

Policy on Recruitment of Ex-Offenders

The following policy was agreed at the Arborfield, Barkham, and Christ Church, Wokingham PCC meetings held in May 2024, and will apply to all our churches, including Church at the Green.

We recognise that the Lord Jesus calls all members of his people to use their gifts to serve him by serving one another, including by teaching our children and young people about him, and by caring for the more vulnerable members of our church families and local communities.

In appointing people to particular roles within the church we will always consider whether they are in sympathy with our aims and beliefs as a family of churches. We also recognise the importance of doing everything we can to keep those we serve from harm.

Therefore:

- 1 As an organisation assessing applicants' suitability for positions which are included in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order, using criminal record checks processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), Church at the Green complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly.
- 2 Church at the Green undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a criminal record check on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.
- 3 Church at the Green can only ask an individual to provide details of convictions and cautions that Church at the Green is legally entitled to know about: ie where a DBS certificate at either standard or enhanced level can legally be requested.
- 4 Church at the Green can only ask an individual about convictions and cautions that are not protected.
- 5 Church at the Green is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical/mental disability or offending background.
- 6 Church at the Green actively promotes equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcomes applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records.
- 7 Church at the Green selects all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications, and experience.
- 8 An application for a criminal record check is only submitted to DBS after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a criminal record check is identified as necessary, all role descriptions, application forms, job adverts and recruitment briefs will contain a statement that an application for a DBS certificate will be submitted in the event of the individual being offered the position.

- 9 Church at the Green ensures that those involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained and receive suitable support to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of offences.
- 10 At interview, or in a separate discussion, Church at the Green and/or Oxford Diocese ensures that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to withdrawal of an offer of appointment and/or employment.
- 11 Church at the Green makes every subject of a criminal record check submitted to DBS aware of the existence of the DBS Code of Practice and makes a copy available on request.
- 12 Church at the Green undertakes to discuss any matter revealed on a DBS certificate with the individual seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of appointment and/or employment.

Signed Minister of Church at the Green:

Elder:

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