

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - POLICY FOR INTRODUCING AND ACCEPTING ART WORK OFFERED TO THE CHURCH

St Mary's Newick PCC recognises that from time to time, a donor may wish to offer a work of art to the Church, and warmly commends the generosity of those who wish to do so.

Art has been part of church life for centuries. Art in our churches takes many forms; it reflects our faith and helps us to connect with God.

It is suggested that art should always be created or given for a specific place in the church building, and with an understanding of its purpose in supporting people's faith. Guidance for commissioning new art for the church can be found on Church of England's website under Introducing new art in churches.

The PCC are under no obligation to accept any gifts that may be offered to the Church. Anyone wishing to donate a work of art to St Mary's Newick should therefore, in the first instance, make their wish known to the Incumbent or to one of the Churchwardens.

In doing so, the prospective donor should consider and make clear their position on the following questions:

1. Is it the prospective donor's intention that the PCC should hold the gift as an asset which the PCC might, at some point in the future, wish to dispose of, either by sale or as a gift? Or is it the prospective donor's intention that the PCC should hold the gift inalienably, i.e. for ever?
2. Is it the prospective donor's intention that the work of art should be displayed permanently in the Church, displayed only on certain occasions, or displayed from time to time at the Incumbent's and the PCC's discretion?

The offer of the gift, and the prospective donor's intentions regarding the above questions, will then be discussed firstly by the Incumbent and Churchwardens, and secondly at a full meeting of the PCC. The PCC will decide firstly if it is happy to accept the gift, and if so, it will then decide if it is happy to uphold the prospective donor's intentions in regard to the above questions.

The prospective donor will be informed of the outcome of the discussion. Negotiation may take place around the terms of the offer if the PCC is happy to accept the gift in itself, but is unwilling to uphold the prospective donor's intentions as initially set out. This may result in the gift being offered with revised intentions, or it may result in the offer of the gift being withdrawn. If the former, the revised terms of the offer will be discussed by the Incumbent and the Churchwardens, and at a meeting of the PCC. The decision of the PCC is then final.

If money is offered for the purchase of a specific work of art, the decision whether or not to accept the money shall be taken by the PCC.

In the case of a willed bequest, the PCC will follow any conditions attached as long as they conform to the Church's agreed ministry.

Agreed at PCC Meeting held on 16th March, 2020

Policy reviewed January 2022

Reviewed January 2023

Reviewed February 2024

Reviewed February 2025

Signed

Rev'd Paul Mundy