**ST PETER’S CHURCH, BURY ST EDMUNDS**

**LETTINGS POLICY**

Lettings of church buildings in the Church of England Church is governed by Canon F16. This reads as follows:

***F 16 Of plays, concerts, and exhibitions of films and pictures in churches***

*1. When any church or chapel is to be used for a play, concert, or exhibition of films or pictures, the minister shall take care that the words, music, and pictures are such as befit the House of God, are consonant with sound doctrine, and make for the edifying of the people.*

*2. The minister shall obey any general directions relating to such use of a church or chapel issued from time to time by the bishop or other the Ordinary.*

*3. No play, concert, or exhibition of films or pictures shall be held in any church or chapel except the minister have first consulted the local or other authorities concerned with the precautions against fire and other dangers required by the law to be taken in the case of performances of plays, concerts, or exhibitions of cinematograph films, and the said authorities have signified that the proposed arrangements are a sufficient compliance with the regulations in force as to precautions against fire or other dangers.*

*4. If any doubt arises as to the manner in which the preceding clauses of this Canon are to be observed, the minister shall refer the matter to the bishop or other the Ordinary, and obey his directions therein.*

For the purposes of this policy ‘the minister’ shall be the Associate Vicar of the Parish of St Mary’s with St Peter’s (with special pastoral responsibility for St Peter’s).

The Vicar of the Parish of St Mary’s with St Peter’s may be appealed to if a decision in respect of matters covered in Canon F16 is disputed.

Pursuant to his/her responsibility under Canon F16, the minister may request a full programme of events, script, and/or copies of song lyrics that it is proposed to be performed at an event for which the church is being hired.

With regard to events and functions, other than those mentioned in Canon F16, preference will be given to groups who do one or more of the following: promote the Christian faith; enhance community; encourage stable married and family life; enable reconciliation; support carers; offer practical care to vulnerable, alien or minority groups; encourage care of the environment; promote fair trade; facilitate life-long learning; encourage positive creativity; promote physical and emotional health and well being.

In order to avoid confusion about what the church stands for, we do not permit the church to be used for the celebration of acts of worship that are not Christ-centred, for the promulgation of teaching that is contrary to what the church maintains (as understood by the PCC and its representatives), nor for the promotion of specific political parties.

Hiring will not be permitted outside the hours of 9am to 11pm.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the latest Statement of Terms and Conditions posted at [www.stpetersbse.uk](http://www.stpetersbse.uk).

This policy approved at the St Peter’s District Church Council Meeting dated 5th March 2019.