



# **All Saints' Church – Church Lawton Cheshire CCTV policy**

## **Policy summary**

All Saints' Church has in place a Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance system. This policy details the purpose, use and management of the CCTV system and details the procedures to be followed in order to ensure that All Saints' Church complies with relevant legislation and Codes of Practice where necessary.

This policy and the procedures therein detailed, applies to all of All Saints' Church CCTV systems including covert installations capturing images of identifiable individuals for the purpose of viewing and or recording the activities of such individuals. CCTV images are monitored and recorded in strict accordance with this policy.

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## Introduction

1. All Saints' Church uses closed circuit television (CCTV) images for the prevention, identification and reduction of crime and to monitor the All Saints' Church buildings in order to provide a safe and secure environment for staff, clergy, church officers, volunteers and visitors and to prevent the loss of or damage to All Saints' Church contents and property.
2. The CCTV system is owned by All Saints' Church, Church Lawton ST7 3DD and managed by William Banks as their IT support volunteer. All Saints' Church is the system operator, and data controller, for the images produced by the CCTV system, and is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office, Registration number **ZC123154**
3. The CCTV system is operational and is capable of being monitored for 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

## Purpose

4. This Policy governs the installation and operation of all CCTV cameras at All Saints' Church.
5. CCTV surveillance is used to monitor and collect visual images for the purposes of:
  - protecting the buildings and assets during office hours, and after hours;
  - promoting the health and safety of staff, volunteers, and visitors;
  - reducing the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour (including theft and vandalism);
  - supporting the Police in a bid to deter and detect crime;
  - assisting in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders; and
  - ensuring that the rules are respected so that the site can be properly managed.

## Scope

6. This policy applies to All Saints' Church, and also to any separate legal entities owned and controlled by them which occupy premises controlled by the CCTV system.
7. Where a system is jointly owned or jointly operated, the governance and accountability arrangements are agreed between the partners and documented so that each of the partner organisations has clear responsibilities, with clarity over obligations and expectations and procedures for the resolution of any differences between the parties or changes of circumstance.
8. This policy is applicable to and must be followed by all staff including consultants and contractors. Failure to comply could result in disciplinary action, including dismissal. This policy also applies to volunteers, trustees, committee members.
9. All staff and church officers involved in the operation of the CCTV System will be made aware of this policy and will only be authorised to use the CCTV System in a way that is consistent with the purposes and procedures contained therein.
10. All systems users staff, volunteers, church officers with responsibility for accessing, recording, disclosing or otherwise processing CCTV images will have relevant skills and

training on the operational, technical and privacy considerations and fully understand the policies and procedures.

11. Where required, CCTV operators will be properly licensed by the Security Industry Authority as follows:

- A license is required for cathedrals and churches where CCTV is used for wider security purposes, and the system is staffed by paid security staff.
- A minister who is listed as the CCTV operator, as a fixed entity/person, will be treated as an “employee” and will therefore require a license.
- A license is not needed if the person overseeing the CCTV is undertaking the work as a volunteer and receives no payment in kind or a reward for services. If the person in charge of this is a churchwarden, a license may not be needed. The PCC should consider who is best placed to hold the license (churchwarden or minister) to reduce disruption with changing personnel.

## Definitions

**CCTV** – closed circuit television camera. A TV system in which signals are not publicly distributed but are monitored, primarily for surveillance and security purposes and where access to their content is limited by design only to those able to see it.

Covert surveillance - observation, and/or recording, carried out without the subject’s knowledge, and may be done using cameras or devices that are not visible to the subject.

Data controller - the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of CCTV images.

Facial/ automated recognition - the use of camera technology to identify individuals’ faces and to make automated matches.

ICO CCTV Code of Practice 2017 - recommendations on how the legal requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be met when using CCTV, issued by the Information Commissioner’s Office. The guidance will be updated to comply with current legislation.

Security Industry Authority (SIA) - the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the UK, under which private use of CCTV is licensed. It is an independent body reporting to the Home Secretary, under the terms of the [Private Security Industry Act 2001](#).

Surveillance Camera Code of Practice 2013 - statutory guidance on the appropriate and effective use of surveillance camera systems issued by the Government in accordance with Section 30 (1) (a) of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

System Operator - person or persons that take a decision to deploy a surveillance system, and/or are responsible for defining its purpose, and/or are responsible for the control of the use or the processing of images or other information obtained by virtue of such system.

System User - person or persons who may be employed or contracted by the system operator who have access to live or recorded images or other information obtained by virtue of such a system.

UKGDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) - UK data protection framework, regulating the processing of information relating to individuals.

## Policy

### Policy statement

12. All Saints' Church will operate its CCTV system in a manner that is consistent with respect for the individual's privacy.
13. All Saints' Church complies with Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) CCTV Code of Practice 2013 to ensure CCTV is used responsibly and safeguards both trust and confidence in its continued use.
14. The CCTV system will be used to observe the areas under surveillance in order to identify incidents requiring a response. Any response should be proportionate to the incident being witnessed.
15. The use of the CCTV system will be conducted in a professional, ethical and legal manner and any diversion of the use of CCTV security technologies for other purposes is prohibited by this policy.
16. Cameras will be sited so they only capture images relevant to the purposes for which they are installed. In addition, equipment must be carefully positioned to:
  - cover the specific area to be monitored only;
  - keep privacy intrusion to a minimum;
  - ensure that recordings are fit for purpose and not in any way obstructed.
  - minimise risk of damage or theft.
17. CCTV will **not** be used for the purposes of streaming live services held in the church.
18. Interior CCTV will not record areas set aside for private devotions where one would not expect to be filmed while praying. Similarly, in any churches where sacramental Confession or other ministries of individual pastoral support, such as healing, are practised, there should be no filming in the part or parts of the church set aside for such purposes. Interior cameras will not be in use during any form of service, whether regular worship or occasional offices.
19. Exterior CCTV (if installed), or cameras in areas that are not used for public worship will remain in operation during services.

### Location and signage

20. Cameras are sited to ensure that they cover the premises as far as is possible. Cameras are installed throughout the site/s including roadways, car parks, buildings, premises, within buildings and externally in vulnerable public facing areas.
21. The location of equipment is carefully considered to ensure that images captured comply with data protection requirements. Every effort is made to position cameras so that their coverage is primarily restricted to the All Saints' Church premises, which may include outdoor areas.
22. Signs are placed at all pedestrian and vehicular entrances in order to inform staff, church officers, visitors and members of the public that CCTV is in operation.

23. The signage indicates that monitoring and recording is taking place, for what purposes, the hours of operation, who the system owner is and where complaints/questions about the systems should be directed.
24. Signage templates are included in Appendix 1.

## Monitoring and recording

25. Cameras are monitored from a secure on-line link via an app, which is linked with church wardens and IT support volunteer who can respond to incidents identified on CCTV images.
26. For churches where CCTV is added for security purposes for monitoring and viewing CCTV images, and the data can be accessed via a wireless device (e.g.. mobile phone etc). The data will be broadcast over a private server and made available via a live stream to the operator.
27. Images will not be recorded on secure servers and are viewable by additional staff who may be authorised by the church warden to monitor cameras sited within their own areas of responsibility on a view only basis. (If applicable)
28. We will not be using cloud-based data storage, only local storage to an SSD card located in the camera. If we did decide to use Cloud-based storage we will ensure that such storage is located in the European Economic Area (EEA), and that all relevant security and data protection measures are in place.
29. Recorded material will be stored in a way that maintains the integrity of the image and information to ensure that metadata (e.g. time, date and location) is recorded reliably, and compression of data does not reduce its quality.
30. Viewing should be password protected to prevent unauthorised use or viewing.
31. The cameras installed provide images that are of suitable quality for the specified purposes for which they are installed, and all cameras are checked daily to ensure that the images remain fit for purpose and that the date and time stamp recorded on the images is accurate.
32. All images recorded by the CCTV System remain the property and copyright of All Saints' Church.

## Covert surveillance

33. Covert surveillance is the use of hidden cameras or equipment to observe and/or record the activities of a subject which is carried out without their knowledge.
34. All Saints' Church will not usually engage in covert surveillance.

OR

33. The use of covert cameras will be restricted to rare occasions, when a series of criminal acts have taken place within a particular area that is not otherwise fitted with CCTV. A request for the use of covert cameras will clearly state the purpose and reasons for use and the authority of the PCC will be sought before the installation of any covert cameras. The PCC should be satisfied that all other physical methods of prevention have been exhausted prior to the use of covert recording.

34. Covert recording will only take place if informing the individual(s) concerned would seriously prejudice the reason for making the recording and where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that illegal or unauthorised activity is taking place. All such monitoring will be fully documented and will only take place for a limited and reasonable period.
35. Where covert surveillance is authorised, its use must cease as soon as any active investigation has concluded.

## Facial Recognition

36. Where cameras are used to identify people's faces, All Saints' Church will ensure that we use high quality cameras to make sure we are capturing the individual accurately enough to fulfil the intended purpose. The results of this automatic matching will be monitored by a trained individual to ensure that there haven't been any mismatches.
37. Any use of such automated technologies must involve some level of human interaction and should not be done on a purely automated basis.

## Live Streaming

38. CCTV is not suitable for live streaming of services, as it is intended solely for safety and security purposes.
39. Churches wishing to live stream services must use additional filming equipment and/or devices, and follow the guidance published on the Church of England website here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches#na>

## Data Protection

40. In its administration of its CCTV system, All Saints' Church complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 and in accordance with the <organisation's> Data Protection Policy.

### Data Protection Impact Assessments

41. The CCTV system is subject to a Data Protection Impact Assessment. Any proposed new CCTV installation is subject to a Data Protection Impact Assessment identifying risks related to the installation and ensuring full compliance with data protection legislation. This will include consultation with relevant internal and external stakeholders.
42. Where existing CCTV systems are in operation as of May 2018, All Saints' Church will endeavour to carry out a full Data Protection Impact Assessment on any upgrade or replacement of the system or within a 3-year period from the date of the implementation of GDPR, whichever is sooner.

### Applications for disclosure of images

43. Requests by individual data subjects for images relating to themselves via a Subject Access Request should be submitted to PCC together with proof of identification. Further details of this process are detailed on the All Saints' website

<https://www.allsaintschurch.co.uk> OR can be obtained by contacting the Church Wardens.

44. In order to locate the images on the system sufficient detail must be provided by the data subject in order to allow the relevant images to be located and the data subject to be identified.
45. Where the All Saints' Church is unable to comply with a Subject Access Request without disclosing the personal data of another individual who is identified or identifiable from that information, it is not obliged to comply with the request unless satisfied that the individual has provided their express consent to the disclosure, or if it is reasonable, having regard to the circumstances, to comply without the consent of the individual.
46. A request for images made by a third party should be made to the PCC.
47. In limited circumstances it may be appropriate to disclose images to a third party, such as when a disclosure is required by law, in relation to the prevention or detection of crime or in other circumstances where an exemption applies under relevant legislation.
48. Such disclosures will be made at the discretion of the PCC, with reference to relevant legislation and where necessary, following advice from a suitable legal advisor.
49. A log of any disclosure made under this policy will be held by the PCC itemising the date, time, camera, requestor, reason for the disclosure; requested; lawful basis for disclosure; date of decision and/or release, name of authoriser.
50. Before disclosing any footage, consideration should be given to whether images of third parties should be obscured to prevent unnecessary disclosure.
51. Where information is disclosed, the disclosing officer must ensure information is transferred securely.
52. Images may be released to the media for purposes of identification. Any such decision to disclose will be taken in conjunction with the Police and/or other relevant law enforcement agencies.
53. Surveillance recordings must not be further copied, distributed, modified, reproduced, transmitted or published for any other purpose.

## Retention of images

54. Unless required for evidentiary purposes, the investigation of an offence or as required by law, CCTV images will be retained for no longer than 31 calendar days from the date of recording. Images will be automatically overwritten or destroyed after this time.
55. Where an image is required to be held in excess of the retention period the PCC will be responsible for authorising such a request, and recordings will be protected against loss or held separately from the surveillance system and will be retained for 6 months following date of last action and then disposed of as per 54 above
56. Images held in excess of their retention period will be reviewed on a three-monthly basis and any not required for evidentiary purposes will be deleted.
57. Access to retained CCTV images is restricted to the PCC and other persons as required and as authorised by the PCC.

## Complaints Procedure

58. Complaints concerning the All Saints' Church use of its CCTV system or the disclosure of CCTV images should be made to one of our church wardens.
59. The complaints procedure is available on All Saints' Church website here:  
<https://allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk/>
60. When requested, anonymised information concerning complaints will be provided to the Surveillance Commissioner.

## Review Procedure

61. There will be an annual review of the use of the CCTV system to ensure it remains necessary, proportionate and effective in meeting the stated purposes.
62. As part of the review of All Saints' Church will assess:
  - whether the location of cameras remains justified in meeting the stated purpose and whether there is a case for removal or relocation;
  - the monitoring operation, e.g. if 24 monitoring in all camera locations is necessary or whether there is a case for reducing monitoring hours;
  - whether there are alternative and less intrusive methods for achieve the stated purposes.

## Responsibilities

63. The the PCC is responsible for the overall management and operation of the CCTV system, including activities relating to installations, recording, reviewing, monitoring and ensuring compliance with this policy.
64. The PCC is responsible for ensuring that adequate signage is erected in compliance with the ICO CCTV Code of Practice.
65. The PCC is responsible for authorising the disclosure of images to data subjects and third parties and for maintaining the disclosure log.

## Approval and review

Approved by	
Policy owner	
Policy author	Bill Banks
Date	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026
Review date	

## Revision history

Version no.	Revision date	Previous revision date	Summary of changes
0.1			
0.2			
1.0			
2.0			

## Appendix 1 – CCTV Template Signage