assessment
with Rural Dean or ADs

Key learning so far:

- ✓ Safeguarding dashboards being well used
- ✓ Safeguarding Policies well evidenced
- ✓ Churches are usually growing numerically
- ✓ PCCs are attending to their Quinquennial Inspection reports
- ✓ Financial procedures are reasonably robust
- ✓ Fire extinguishers checked every year
- ✓ Insurance is in place
- ✓ Some health & safety policy has been agreed
- ✓ Hearing loops and ramps are usually in place
- ✓ Registers up to date
- ✓ Clergy & churchwardens meet regularly

Could do better? You said.....

- **Lack of volunteers for key roles**
- **Officeholders doing several jobs**
- **Administration largely falling to clergy or volunteers**
- **Too many forms to fill in**
- **Net Zero – not enough time/knowledge**
- **Fragile work with young people**
- **Big projects feel overwhelming**



- ✓ **Signage**
- ✓ **Insurance**
- ✓ **Whistleblowing**
- ✓ **PCC notices**
- ✓ **AGM notices**
- **Up to date?**
- **Victim helplines?**
- **Emergency vehicle?**
- **Is the board safe?**

People

- **Contract**
- **Safer Recruitment**
- **Code of conduct**
- **Anti bullying**
- **Complaints**
- **Health & Safety training**



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Toilets

- ❖ No alarm system
- ❖ Trip hazards
- ❖ No grab rails
- ❖ Items stored in the toilet turning circle
- ❖ Cleaning products accessible to children
- Posters on doors



Extra Heating



- ❖ Trailing cables
- ❖ Electric load
- ❖ Storage of gas
- ❖ Condensation
- ❖ Hot to touch
- ❖ Child barriers



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Old furniture

- ❖ Old pews
- ❖ Old books
- ❖ Hold damp/smell
- ❖ Block fire exits
- ❖ Hold pests
- ❖ Unusable

- Remove by faculty



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Accessibility:

- ❖ Unmarked steps
- ❖ Narrow aisles
- ❖ Ramps too steep
- ❖ Ramps without edges
- ❖ Inaccessible toilets
- ❖ Paths with loose chips
- ❖ Fire Exits not accessible



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Slips, trips, falls:

- ❖ **Unmarked steps**
- ❖ **Steep steps**
- ❖ **Steps with no grab rail**
- ❖ **Uneven floors**
- ❖ **Steps that serve no purpose**
- **Warning signs?**
- **Extra lighting?**





Entrances & Exits

- ❖ **Steps without handrails**
- ❖ **Heavy doors**
- ❖ **Pathways uneven**
- ❖ **Accessibility statement on website**
- **Post a welcomer?**





Doors:

- ❖ Fire Exits
- ❖ Signage
- ❖ Handles
- ❖ Locking
- ❖ Fire drills
- ❖ Finger crushes



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Drain pipes & damp:

- ❖ Pipes too short
- ❖ Pipes blocked
- ❖ Drains blocked
- ❖ Weeds by walls
- ❖ Ivy
- ❖ Pipes overwhelmed



Trees:



- No survey
- Planted without permission
- Not pruned
- Too close to walls
- Whose job to maintain?



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Essentials – do now!

- Complete a Fire Audit/Risk assessment – available here: [Church fire risk assessment | Risk management | Ecclesiastical Insurance](#)
- Complete a Health & Safety Risk Assessment – available here: [Church Health & Safety Policy | Risk Management](#)
- Complete a Tree Survey – advice here: [Tree Management | Risk Management](#)
- If you need to undertake work to trees – see here: [Care of Church Buildings and Churchyards](#)
- Adopt a PCC complaints policy – see here: [Relating Well Together - Diocese of Ely](#)

Highly desirable – do this year

- Adopt a Bullying and Harassment Policy – see here: [Relating Well Together - Diocese of Ely](#)
- Check hire agreements with user groups – see here: [15695881581990170228.docx](#)
- Review organist and cleaner contracts – see here: [Employment Contract for Church Organist | The Guild of Church Musicians](#)
- Write down financial controls – see here: [Further PCC Support Resources - Diocese of Ely](#)
- Review GDPR arrangements – see here: [Further PCC Support Resources - Diocese of Ely](#)

And then do.....

- Send someone to First Aid and Food Handling Courses – see here for free places: [Local and regional workshops and training organised by Support Cambridgeshire](#)
- Clear gutters etc. – see here for Church Buildings Team support: [Care of Church Buildings and Churchyards](#)
- Undertake accessibility audit – see here for an organisation that will do it for you: [Home | AccessAble](#)
- Eco-church – see here: [Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project](#)
- Need further advice: Richard Harlow – archdeacon.handw@elydiocese.org
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