

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, RASTRICK

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY
For Services/Events at St John The Divine, Rastrick

October 2010

St John's Vicarage,
1 Vicarage Gardens
Rastrick
Brighouse
HD6 3HD

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1 INTRODUCTION

Many services and events held at St Johns are of special and sentimental value to those participating and attending. To this end persons may want to have the occasion captured on film or digitally for posterity or publicity purposes.

The use of film and photography equipment in Church during public services however can be disruptive especially if extraneous noise and/or flashes of light interrupt concentration or meditation.

In addition, it can be perceived as an infringement of privacy by members of the congregation, and a concern that images of individuals could appear in public domains without the express consent of the individual(s).

1.1 Application of the Policy

The Parish Church Council (PCC) wish to support the genuine capture of significant events in the church, hall or precincts of St John's by individuals/families associated with the event, and by the general press for publicity purposes. However, this must be achieved sensitively and in a controlled manner so as to reassure those with concerns that unsolicited images will not be captured and uncensored images will not be published.

This Policy sets out the **strict** conditions under which film and/or photography equipment may be used during public services and/or events, It applies to **ALL CHURCH ORGANISED** events that are open to the public, including services of worship, marriage, baptism etc.; concerts and pantomimes; garden parties and miscellaneous events not expressly cited here. It also applies to **ALL FORMS OF IMAGE RECORDING**, including (but not exclusively) film and digital still cameras, film and digital video cameras, mobile phones with image-recording functions.

1.2 Christian Faith Context

The aims, management and working practices of St Johns should reflect the fundamental Christian belief that all human beings are created in the image of God, are equally valued by God, and share equally in Gods love.

Its environment and the quality of relationships should encourage a clear expression of Christian values, including:

- A sense of individual worth
- Justice and equity
- Mutual care and concern
- Sensitivity to the needs of others and a generosity in their efforts for others

2 TAKING OF IMAGES AT CHURCH ORGANISED SERVICES AND EVENTS

2.1 Services

The use of image-recording equipment **WILL NOT** normally be permitted during a service.

Where there has been a significant moment in a service that those attending wish to record, then a re-enactment after the service will be arranged on request {e.g. the signing of the register during a wedding, or the anointing of a person during a baptism. A Church Warden can arrange such a request with the consent of the presiding Minister.

In exceptional circumstances, for example where the spontaneity of a moment could not be recreated, say a Nativity Play, the use of image-recording equipment **MAY** be permitted **ONLY** by a Church Warden. However, those participating in the event or the families of children participating should agree to them being recorded. Where this can be forecast, then the form at Appendix 1 should be used prior to the service.

Note: Church members and/or organising groups, should discuss photography/video requirements with those involved in advance of such services so as to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that there are no unpleasant situations arising during services where unauthorised use of such equipment has to be challenged by the Church Wardens.

2.2 Other Events

The capturing of images during events such as pantomimes, Teddy Horsely days, parties etc. is almost an expected occurrence and as such should be supported, especially where the family of St John's as a whole could benefit, say from sales of videos or press publicity.

However, those attending **MUST BE CLEAR** that photography and or filming will be taking place. This could be achieved by clearly announcing in publicity materials, tickets etc. that this will be taking place.

Where press publicity has been organised, especially if children are to be photographed, only those who give (or their guardians give) express permission to be photographed can be allowed to be used in the publicity. To this end the form at Appendix 1 should be used and the press photographer **STRICTLY** controlled to ensure only consenting individuals are chosen.

3 NOTICES

Whilst it is expected that members of St John's and associated groups will comply with this Policy, the general public will not necessarily know of its existence and the compact nature of image- recording equipment today makes it easy for such devices to be brought into services/events unnoticed.

It is necessary therefore to display prominent notices advising that St John's operates a Policy on the use of film and photography equipment and advising individuals to seek guidance from a Church Warden/Event Organiser. The notice shown at Appendix 2 must therefore be clearly and prominently displayed in the church and the hall.

St John the Divine

Photograph/Video Permission

From time to time St John's Church runs services and events at which photos or video images are taken- These might include children and young people's events.

The image material may be used for display purposes, publicity purposes or simply for recollection by those involved in the service/event. Images may appear in the local press. Please sign and return this form if you are happy for your or your child's photo to be used in this way.

We will only take photos of children whose parents/guardians have signed this permission form!

I give permission for me/my child
To be photographed or filmed as part of this St John's Service/Event.

Signed.....

Name.....

Date.....

Please return to

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Signed.....

Name.....

Date.....

Please return to

**St John the Divine, Rastrick Film and
Photography Policy**

The use of cameras is
STRICTLY controlled.

DO NOT take photographs,
videos or any other sort of
image without the express
consent of a Church
Warden.

THIS INCLUDES OFFICIAL

AND PRESS

PHOTOGRAPHERS