

All Saints with St. Peter's Policy for assisting visitors seeking help.

From time to time, during the hours the church is open, we may receive visitors who are looking for practical assistance from us. As a Christian community we aim to do all we can to help those who turn to us as part of our response to the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 25 (I was hungry and you fed me etc.) but we also need to make sure that those who find themselves called to help, are properly safeguarded.

The following principles should be adhered to:

1. You should never meet with a stranger on your own in the church building – if you are confronted with this – you should invite the person to leave the building and talk to you in the garden outside – or you should arrange for another member of the church to be with you. (Fr Andrew or Chris Dack can always be contacted)
2. You should never give money to someone who requests it in these circumstances. Always seek to resolve the issue in another way – by purchasing a bus or train ticket if this is required or offering to buy food or drink from a shop in the valley (the church will reimburse you for any expenses incurred). Only if you are faced with a response that makes you feel personally under threat should you give cash.
3. If the visitor refuses to leave the church or reacts aggressively towards you – you should leave the church immediately and phone the police – even if this means that you leave the visitor alone inside.
4. Should the visitor need specific help which can be provided by another local agency in our area – there is a list of phone numbers now pinned to the noticeboard in the church.
5. Please do not pass on any of your personal details to any visitor. Offers to repay sums requested are rarely followed up.

Fr Andrew
June 2023