

## The Parish of Nursling and Rownhams Social Media Policy Statement

Social media is a collective term for websites and applications that enable users to create and share content and participate in social networking. The best-known platforms are Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, but the term also covers online forums and blogs, as well as less well-known applications. When used well, social media is an effective means of connecting with people and offers a number of opportunities for the church. These opportunities are not without risks, however working within the following guidelines and using the same common sense, kindness and sound judgement that we would use in a face-to-face encounter, will help us to engage well with our church and communities.

The Parish of Nursling and Rownhams will endeavour to work in ways which make the digital world safer, kinder, honest, respectful and accountable, respecting confidentiality, copyright, data protection and legal frameworks.

The Parish of Nursling and Rownhams will adhere to the [Church of England's guidelines](#) in our use of social media and the best practice guidelines, set out in the House of Bishops' [Parish Safeguarding Handbook](#), section 12 and the [Safer Environments and Activities Guidance](#), section 4.4.

All church officers<sup>1</sup> will have a named person to whom they are accountable. All church officers<sup>1</sup> are made aware of the best practice guidance on the use of social media, as above.

Safeguarding Policies and Procedures will always be followed and any safeguarding concerns that arise, will be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Diocesan Safeguarding Manager.

The PCC has reviewed and approved the use of social media by this Parish.

Approved by PCC meeting of: 6 February 2023

Signed by PCC Chair: Rev Graeme Dixon

Date 6 February 2023

<sup>1</sup>A "Church Officer" is anyone appointed/elected by or on behalf of the Church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid.