

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR:

ST. AGATHA'S CHURCH,
WOLDINGHAM

UPDATED: January 2025
DUE FOR REVIEW: January 2026

**PERSONS CARRYING OUT
RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Revd Dr Catherine Dowland-Pillinger

RISK RATING

HAZARD TO BE CONSIDERED	PERSONS AT RISK	MITIGATING THE RISK	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF FIRE	LIKELIHOOD OF FIRE
General fire risk from candles, cigarettes etc.	Everyone present In the church	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. St. Agatha's is a very small single storey building measuring only about 30ft. by 40ft. and is capable of seating only about 40 people. There are usually only about 12 people present at the Sunday service.2. There is one exit via double doors at the back of the church. This exit is easily accessible at all times.3. A churchwarden or sides person is seated at the back of the church during services to help access and egress for any persons who have limited mobility.4. The fire load is low and comprises in the main fixtures and fittings constructed from hardwoods which are difficult to ignite and not likely to sustain combustion.5. Whilst candles are used during services they are clearly visible and there is little risk of a fire either starting or developing undetected.6. There are two fire extinguishers in the church (water and carbon dioxide) which are tested annually. Last tested by GC Fire Protection on 11 September 2024.	Slight harm	Low

		<p>7. There is a smoke detector fixed to the back wall.</p> <p>8. There are no combustible materials stored in the church.</p> <p>9. Smoking is not permitted</p>		
Electrical Fire	Everyone present In the church	<p>1. The Church was re-wired in January 2017 by Electrician, Mr. R. Chalkley REOC Electrical, Westview, Southview Road, Woldingham, CR3 7AB.</p> <p>2. Electrical inspection to be carried out every 5 years. Last test took place in 15/05/2023.</p> <p>3. All electrical appliances PAT tested every two years by Lewis Lineker, Lineker Electrical, 1, Arden Mead, Tandridge Lane, Lingfield, RH7 6LL. Last test carried out on 28 February 2023.</p> <p>4. The church is heated by electric radiant bar type heaters fixed at ceiling level.</p> <p>5. The main isolator for the heating and other circuits is situated in an enclosure at the rear of the Church</p>	Slight harm	Low
Lightning	Everyone present in the church	A lightning conductor is fitted on the roof of the church.	Slight harm	Low
Gas		There is no gas supply at St. Agatha's		
Arson	Everyone present in the church – although it is mostly open but unoccupied	<p>1. The church is open at present on Wednesday between 10am and 4.00pm. It is for most of the time unoccupied. It is open on Sunday for a service between 9.00am and 10am and then open, but mostly unoccupied, until 4.00pm. Although the church is open, but unoccupied, on Monday, Wednesday and Sunday, it is situated in a secluded location on a “no through”</p>	Slight harm	Low

		<p>lane with little traffic.</p> <p>2. There are no combustible materials kept in the church.</p> <p>3. Candles and matches are concealed in a drawer or brought in when needed.</p>		
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Key to Rating of Risk

Potential consequences of fire:

Slight harm: Outbreak of fire is unlikely to result in serious injury or death of any occupant.

Moderate harm: Outbreak of fire could foreseeably result in injury (including serious injury) of one or more occupants, but is unlikely to involve multiple fatalities.

Extreme harm: Significant potential for serious injury or death of one or more occupants.

Likelihood of Fire:

Low: Unusually low likelihood of fire as a result of negligible potential sources of ignition.

Medium: Normal fire hazards (e.g. potential ignition sources) for this type of occupancy, with fire hazards generally subject to appropriate controls (other than minor shortcomings).

High: Lack of adequate controls applied to one or more significant fire hazards, such as to result in significant increase in the likelihood of fire.