

Working at Height Policy

Aim

To provide a safe working environment for staff, contractors and volunteers. All people are expected to co-operate in implementing the policy.

Who it applies to

Anyone, whether paid staff, contractors or volunteers, working in any capacity on any of the church premises.

Definition of “at height”

A place is “at height” if a person could be injured by falling from it even if it is at or below ground level.

Working at height should

- Be properly planned and organised
- Take account of weather conditions if appropriate.
- Be done by people trained to use the equipment
- Control risks to fragile surfaces.
- Control risks from falling objects.

Risk assessment

- Assess any hazard.
- Avoid working at height if possible.
- Use equipment to minimise distance of fall if the risk cannot be eliminated.
- Use equipment provided in a safe manner to avoid falls where working at height is unavoidable.

Equipment

- Should be suitable for purpose.
- Should be regularly inspected.
- Training should be provided as needed to ensure competent use.

Ladders

- Ladders may only be used for work where it has been shown that more robust equipment is not justified because of low risk or short length of time to be used.
- Single portable ladders must be used on a firm level surface and secured at upper and lower ends using anti-slip or other appropriate methods.
- A second person placing their foot on the bottom rung to secure a ladder is no longer recognised as good practice.