

St Philip & St James - Icy Conditions Policy

1. Introduction

The safety of all visitors to St Philip & St James and its church hall is a priority. During icy weather, precautions will be taken to reduce the risk of slips and falls on church pathways and entrances. This policy sets out our approach to grit-salting and signage, while also clarifying responsibilities for those hiring church facilities.

2. Legal Considerations & Liability

- a) The Church will take reasonable steps to maintain safe access but cannot guarantee ice-free conditions at all times.
- b) By providing grit salt equipment and mobile signage, we aim to mitigate risks while ensuring those using the premises also exercise caution.
- c) Hirers are encouraged to review their hire agreements for specific terms regarding health and safety obligations.

3. Grit Salting Procedure

- a) A bucket of grit and a trowel is kept at the foot of the stairs to the organ loft to be used to apply grit to main pathways before key services and events where feasible.
- b) The pathways to be gritted are shown in page 3 (Annex A).
- c) Grit salting will be carried out by a designated volunteer or staff member prior to Sunday services and other significant church events.

4. Use of Warning Notices

- a) In icy conditions, mobile warning signs will be placed at key entrances and pathways to alert visitors to potential hazards.
- b) These signs will be stored in an accessible location (e.g., church porch, hall entrance) and brought out only when necessary.
- c) At least two signs will be available - one near the main entrance and one at the hall access.
- d) The church will ensure that signs are sturdy and weather-resistant to prevent them from being blown over.

5. Responsibilities of Hall Hirers

- a) The Church retains overall responsibility for the general safety of access routes and will take reasonable steps to maintain safe access, including regular inspection and grit salting of pathways during icy conditions.
- b) Hirers are responsible for the health and safety of their activities within the hall and must take reasonable precautions when accessing the church or hall premises.
- c) Hirers are encouraged to report any hazardous conditions they observe and may take additional steps (such as spreading grit salt) to ensure safety for their participants. However, they are not obligated to do so.
- d) The Church will provide hirers with access to grit salt and a spreader when required and will inform them of any applicable health and safety guidance.

6. Liability & Insurance

- a) The Church maintains public liability insurance to cover risks associated with general premises upkeep, including the treatment of icy conditions.
- b) Hirers must ensure they have appropriate liability insurance to cover their activities and participants.
- c) The Church shall not be held liable for any injury or damage resulting from icy conditions unless caused by negligence in fulfilling its stated responsibilities.

7. General Safety Advice

- a) Visitors are encouraged to wear appropriate footwear in winter conditions.
- b) Any serious incidents or hazardous conditions should be reported to the church office as soon as possible.

Annex A

St Philip & St James, Fleet Icy Weather - Path Gritting Plan

