



# Barrow and Wolds Group

\* HOLY TRINITY \* ST. MARY \* ST. ANDREW \* ST. MARY

The Benefice of Barrow-upon-Soar with Walton le Wolds, Wymeswold and Prestwold with Hoton.

## Social media community guidelines

### Introduction

The digital landscape has changed so much in the last few years and will continue to do so as technology develops. It's important to think about how the conversations we're having can help change someone's newsfeed for the better.

What does it look like to be a Christian online? Everyone's engagement is different. Whether you're a member of clergy using Twitter or a churchgoer replying to the comments on a blog, we all have different views, histories and areas of interest that will affect how we perceive things, and our responses to those events. The comments we make can reach thousands and even millions of people both in this country and around the world very quickly.

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.

### Community Guidelines

We have adopted the Church of England's and Archbishops' community guidelines, which have been created to encourage conversations that reflect our values. While written specifically for all users who engage with

the Church of England's and Archbishops' national social media channels, these guidelines are built on universal principles. They are a resource for Christians, people of other faiths and people of no faith. Dioceses and local churches across the Church of England are welcome and encouraged to adopt them.

By engaging with our social media accounts, you agree to:

- **Be safe.** The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults must be maintained. If you have any concerns, please contact our Safeguarding Co-ordinator or the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.
- **Be respectful.** Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful.
- **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.
- **Be honest.** Don't mislead people about who you are.
- **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.
- **Be a good ambassador.** Personal and professional life can easily become blurred online so think before you post.
- **Disagree well.** Some conversations can be places of robust disagreement and it's important we apply our values in the way we express them.
- **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.

## How will we respond to people who breach our social media community guidelines?

The Church's team may take action if they receive complaints or spot inappropriate, unsuitable or offensive material posted to our social media accounts. This may include deleting comments, blocking users or reporting comments as appropriate.

## Who do I speak to for further advice?

If you have a safeguarding concern, please follow our Safeguarding Policy, which can be found on our website at [www.barrowandwoldsgroup.com](http://www.barrowandwoldsgroup.com).

The Barrow and Wolds Group Benefice Office can be contacted via The Benefice Administrator at Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, Barrow upon Soar, LE12 8HP or 01509 416520 or [enquiries@barrowandwoldsgroup.com](mailto:enquiries@barrowandwoldsgroup.com).

## We have signed the Church's and Archbishops' Digital Charter.

This is a voluntary pledge that individual Christians as well as churches are encouraged to sign to help make social media and the web more widely positive places for conversations to happen. Details, including how to sign the charter can be found at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/digital-charter>



I've signed up to the  
Church of England's Digital Charter.

Find out more at [churchofengland.org/charter](http://churchofengland.org/charter)

**#CofECharter**



	Signature	Name	Designation	Date
Incumbent		CLIVE WATTS	Rector	4/3/26
Barrow with Walton PCC		Ben Kingdon	Church warden	4/3/26
Prestwold with Hoton PCC		Mr. Castledino	Church Warden	4.3.26.
Wymeswold PCC		R. BINSOW	church warden	4.iii.26

Document Prepared – 17th January 2024

Approved by PCC 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Reviewed and Approved by PCC 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Reviewed and Approved by PCC 04<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Rev'd Clive Watts, Rector