

Wonford Methodist Church Lettings Policy

As part of the sharing and outreach policy of Wonford Methodist Church the Church Council shall make the Church Premises available for use by Church and Community Groups and Individuals (Users) subject to the approval of the Minister and Church Leadership Team.



Wonford Methodist Church is in the centre of a large housing estate on the east side of the City of Exeter about 2 miles from Junction 30 of the M5. It is opposite a Lidl store.

It has a large Chapel, a Hall, and a small lounge, as well as a modern kitchen and toilets including a disabled toilet.

There is Wi-Fi throughout the building.

There is parking within the church premises for 20 – 25 cars and there is other parking nearby.

There is **disabled** access to all rooms and a metal ramp is provided in the Hall lobby.

Chapel

This was built in 2006 and can seat 130 – 140 people. There is a complete PA system as well as facilities for projection and equipment for video recording and streaming – see comment on copyright on page 4. There is also a hearing loop.

There is a raised dais at the front with a pulpit and communion table which can be removed.

At the back of the worship area is a small room with large glass windows and is connected to the PA sound system.



Main Hall

This is part of the original church built in the 1950s. It is a functional space with a capacity for about 70.

There are stackable chairs and tables which can be arranged as desired.

There is a projector and screen available which can be positioned where required. There is also a basic PA system which can be used.

The end doors lead to the Chapel.

The Church Lounge

This is a small room which can seat up to 20 in a less formal setting.

There is a large tv screen which can be connected to a laptop via a HDMI lead.



The Kitchen

Food cannot be cooked in the kitchen but pre-prepared food can be warmed and served.

There is a range type cooker, two small boilers, a microwave, kettles and plenty of mugs and plates as well as a limited supply of cutlery. (See Food Regulations on page 3)

Letting Requests

All requests for the use of Wonford Methodist Church must be made to the Lettings Secretary who may refer any request to the Minister and Leadership Team.

As well as Methodist functions lettings are normally accepted from Community Groups (e.g. the History Society), recognised Charities (e.g. Hospiscare), and members of Wonford Methodist Church.

Wonford Methodist Church may not be used for political meetings, public dances, or the worship or promotion of religions other than the Christian religion.

Any booking for a religious service or similar event will require specific consent from Wonford Methodist Church. Apart from events organised by the Methodist Church, Wonford Methodist Church will need to see a statement of faith before permission can be given for such event.

Responsibility of Users

1. All Users of Wonford Methodist Church will need to agree with the Standard Conditions of Hire and complete the Booking Form and be aware of the standard church policies for the protection of Users.
2. Cars parked on church remises are left at the owner's risk.
3. Television License – The church does not hold a TV licence. Therefore, viewing or recording of live television programmes is not permitted. Likewise, catch up or on-demand services, such as BBC iPlayer, must not be accessed.
4. No shoes or boots are to be worn on the church premises that have metal segs, studs, etc. attached to the soles or heels.
5. No animals, alcohol, smoking or gambling (including raffles) is allowed on Wonford Methodist Church premises.

Security

- We occasionally get uninvited visitors so please be aware of security issues. It is advisable to lock the outside Hall door if people are busy elsewhere in the building. Similarly make sure the external Chapel doors are locked if the Chapel is not in use or you have moved into the Hall.
All external doors (and fire escapes) can be opened from the inside without a key.
- Please encourage children to remain inside or if they go outside please make sure there is a responsible adult with them. The church is at a busy road junction.

Keys

Normally for one off bookings, one of the church members will open and close the church for the user.

For more regular Users who wish to have keys a Keyholders Declaration form will need to be completed.

Termination

Wonford Methodist Church has the right to terminate the hire if any of the booking conditions are not observed.

Charges and Payments

The current standard charges/fee for hiring the premises is £16.00 per hour for the Hall / Lounge / Chapel. If the both the Chapel and Hall are required, the charge is £20.00 per hour. The charge includes the use of the kitchen and toilets etc.

There will be no charge for funerals and weddings for members of Wonford Methodist Church.

Charges for use by the Methodist Circuit or District are at the discretion of Wonford Methodist Church Council.

Payment should be made within seven days following the presentation of a Church Invoice. Payment may be made by cheque or bank transfer as explained on the Invoice.

Food Hygiene and Kitchen Safety - The Hirer acknowledges that they are aware of and must ensure the following:

1. Tea / Coffee / Biscuits may be provided for church based events by arrangement with Wonford Methodist Church.
Other users should bring their own tea, coffee etc
2. If food is provided at events/meetings, etc., ensure compliance with appropriate legislation including 'The Food Safety Act 1990' and 'The Food Hygiene Regulations 2006'. The preparation of food is to be supervised by someone who has undertaken training in food hygiene safety. (Guidance is available on 'Food Hygiene and Kitchen Safety' in the Church Hall Kitchen).

3. No food is to be stored on the premises with the exception of tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits which must be kept in either metal or plastic containers.
4. Children should be prevented from entering the kitchen when there is a risk of injury to them from cooking, boiling water for drinks, etc.
5. The gas/electric cooker, electric microwave oven, toaster, kettle and other electrical equipment in the Church Hall Kitchen may be used but only under the supervision of an adult (18 and over).

The cooker and microwave oven must be adequately cleaned after use.
Clean dishcloths and tea towels are to be provided by Users.

Cancellation

It is also a condition of hiring that the church has priority use of all rooms for church purposes whenever necessary – e.g. funerals. Whilst every effort will be made not to clash with any pre-booked hire period, if this at any time becomes unavoidable, then the church use will take precedence. If these circumstances arise, the Lettings Secretary will give the maximum notice possible to the hirer.

Copyright

If Wonford Methodist Church is being used for a wedding, funeral, church service, or other event users need to be aware that video clips, images and music clips may be subject to copyright. Most images, video or music clips on the internet belong to someone who owns the copyright.

Other Relevant Documentation

This policy is one of several policies to ensure the safety and protection of everyone who uses Wonford Methodist Church.

Other Relevant Policies and document include:

- Standard Conditions of Hire
- Safeguarding Policy 2021-2022
- Health & Safety Policy 2021-2022
- General Risk Assessment 2021-2022
- Covid Risk Assessment October 2021
- WMC Booking Form

Approval & Review of this Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council. Next review date: October 2022.

Please contact the Lettings Secretary for further details or enquiries about booking at

lettings@wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk