

St Margaret's Parish Church, Olton

Policy on Photograph and Filming

July 2018

(Reviewed 25 July 2019)

This policy was adopted by St Margaret's Parish Church at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on 19th July 2018.

- Our mission at St Margaret's Church is "Sharing God's Story" with the people of Olton and beyond.
- Our worship is a public witness. There are no restrictions on the people who may attend St Margaret's Church.
- Photography and filming is not new in church. For many years weddings have been photographed and filmed in church as a record of the special occasion for the couple concerned.
- Properly used, social media is a powerful tool to communicate God's story and our public witness to Christ at St Margaret's church to reach hundreds of people.
- Taking photographs and sharing film and photographs is now easier than ever because of the ubiquity of smartphones and social media.
- We want St Margaret's church to be a welcoming environment both for the existing congregation and newcomers for whom social media is the norm.
- Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is the highest priority at St Margaret's Church.

Guidelines

1. Respect must be observed when taking any photographs within church events or public worship.
2. No photograph or film should be taken of any person who requests that they not be filmed
3. Guideline 2 should not hinder photography celebrating the life of the church in a group setting.
4. If photography would compromise the anonymity of someone due to a specific safety reason (for instance a risk of domestic violence) a register should be kept of those people with a photograph so that they can be identified and blocked out of any published photograph.
5. Written permission should be sought for any close-up pictures of children's faces for children under the age of 16. Permission slips need to be completed and renewed every three years.
6. Permission does not need to be sought for children in large group photographs or when their faces are not visible.
7. No sexualised images will be permitted, either posed at the time or manipulated on the computer afterwards.

8. Photographs may be retained, used on reputable social media websites, church documents, and publicity for church events such as posters and leaflets.
9. Photographs may be taken by private individuals or official photographers as long as the minister permits it. For example; wedding guests are usually asked not to take photographs during the wedding vows.
10. Filming of church music requires the payment of a copyright fee for the organist and choir.
11. Restrictions on photography can only reasonably be enforced within the church building. External events such as the Olton Residents Association Christmas Lights and the Ecumenical Walk of Witness on Good Friday are outside the scope of this policy.