

X Parish Church: Pastoral Care in our Church and Community

1 Peter 5:2 “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care”

Aims: The purpose of the pastoral care policy is to inform and support the development of best pastoral practice in the church, across the Parish and pastoral settings.

Definition: Pastoral care is the term that is broadly applied to a ministry of compassion, encouragement and transformation within the Christian life.

Context:

As the Parish Church for (x) there are three settings for the implementation of the Pastoral Care policy. These are:

- a) The Parish of (x) as defined by the Church of England and encompassing all who live and work within the Parish boundary;
- b) The Church of (x), encompassing visiting and regular worshippers; tourists; customers to the shop;
- c) The congregation of (x), encompassing all on the electoral roll, and those known to be regular attenders.

The Church’s policy is to offer the following in pastoral care:

- a) Sustaining help
- b) Healing help
- c) Reconciling help
- d) Guiding help

This Church recognises and affirms that pastoral care is the responsibility of all Christians. The Church will therefore seek to equip **ALL** of church in developing quality relationships and understanding more about caring for one another;

SOME of church who have some gifting and calling towards caring for others informally and formally;

FEW of church who have come gifting and calling to equip the ALL and SOME to love and care for one another, through leadership, training and specialist help. (source, Pastoral Care UK)

In support of the pastoral care the Church will require the following:

Promotion of a safe church through the adherence to the Church of England national, Diocesan and Parish Safeguarding policies and procedures, which will include:

- Record keeping
- Health and safety, including lone working
- Confidentiality
- Supervision and self care
- Signposting to other services eg NHS; Homeless project; foodbank; Talking therapy services; local authority social services

Finances:

The Church will support a budget for the funding of training and ongoing supervision and support.

The PCC will support a Hardship Fund, which will be managed by the Vicar.

Implementation:

A plan to implement this policy is attached, including what is already in place, and what the Church may want to organise.