

ST MARYS CATHOLIC CHURCH, BRIDGE GATE, DERBY
RESPONSE TO DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOUR

Occasions have arisen in the past, and will no doubt occur again in the future, when a person, usually under the influence of alcohol or drugs, has entered the church during a Service and has had a disruptive effect without posing a threat to personal safety. There is no history of physical assault in church although this cannot be discounted, especially if the individual is aggravated.

At week-end Services, stewards will be present who will be responsible for making the initial response. Before the Service starts, stewards should be vigilant and look out for anybody who is unknown and loud, unruly or looks in any way suspicious when entering the church. The person should be approached, greeted and informed that a Service is about to begin that requires respect. If the person wants to stay he/she should be guided to a seat, preferably near the rear of the church. The person's behaviour should be observed discretely.

If the person shows any offensive behaviour or interferes in any way with the conduct of the Service, then he/she should be politely asked to behave in a considerate manner and, if necessary, to leave the church. In this case, he/she should be escorted to the nearest exit, but without using any force.

If the individual becomes aggressive and refuses to leave, then it may be necessary to call the police on 999.

A similar response should be made to a disruptive person entering the church during the Service itself.

It is unlikely that a trained steward will be present at week day services in which case a suitable member of the congregation will be asked to respond to the intrusion.

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