



Slips, Trips & Falls Policy

All Saints' Church, Walsoken

Please refer to Church document H&S_Doc_001 for all General Health & Safety requirements

Specific Policy

This Health & Safety (H&S) sub-policy controls slips, trips & falls at church.

Legal Requirements

Specific duties relating to the prevention of slips and trips are detailed in the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations. In this context the term 'workplace' is very broad and would include a church. In relation to slips and trips, the regulations require that our church ensures.

- 1) All areas are kept clean, properly maintained and are well lit.
- 2) Higher risk areas have restricted access (Tower Stairs).
- 3) Our church has floors capable of being kept clean.
- 4) All floors, paths, etc. that are free from obstructions and substances liable to cause someone to slip or trip, that have no holes or adverse slopes, are even and are not slippery, and have adequate drainage where necessary.
- 5) THERE IS NO RUNNING ALLOWED IN CHURCH. A sign will be displayed requiring this. See Diagram 1.

Even though All Saints' Church, Walsoken is not an employer, we still must comply with certain aspects of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and other related law. We also need to meet our common law duty of care, ensuring that church premises do not cause injury to another because you have acted negligently.

Reference Documents

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

Procedure

- 1) Carry out an inspection of the church to identify slip or trip hazards. In doing this, consider the difficulty the frail, elderly and disabled may have in negotiating access to and from your church. Also, consider that some visitors may be unfamiliar with its layout and features. Make a note of the hazards you have identified.
 - a. The church area risk assessment is used for this. See church policy H&S_Doc_003
 - b. Issues in the Churchyard are covered by church policy H&S_Doc_013
- 2) Ensure that the congregation, visitors and volunteers are aware of trip hazards.
 - a. There are to be two free standing signs in church giving advice. See diagram 1.
- 3) This policy documents responsibilities and arrangements for preventing slips, trips and falls.
- 4) Safety signs must be visible when washing floors.
- 5) There must be adequate lighting in church (natural or artificial) to prevent slips trips or falls.
- 6) Steps and changes in floor level must be easily visible.

All accidents and incidents are reported according to church policy H&S_Doc_009

Forms

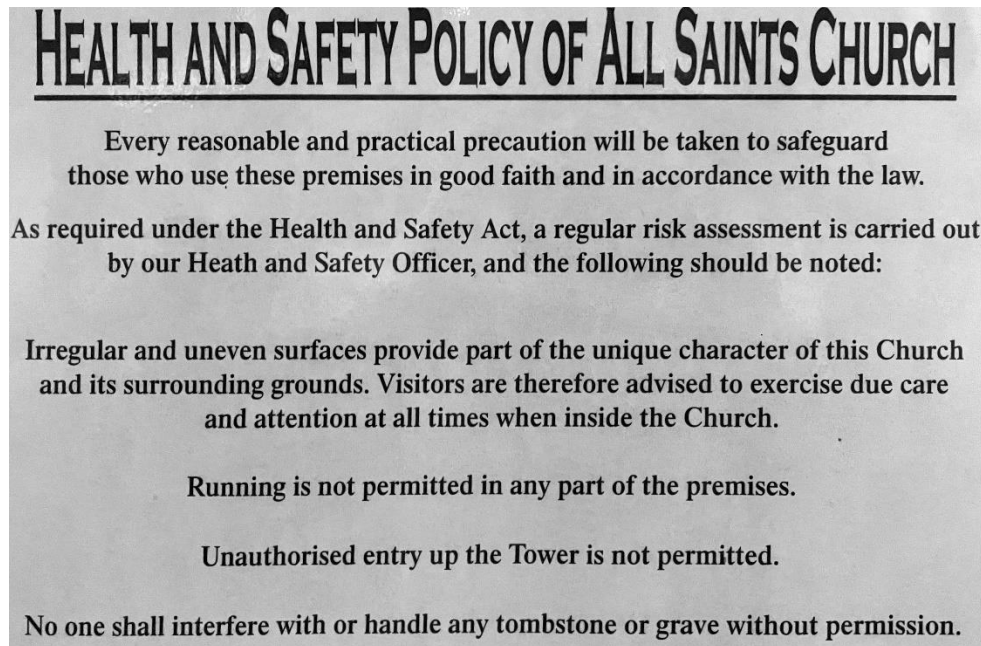
None

Slips, Trips & Falls Policy

All Saints' Church – Walsoken

Diagrams

Diagram 1. Safety Sign.



Appendices

Appendix 1. Typical Precautions to Prevent Slips Trips & Falls

- 1) THERE IS NO RUNNING ALLOWED IN CHURCH.
- 2) Regular maintenance and repair of floor surfaces, steps and footpaths.
- 3) Replacing or repairing cracked or damaged stone flags, ceramic or clay tiles and wood blocks.
- 4) Removing or replacing worn, damaged or loose floor coverings (for example, carpets, mats, rugs, etc.).
- 5) Fixing down carpets and entrance matting securely.
- 6) Regular maintenance and repair of roofs, ceilings and guttering.
- 7) Highlighting unexpected changes or variations in floor levels, steps or stairs.
- 8) Providing adequate or enhanced lighting.
- 9) Providing steps, stairs and steep paths with suitable handrails.
- 10) Avoiding or covering trailing electric leads.
- 11) Removing stored furniture and other obstructions from footpaths and walkways.
- 12) Regular cleaning of floors and coverings.
- 13) Making access safe until proper repairs can be carried out.
- 14) Providing barriers and warning signs where cleaning is or has taken place.
- 15) Providing entrance matting.
- 16) Providing adequate barriers and warnings where there are unprotected drops.
- 17) Regular maintenance and proper repair of external drainage.
- 18) Cutting grass regularly in the churchyard.
- 19) Removing protruding tree roots and undergrowth where these are obstructing access.
- 20) Removing algae, moss or accumulations of leaves on external footpaths.
- 21) Gritting footpaths where snow or ice is forecast and removing snowfall where this occurs.
- 22) Removing, replacing or repairing broken graves or kerbs.
- 23) Repairing potholes or uneven surfaces in paths, driveways, car parks and steps.

For internal use only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this policy does not account for future judicial or church interpretation, decisions or any English legal changes that may alter its basis between revisions. All Saints' Church, Walsoken does not accept any liability resulting from the use of these policies by others. All decisions made based on these policies by others are at their own risk, and All Saints' Church, Walsoken disclaims any liability for losses incurred.