



Staying Safe Online

Thirsk Parishes' Expectations for Online Meetings

We take our responsibility to nurture and promote the flourishing of all our Church family very seriously. Safeguarding in the online space is no different to when we meet together face to face. The following outlines what you can expect of us, and what we can expect of you, so that we all remains safe online.

Your expectations of us:

- We organise zoom meetings so that a waiting room and password are in operation, enabling us to monitor who is joining. The link for a meeting will not have been shared on a website or openly on social media.
- The host of the call controls who is able to share screens and content.
- We will disable the 'private chat' function, so that any chat throughout the meeting is public, and you will not be able to receive private messages, wanted or unwanted.
- We will not record any meetings, unless we have given you a specific reason why. In this case, we will allow time for you to turn your camera off or leave the meeting before we record anything.
- Any meetings involving children or young people will be conducted in accordance with the Diocese of York guidance for online work with these groups, which can be found at <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/schools-and-youth/children-young-people-churches/resources-and-information/youth-resources-and-information/>
- For services that are streamed on platforms that allow interactive chat, such as Facebook or Youtube, a team member will monitor the chat to make sure that the content is appropriate. We will block and delete anything inappropriate.

Our expectations of you:

- The dress code is the same as if you were in the church building.
- Please join from a 'public' room in your house, such as a kitchen, dining room or lounge (where possible not from a bedroom).
- Children are welcome to join the call, and will need to be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- You won't record any aspect of the online meeting.
- Please put your camera on as you join, or make sure your name on zoom reflects who is joining. If we can't ascertain who is present, we may move you to a waiting room until we can.

Our Safeguarding Officer, Terry Cussons, is the first person to speak to if you have any concerns around the welfare of a child or adult at risk. You can contact him on 01845 523826.