

# FIRE SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT

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Premises : All Saints Church  
Elm Grove Road  
London W5

Date of Assessment : 1 July 2010

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## Overview.

All Saints Church is a substantial Victorian building occupying a corner site on the junction of Elm Grove Road and Delamere Road.

The building functions as an Anglican Place of Worship.

The building comprises a main worship space with pews, a connected side chapel, a choir vestry and main vestry. There is a small basement with external access consisting of a boiler room and an adjacent room used for storage. There is a tower with access from the main lobby and with two landing levels and an accessible roof. The landings are used for storage.

Utility services. Gas, electricity, water and drainage.

The church is open for services on Sundays and special occasions but at other times is kept locked.

The vicarage is occupied and located directly opposite the Church.

The average number attending main services is 60 persons, a large number of these are families with young children. The Church is capable of seating up to 400 persons.

There are fire extinguishers and sand buckets available.

## Means of escape

From the main body of the church there are four exits all with double doors leading to an external place of safety. The set of doors directly opposite the main entrance is regularly blocked. The two sets of doors towards the front of the nave are both suitable for escape purposes however the doors on the South side should be considered the main alternative escape route. All the doors are secured by heavy bolts, the lighting to the doors and adjoining lobbies is very poor and there are no fire exit signs and no emergency lighting.

From the vestry areas there is an external escape door with a key in a break glass box.

## Fire Hazards

*Items that could start a fire are identified as:-*

Electrical wiring, light fittings, items of electrical equipment ie organ, sound system, candles.

*Items that could burn have been identified as:-*

Exposed constructional wood and joinery products. Hymn books, service sheets and other printed matter. Carpet. Kneelers. The pew cushions are recent and to current flame retardant upholstery standard. Altar cloths and linen, curtains, banners and flags. Cleaning/maintenance materials. Plastics.

## People at risk

All occupiers.

## **Risk Evaluation**

### **From Accidental Fire**

**MEDIUM.** There are a lit candles in various parts of the church during services, these are in fixed positions and not normally adjacent to combustible materials. The electrical wiring is new and in fire protected cable. The number of electrical power outlets is however inadequate resulting in the need for extension cables which can overheat. Enclosed storage areas cupboards etc should be inspected for combustible materials. All

### **From Arson**

**LOW.** The basement areas are kept locked. Parts of the ground floor are not always supervised so there is potential for a fire going un-noticed. There is also unrestricted access to the rear of the site and parts of the building perimeter are not visible

### ***To be noted***

Fire Warning. There are no detection or warning devices installed.

Escape. There is no emergency lighting, escape routes are not marked and final exits are secured.

## **Recommendations**

### **PRIORITY ONE**

- A Whenever the building is occupied persons must be nominated to:-
  1. Deal with evacuation if a fire is suspected.
  2. Use fire fighting appliances.
  3. Call the fire brigade.
- B Familiarise all nominated persons with fire procedures for evacuation and position and use of fire fighting appliances.
- C Position and maintain emergency hand torches in case of power failure.
- D Service and maintain escape doors for ease of opening.
- E Ensure escape routes are not blocked and are free from combustible materials.
- F Ensure extension cables are adequately sized and unplugged when building is empty.
- G Ensure all candles are extinguished when building is empty.
- H Maintain records of incidents and procedures and implementation of recommendations of Fire Risk Assessment

### **PRIORITY TWO**

In longer term consider automatic detection/alarm system and emergency lighting.