

Tobacco and Smoke-Free Policy

- PURPOSE:** This tobacco-free policy has been developed to protect all users of and visitors to the church building, including the church's employees, from second-hand smoke; and to reinforce the aims of Public Health England (PHE) to secure a tobacco-free generation by 2025 and to support smokers to stop smoking and stay smoke-free. "Vaping" (the use of electronic cigarettes ("e-cigarettes")) is not covered by smoke-free legislation.
- SMOKE-FREE AREAS:** **Tobacco smoking is prohibited in all areas of this public building** in accordance with the Health Act 2006, which prohibits smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces, on public transport, and in vehicles used for work. This is based on conclusive scientific evidence of the direct health harm caused to bystanders through the inhalation of second-hand tobacco smoke. We have extended this to apply to the area immediately outside of the main entrance doors of the church building for the same reason.
- PERMITTED AREA:** An ashtray is provided to the side of the steps to the main entrance doors, and this is the only area within our boundaries in which tobacco smoking is permitted.
- COMPLIANCE:** **Compliance with this policy is mandatory** for all employees, volunteers, and visitors, with no exceptions. Non-compliance by employees will be treated as a disciplinary matter. Visitors who violate the policy will be required to leave the building. Hirers are expected to ensure compliance with this policy by their attendees.
- VAPING:** Evidence cited by PHE indicates that e-cigarettes (ECs) are an effective stop-smoking aid, particularly if combined with additional support from stop smoking services. ECs and other nicotine containing products (NCPs) were legislated as medication in 2017.
- PERMITTED VAPING:** ECs do not produce smoke, and a review of evidence published by PHE in 2015 concluded that ECs release negligible levels of nicotine into ambient air with no identified health risks to bystanders. The manufacture and sale of ECs were regulated by the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016.
- Bloomsbury accepts responsible vaping.**
Employees, volunteers, and other church representatives are expected to behave professionally and respectfully in their use of vaping, and, in particular, to:
- Respect those who request not to be subjected to vaping in their personal space;
 - Minimise the production of visible vapour; and
 - Be careful with vaping materials, to prevent them falling into the hands of those under the age of 18.
- VAPE-FREE:**
- **Do not vape** in areas in which food is being served and consumed.
 - **Do not vape** around under-18s.
 - **Do not vape** in an office, anteroom, or private study.
 - **Do not vape** in the Sanctuary during services.

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This policy is subject to review at intervals, and in particular on the publication of new evidence or regulations