

# The Parish of the Resurrection, Alton

## Ex-Offender Policy

### Preamble:

The Gospel teaching on the treatment of convicted offenders is perhaps best summed up in Luke 23: 41-43. Jesus doesn't spare the criminal from crucifixion but does suggest that he will be welcome in heaven as a repentant and forgiven sinner.

Therefore the church has a Gospel imperative to welcome ex-offenders but not to overlook or minimise the criminal actions resulting in their previous conviction. Therefore it is a case of consequence. Ex-offenders can attend church but not if by doing so vulnerable children or adults are placed in any kind of danger or stress in any way, and once any necessary check and agreements have been undertaken and implemented.

### Policy

If any person discloses that he or she is an ex-offender who committed a sex, or violent offence, or there is suspicion that they may have, and is either regularly attending or looking to join a church, the Vicar, or during a vacancy, the Associate Vicar must be informed immediately along with the churchwardens and the Diocesan Director of Safeguarding & Inclusion, Jane Fisher (07921 865374). In such cases a meeting will be held to see if an agreement can be drawn up to enable the ex-offender to have their spiritual needs met. This meeting may also involve the statutory agencies e.g. police and probation service. Section 9.i & 9.ii of the Diocesan Child Protection Manual refer. If the offence is of non-sexual or non-violent nature a discussion will still be held to determine how the ex-offender's spiritual needs can be met while protecting them from temptation to re-offend and also ensuring the safety and security of the wider church community.

*Fr Mickey*

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