Clarendon Team Policies

6th September 2024 – Revd Simon Chambers
For Team Council meeting 11th September and PCC meetings afterwards.

Background

PCCs are responsible for drawing up their own policies, for example safeguarding and GDPR, and also for their implementation. It is good practice for this to be reviewed annually. Currently, at the September Team Council Meeting a safeguarding policy is updated for each of the six PCCs to adopt at their next meeting. We have also done this for GDPR in the past year. Each PCC must then amend the Team Council's template policy, putting in their PCC name and parish officers, sign and date, and then, if necessary, publish on their noticeboard along with local contact information in line with the Church of England's guidance. The problem with this arrangement is it requires administrative effort by each of our PCC members, and if we are honest, we have had situations where PCCs in the past have forgotten to adopt the policy or update. In addition, there are other policies that PCCs should adopt annually such as Ex-Offenders Policy, Lone Worker Policy, Graveyard Policies, Baptism, and so on, that should also be adopted annually, but are overlooked by most PCCs, feeling there is no need for them to be reviewed.

Under church representation rules (Part 9 Sec C), any function of the PCC may be delegated to the 'Joint Council', furthermore, our own Team Council Constitution Document (April 2005) Section 2.1 details that a function of the PCC may be delegated to the Team Council provided that all PCCs have 'resolved to delegate the same function'.

Suggestion

What we would like to do:

We would like to reduce the administrative burden on PCCs, and simplify the process of ensuring that all PCCs have working policies.

How we want to do it:

PCCs would delegate the function of updating policies annually to the Team Council. This means that rather than have six PCC versions of any policy, we have just one Clarendon Team Policy, updated centrally, that each PCC would automatically adopt. PCC members will be notified of any changes made to policies in September, and all policies will be published on the Team Website. If in the unlikely event that a PCC does not agree to a policy, they may make a different local policy, but such a change must be noted back to Team Council.

How we make it happen:

1st At the Team Council meeting on the 11th September 2024, members would agree unanimously that this was a direction we would like to take.

2nd At the Joint PCC meeting on the 24th September 2024, every PCC would agree to the motion: **'This PCC agrees to delegate the function of drawing up policies, and we will give due regard to changes as they are notified to us.'**

Notes

All current policies will be made available publicly on the Team Website, and the Team Council will be responsible for keeping an archive of policies as they are made.