



Gambling Policy

All Saints' Church, Walsoken

Please refer to Document S&S_Doc_0001 for all Safeguarding and Social requirements.

Specific Policy

This S&S sub-policy controls gambling at church (any games of chance with prizes).

Minor forms of gambling may take place at church events and typically at non-commercial entertainments of the following sorts of fundraising.

- a) A bazaar or jumble sale etc.
- b) A sale of works.
- c) A fete or similar.
- d) A dinner, dance, or other church event with catering.
- e) An entertainment event.

The church must have a registration to run

- a) Lotteries on social media.
- b) Auction or selling sites.
- c) Fundraising platforms.
- d) Live streaming platforms.
- e) Allowing people to buy tickets by telephone or text message.

Note: Our church must ensure that all gambling is conducted:

- a) Fairly and openly.
- b) Free from criminal influence.
- c) In a way that protects children and vulnerable people.

Reference Documents

The Gambling Act 2005.

NHS advice for gambling addiction.

Gambling Commission webpage.

Procedure

Incidental lotteries (including raffles)

A lottery is defined by three key elements: participants must pay to enter, prizes are awarded, and winners are determined purely by chance. This includes traditional raffles where tickets are sold, and winners are drawn at random.

You don't need a licence to run this kind of lottery, but you must make sure you follow the rules. Our church can only run an incidental lottery to raise money for charity, not for private gain of an individual. The lottery can't be the main reason for holding the event. It must take place alongside another one-off event.

- a) You can sell tickets to anyone at the event. Nobody else.
- b) You must provide physical tickets to those taking part. There are no set requirements for what must be printed on the tickets, if you can identify which are the winning tickets. For example, you can use cloakroom tickets.
- c) There is no limit on how much you can charge for a ticket, and you can apply discount tickets for multiple purchases, such as buy one get one free.
- d) Tickets can only be sold at the location of the event and whilst the event is taking place. You can't sell tickets online (which includes social media) or in advance of the event.
- e) You can take up to a maximum of £100 from your proceeds to cover expenses to run the lottery. For example, costs for printing tickets or hiring equipment.
- f) You can take up to a maximum of £500 from proceeds to pay for prizes. Prizes can also be donated; there isn't a limit on how much donated prizes can cost.

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- g) Prizes can't rollover from one lottery to another.
- h) You can either do the lottery draw during or after the event. However, drawing the winning ticket after the event may cause some concerns about validity of the result.
- i) All prizes acquired for the lottery must be legal. If the prizes include age restricted items, the age of the person buying the ticket must be similar.
- j) Ideally: Prizes should be donated
- k) Prizes should be considered against our church Sale of Goods Policy (H&S_Doc_019).
- l) Our church must clearly advertise how any proceeds are going to be spent (for what purpose).

Customer lottery

Our church is not considered a business, so this type of lottery is not permitted.

Work lottery

Our church does not employ staff so this, so this type of lottery is not permitted.

Residents' lottery

There are no residents at church, so this type of lottery is not permitted.

Private society lottery

Our church is not a private club, so this type of lottery is not permitted.

Small society lottery

Our church is not a small society, so this type of lottery is not permitted.

Bingo

Our church can raise money for charity by running a bingo night or bingo fundraiser, however our church must follow the relevant rules. A licence is not needed for these types of event.

- a) It anywhere which does not have a gambling premises licence. For example, this can include things like school halls, places of worship and community spaces.
- b) The gaming must take place at a non-commercial event at one of these venues.
- c) The event is non-commercial if all the proceeds from the event are used for fundraising and the reasonable costs of organising the event. This includes money from
 - a. Entrance and participation fees
 - b. Sponsorship.
 - c. Commission from others.
 - d. Any other source.
- d) Our church must ensure.
 - a. The game is played as an equal chance game (essentially all players must have the same chance of winning).
 - b. You tell everyone who is playing what good cause you're raising money for in advance.
- e) Our church can't.
 - a. Use the profits from any gaming for private individual gain
 - b. Use any of the proceeds from your non-commercial event for individual private gain.

Note: There are two types of bingo for fundraising.

- a) Non-commercial equal chance gaming.
- b) Non-commercial prize gaming.

There are different rules for each so must be investigated correctly before proceeding

Forms

None

Diagrams

None

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Appendices

Churches have long been active in campaigning on gambling issues and trying to reduce the harms arising from the growth of gambling in society, both terrestrial and online

Charities and support services

There are also charities and support groups that offer free, confidential support to people who are gambling, and their friends and family.

The National Gambling Helpline (run by GamCare) – call 0808 8020 133 for free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for free information, support and counselling

GambleAware – the National Gambling Support Network service

Primary Care Gambling Service – a national service providing support for anyone experiencing gambling-related harms

GamLearn – the Gambling Lived Experience and Recovery Network service

Gamblers Anonymous – a local support group service that uses the 12-step approach to recovery

Citizens Advice Bureau – a charity that can advise you on a range of issues, including finances and gambling

ChapterOne – a charity that can provide advice and support for anyone experiencing gambling-related harms

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