



# **The Vine Centre.**

**Managed by The Vine Community Church. A  
registered CIO.**

# **Letting Policy**

# The Vine Community Church

## Lettings Policy

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The following document sets out the Lettings Policy in relation to the letting of the Vine Centre (VC). The premises include the Main Space, the Small Space, the Meeting Room and all rooms which form part of those premises ("the premises"). This Policy document takes into account consideration of The Equality Act 2010.
- 1.2. A Premises Hiring Agreement, which is attached to and forms part of this Policy document (Schedule A), must be completed and signed in respect of every booking of the premises. The person signing the Premises Hiring Agreement shall be known as "the Hirer" and shall accept full responsibility for the due observance in all respects of the Terms and Conditions as set out in this Policy document. The Hirer must be a responsible adult over the age of 25.

### 2. Primary Intent

- 2.1. The Vine Centre is an important community building, and a significant resource for the Village of Cherry Willingham. The Vine Community Church trustees and its Officers have the responsibility for maintaining the resource for use and enjoyment by this and future generations.
- 2.2. The premises are primarily to be used for the hosting and promoting of Church activities; Community activities and the provision of a Library Service on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council.
- 2.3. A secondary function of the premises is to act as a resource to the wider Church, other Christian organisations and the community of Cherry Willingham, through Church activities, Church sponsored activities and suitable community activities which help to build bridges between the Church and the local community.

### 3. Letting Restrictions

- 3.1. Our attitude towards an application for the use of our premises will be a positive one. We will seek to encourage appropriate organisations to use the premises for meetings and activities, where such meetings are complementary to the Church's regular activities and the provision of Library Services. The Vine Community Church may request references from a new user before agreeing a booking.
- 3.2. We will not, however, accept bookings for activities which are in conflict with the Christian gospel and the Church's Vision Statement; which will prevent our regular activities from functioning in full or which promote any political party or opinion. The Church reserves the **right to refuse requests** for hire by groups or for activities which, in the opinion of the Church, are either contrary to the purposes and beliefs of the Church, or where the Church considers

that such use or activities may cause offence, on grounds of their religion or belief, to a significant number of Christians. No acts of worship, other than Christian worship, are permitted on the premises.

- 3.3. **The Vine Centre** may be let directly to Church members, other Christian organisations and local community organisations provided that use is consistent with The Vine's values and beliefs.
- 3.4. Lettings will not interfere unduly with Church life. They will not normally be accepted if the premises are already booked for a Church event.
- 3.5. Lettings will not interfere unduly with the provision of the Library Service. They will not normally be accepted if the premises are scheduled for provision of this service.
- 3.6. We will not normally hire out the premises for any parties which will involve large groups of teenagers or young adults between the ages of 14 – 21.
- 3.7. Out of respect to other users and our neighbours surrounding the premises, we expect all users to conduct themselves in a reasonable and courteous manner whilst on the premises, and when leaving the premises. Lettings will not normally be taken for events likely to create **noise or other nuisance** to neighbours, e.g. where a live band is involved.
- 3.8. All events are to **finish by 10pm**, with the **premises to be empty by 11 pm**. The premises will not be available to the Hirer before the beginning of the booking time, and must be vacated 15 minutes after the end of the booking.

#### 4. Charges

- 4.1. We will normally charge for the use of the premises by external organisations; however, charges may be waived or reduced in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Vine Community Church.
  - 4.2. Charges will be set at a reasonable rate, at or below full commercial value, consistent with covering costs and providing a modest contribution to maintenance costs. A notice of Charges levied and Conditions relating to the Charges forms part of the Premises Hiring Agreement. The schedule of Charges will be reviewed on an annual basis.
5. If the Hirer wishes to cancel the booking, the Vine Community Church may, at its absolute discretion, refund any fees paid, but shall be under no obligation to do so. The Vine Community Church reserves the right to cancel the booking if exceptional unforeseen circumstances arise and without a reason being stated. In the event of the Vine Community Church cancelling the booking, all fees/deposits paid by the Hirer shall be refunded.
- 5.1. A refundable security deposit, where requested, must be paid, the amount of which is set out in the Premises Hiring Agreement.

## **6. Access and Security**

- 6.1. The Hirer is responsible for all setting up and putting away of any equipment used.
- 6.2. Any letting of the premises will require a responsible person to be present at the beginning and end of the letting period on each occasion that a letting is to take place to check that the facilities are in order. The premises must not be left unattended during the period of the booking.
- 6.3. If a key is provided, then this must be safeguarded at all times and returned to the Vine Centre Administrator at the end of the letting period or as soon as is reasonably possible. The keys shall not be copied nor given or lent to any third party. If keys are provided, it is the Hirer's responsibility to ensure that all fire doors and windows are closed, all doors locked and all lights switched off (including the toilets) and the alarm set at the end of the letting period.
- 6.4. The right is reserved for a representative of the Vine Community Church or their appointed officer to enter any part of the building at any time.

## **7. Health and Safety**

- 7.1. Whilst The Vine Community Church and Lincolnshire County Council will take steps to ensure the premises are safe to use, it is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure the safe conduct of their activity during the period of hire, including the presence of a suitably qualified First Aider if necessary. First Aid boxes are located as follows:
  - 7.1.1.1.1. Shelves to the left of the door leading from the main space to the kitchen
- 7.1.2. Any accident involving personal injury must be reported to the Vine Centre Administrator to be recorded in the Accident record. Notification sheets are located in the First Aid kit.
- 7.2. All entrances and exits must be kept clear at all times and the number of people attending must be declared at the time of booking to ensure that this does not exceed the maximum number allowed as follows:
  - 7.2.1.1.1. Main Space – 50 people
  - 7.2.1.1.2. Small Space – 8 people
  - 7.2.1.2. Depending on layout and activities taking place the maximum safe occupancy may be less than stated above. It is the Hirer's responsibility to maintain a safe environment.
- 7.2.2. The Hirer will be responsible for ensuring that Security, Fire and Health and Safety requirements are met.
- 7.3. There are no public telephones in the premises, therefore the Hirer must ensure that he/she has access to a mobile telephone in case of emergencies.

7.4. Any portable electrical appliance or device brought in from elsewhere and used on the premises must have an up-to-date safety certificate which must be made available for inspection upon request.

7.5. The Hirer is not permitted to bring in supplementary heating appliances.

## **8. General**

8.1. A strict **No Smoking Policy** applies to all rooms (including toilets) in all the premises. The premises are fitted with smoke alarms, which will be activated by cigarette smoke.

8.2. Alcohol cannot be sold in the building. The Hirer is not permitted to apply for Occasional Licences for the sale of intoxicating liquor in the building.

8.3. Any advertising material must be submitted to the Vine Centre Administrator for approval. All such material must clearly display the name of the person or organisation responsible for the event.

8.4. Only guide dogs are permitted inside the building.

8.5. No adhesive or fixing material may be used which may damage the fabric of the premises.

8.6. Chewing gum is not allowed on the premises.

8.7. All rubbish must be taken from the premises by the Hirer and must be deposited in the appropriate outside refuse bins. Black for general waste, blue for recycling.

## **9. Car Park**

9.1. The use of the Vine Centre Car Park is available to Hirers, but is not part of the Hiring Agreement.

9.1.1. The Car Park is limited to approximately 8 places and parking is strictly at the owner's risk. The Vine Community Church can accept no liability whatsoever for cars parked in its Car Park.

9.2. The Parade Car Park is the property of Lincolnshire Co-operative Society and parking restrictions apply.

9.3. On street parking should not be undertaken in a way that which could cause an obstruction and/or be considered a nuisance to neighbours, cause an accident or not be legal.

## **10. Responsibilities**

10.1. The Vine Community Church will be responsible for providing facilities as agreed in good working order throughout the letting period.

- 10.2. The Hirer will be responsible for ensuring that all users are aware of the procedures for safe and correct use of equipment and facilities and shall report any deficiencies on the occasion of each use.
- 10.3. The Hirer shall ensure that there is a responsible adult or adults present and able to supervise at all times during the letting. During the period of hire, the Hirer is responsible for the orderly behaviour of guests/members on the premises.
- 10.4. The Hirer must leave the premises in a clean and tidy condition. Losses, breakages and damage must be reported, and paid for in full. Hirers may re-arrange tables and chairs in the premises, but must restore them to their original places immediately at the end of the letting.
- 10.5. The Hirer agrees to indemnify the Vince Community Church against all claims, demands, actions, proceedings, damages, costs and expenses arising out of non-observance of the Terms of this Policy document.

## **11. Kitchen Use/ Refreshments**

- 11.1. Use of the Kitchens in the premises must be separately approved. Kitchens may be used for the preparation of Tea/Coffee and refreshments by approved personnel and with the prior agreement of the Vine Centre Administrator. It will be the responsibility of the Hirer to provide the refreshment materials unless agreed otherwise in the Premises Hiring Agreement. It is the responsibility of an external Hirer to ensure that any persons using the kitchens are aware of the requirements of the relevant Food Hygiene Regulations and Food Safety Act Codes of Practice. Particular attention should be paid to the cleanliness of the kitchen, kitchen utensils and crockery at the end of the letting. Any breakages must be reported immediately in writing and will be subject to an additional charge.

## **12. Insurance**

- 12.1. It is the responsibility of the Hirer to effect whatever insurance he/she requires to cover his/her liabilities. Insurance effected by the Vine Community Church does not extend to a Hirer's liabilities. The Vine Community Church accepts no liability for accidents, injuries, damage and/or loss of personal property as a consequence of using the premises.

## **13. Legal Requirements**

- 13.1. The Hirer must comply with any legal requirement concerning music, singing and dancing licences, theatre licences and copyright. The Hirer shall be fully responsible for obtaining any such licences or any other permission required, always providing that no such application shall be made without the approval of the Vine Community Church.
- 13.2. Hirers must also have in mind the provisions of the Children's Act at any event involving children. Events for persons under 18 years of age must at all times be properly supervised by an adequate number of responsible adults, in accordance with the Children's Act.

- 13.3. The Hirer shall not use the premises for any other purpose than that specified in the Premises Hiring Agreement, and is specifically forbidden to use, or allow the use of the premises or its surrounding grounds for any illegal or immoral purpose.

#### **14. Compliance**

- 14.1. Failure by the Hirer to comply with any or all of the terms of this Policy document where applicable, whether intentionally or not, may be deemed by the Vine Community Church to be just cause for immediate cancellation of any letting or series of lettings and may result in forfeiture of the entire security deposit.

#### **15. Administration**

- 15.1. Bookings of the premises will be administered by the Vine Centre Administrator. This includes the acceptance and declining of bookings in consultation with the Trustees of the Vine Community Church Standing, who will act as final arbiter if required.