

St Andrew's Church, Bedford

Social Media Policy

Social media is a very public way of enabling us as Christians to live out our calling to share the good news of Jesus Christ. One of its many joys is that it is immediate, interactive, conversational and open-ended. This opportunity comes with a number of downsides if users do not apply the same common sense, kindness and sound judgement that we would use in a face-to-face encounter.

Expectations for use of St Andrew's Church social media by church members and wider community

- **Be safe.** The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults must be maintained, following the guidance in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook. Children, young people and vulnerable adults will not be added as friends on personal social media accounts of Church officers and activity leaders.
- **Be respectful.** Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful.
- **Be kind.** Treat others how you would wish to be treated and assume the best in people. If you have a criticism or critique to make, consider not just whether you would say it in person, but the tone you would use.
- **Be honest.** Don't mislead people about who you are.
- **Take responsibility.** You are accountable for the things you do, say and write. Text and images shared can be public and permanent, even with privacy settings in place. If you're not sure, don't post it.
- **Be a good ambassador.** Personal and professional life can easily become blurred online so think before you post.
- **Disagree well.** Some conversations can be places of robust disagreement and it's important we apply our values in the way we express them.
- **Credit others.** Acknowledge the work of others. Respect copyright and always credit where it is due. Be careful not to release sensitive or confidential information and always question the source of any content you are considering amplifying.
- **Follow the rules.** Abide by the terms and conditions of the various social media platforms themselves. If you see a comment that you believe breaks their policies, then please report it to the respective company.

Responsibility in cases of misuse of St Andrew's Church Social Media

The Named Person will take action if they receive complaints about, or otherwise identify, inappropriate, unsuitable or offensive material posted on behalf of the church's on its social media accounts. This may include investigating the circumstances of the content, deleting posts or comments and revoking user access to post on behalf of church.

The named person for St Andrew's PCC is the Revd Lucy Davis

Current Social Media Profile (April 2023)

Facebook:

Church Facebook Page, listed as St Andrew's Church Bedford - Open access

This is open to be viewed by anyone, much like a website would be. It is our official profile for the church on Facebook where we can advertise events to those who are in the congregation and those not yet part of our Church family. Posts made on behalf of the Church can only be made by the administrator and other designated users.

- Administrator: Revd. Lucy Davis, Kelly Agler Good
- Designated users: Elisabeth Sutcliffe, Roseanne Kinvig-Love (whilst employed as Youth Worker during the Maternity leave of Elisabeth Sutcliffe), Curate while in post

YouTube

St Andrew's, Bedford – Open Access

This is open to be viewed by anyone, with the exception of funerals and weddings. Wedding and funerals are set to semi-private and can only be accessed by those who have been given the link by the bride/groom in the case of wedding or by the bereaved in the case of funerals. Anyone can comment on the stream and those comments are monitored by the administrators. When deemed appropriate, comments are reported to YouTube and deleted. Streams and/or videos are created, then uploaded to YouTube by an administrator.

- Administrators: Kelly Agler Good, Karen Parrott, Ian Smith, Elisabeth Sutcliffe, Revd Lucy Davis, Roseanne Kinvig-Love (whilst employed as Youth Worker during the Maternity leave of Elisabeth Sutcliffe)

Twitter

Church Twitter Feed – listed as @St Andrew's Church Bedford– Open access

This is open to be viewed by anyone who wants to follow the Church's posts on Twitter. Although anyone can comment on posts, only the administrator can initiate posts.

- Administrators: Revd Lucy Davis, Curate while in post, Kelly Agler Good

Instagram

Church Instagram – listed as @St Andrew's Church Bedford– Open access

This is open to be viewed by anyone who wants to follow the Church's posts on Instagram. Although anyone can comment on posts, only the administrator can initiate posts.

- Administrators: Revd Lucy Davis, Curate while in post

Mail Chimp

Church family Mailchimp

Mail Chimp is a utility which allows emails to be sent to distribution lists on behalf of Church. Appropriate GDPR permissions have been obtained for those on our distribution lists. Emails can be sent to any of the lists by any of the users with administrator access. All those on distribution lists are over 18

- Administrators: Revd Lucy Davis; Karen Parrott, Kelly Agler Good

***Whatsapp Groups – We recognise that Whatsapp Groups are used informally by some church groups. These are outside of the jurisdiction of the church.**