

CleerWay Community Church social media policyⁱ

Social media is a very public way of enabling us as Christians to live out our calling to share the good news of Jesus Christ. One of its many joys is that it is immediate, interactive, conversational and open-ended. This opportunity comes with a number of downsides if users do not apply the same common sense, kindness and sound judgement that we would use in a face-to-face encounter.

We expect our leaders to embody our church's values and measures while online, and are asking all CleerWay Community Church trustees, employees and volunteers who engage with others via their personal social media accounts to agree to:

- **Be a good ambassador of CleerWay Community Church.** Respect the church's mission, beliefs and values. Personal and 'professional' life can easily become blurred online so think before you post and do not promote your personal beliefs as the church's beliefs.
- **Be honest.** Don't mislead people about who you are online. Official church accounts are to be operated by the proper church member(s) with agreed content only.
- **Be safe.** The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults must be maintained. If you have any concerns, contact the safeguarding trustee (currently Liz Farmer).
- **Be respectful.** Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful. Try to think of the effect on others who may see what you post.
- **Be kind.** Treat others how you would wish to be treated and assume the best in people. If you have a criticism or critique to make, consider not just *whether* you would say it in person, but the tone you would use.
- **Take responsibility.** You are accountable for the things you do, say and write. Text and images shared can be public and permanent, even with privacy settings in place. If you're not sure, don't post it.
- **Disagree well.** Some conversations can be places of robust disagreement and it's important we apply our values in the way we express them. Don't continue a private disagreement in public.

- **Credit others.** Acknowledge the work of others. Respect copyright and always credit where it is due. Be careful not to release sensitive or confidential information and always question the source of any content you are considering amplifying.
- **Follow the rules.** Abide by the terms and conditions of the various social media platforms themselves. If you see a comment that you believe breaks their policies, then please report it to the respective company.

ⁱ With thanks to the Church of England –www.churchofengland.org – who published an outline of these guidelines as a resource to churches. Additional material from Centre for Pastor Theologians