

# HOLY TRINITY, PRESTWOOD AND ST. MARY MAGDALENE, GREAT HAMPDEN

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## **How we Respect the Sanctity of the Church**

It is part of our mission to encourage as many members of our community as possible to make use of the beautiful, sacred space of the church building. We also have a responsibility to ensure all hirers of the church are happy to work within our core values. Everything that takes place in church must be consistent with the sanctity of the place as a Christian building dedicated to God and the worship of the church.

This responsibility applies to all hirers.

When alternative therapeutic practitioners hire the church, we and they have a specific responsibility to ensure the core values of the church and the practitioner are in alignment. Therapeutic practitioners can express different worldviews and philosophies in their work. These can have different levels of centrality to the activity being practised and practitioners can express different worldviews in their different practices.

When hiring the church, hirers commit that in the practice or activity, and the marketing and literature associated with the hire, they will:-

- Respect the church as a Christian building dedicated to God.
- Not make any claims about their practice or activity that are inconsistent with the sanctity of the church, Christianity or a Christian worldview.
- Not promote or seem to represent anything inconsistent with the sanctity of the church, Christianity or a Christian worldview.

For example: many Yoga sessions are held in church. Practitioners do not make religious or spiritual claims for their practice, but promote the holistic benefits of the exercise and breathing, both of which are consistent with the sanctity of the place.

Any hirers in doubt that they can adhere to this policy without compromising their core values must contact the church for clarification before confirming the hire.