



Fire Safety Policy for Beckenham Chorale .

This is the fire safety policy for Beckenham Chorale.

The Terrorism Protection of Premises Bill, also known as 'Martyn's Law' is expected to become law in 2024. St George's Church is awaiting clarification which measures the law will require from them. They will inform and update Beckenham Chorale on how to ensure that our policy complies with any new requirements.

1. Background

*Beckenham Chorale usually perform their concerts at St George's Church, Beckenham. Should the choir perform at a different venue, the fire response plan would need to be reviewed for that occasion.

*The church is licensed for up to 499 persons attending a concert – this would include the performers.

*The church has three fire exits for the public plus one exit through the choir vestry. The church is equipped with fire exit signs and lights, fire extinguishers near the exits, and a fire alarm system which alerts the fire services.

2. For concerts.

***Three Fire Wardens are nominated:**

One stationed near the main entrance at the back of the church and two singing.

***The Fire Wardens' duty is:**

Before doors open to the public:

- Collect 3 Fire Warden tabards and torches from Jane and place one of each on a chair placed by the three emergency exit doors (main entrance, north and south transept door)
- Switch on Fire Exit signs (two switches: behind main entry doors and by vestry doors)
- Check all fire exits are unobstructed, doors unbolted. The North and South Transept fire doors remain closed, i.e. inaccessible to outside intruders.
- Check escape routes: make room if needed. (Ensure that furniture, for instance baptism display table, are put back after)
- Check position of fire extinguishers

- Identify choir members nearest to fire exits: they will make straight to the doors and open them. Stress “Making yourselves visible”
- Agree which areas the three fire wardens will clear.

In case of fire, the Church’s fire alarm calls the Fire Services. Fire Wardens task is to clear the church quickly, using all fire exits. They will ensure those in need are supported by others. They are the last to leave the building after having made sure that nobody is left behind.

Wheelchairs need to evacuate via the main door in order to avoid steps and rough ground outside. Box Office and Stewards need to be aware: wheelchairs should be placed in the South aisle with good access to main door. Either Stewards will speak with chair user and companion about evacuation needs and make Fire Warden aware, or alert Fire Warden to have this conversation.

***Two Fire Marshalls are nominated.**

Duties of Fire Marshalls

Two female members sitting near the North and South transept doors are nominated as Fire Marshalls. Their job in case of a fire alarm is to walk straight to their nearest door, open the door, and alert the audience to their escape exit. They will direct people away from the church to Beckenham Green.

***A Fire Safety Announcement** will be broadcast by a nominated person at the back of the church once audience, choir and musicians are seated:

“Welcome to Beckenham Chorale’s Concert. We need to share a few safety points with you before we begin this evening.

This building has three fire exits – the main door by which you entered and two exits at the front of the church, one left and right, marked by the green fire exit signs. If the alarm goes off or we need to ask you to leave the building please do so.

In the unlikely event that we need to evacuate, our three fire wardens will be standing by these doors and point the way to the assembly point on Beckenham Green. Make your way straight to the nearest door and to the safety of Beckenham Green. Do not re-enter the church until we tell you to do so, even if the alarms have stopped sounding.”

Invacation

In case of an actual or threatened Terrorist or lone operator attack it may be necessary to keep audience and musicians safe in the church and lock the doors. The church is currently considering steps to be taken, such as a system to automatically lock the main doors.

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