Christ Church Risk Policy

Title	Last Revision	Author	Next Revision
Risk Management including Risk Register	New at 10.09.20 (ratification of Trustees' agreement by email to the Chairman's email of 29.06.20)	Nick Wells	June 2021
	2 September 2021	Nick Wells & Trustees	September 2022
	13 October 2022	Reviewed by Trustees with no amendments	October 2023
	Rewording and layout revision, separation of policy from register, and creation of Guidance documentation 05/12/2024	David Bishop with trustees	Dec 2025
Risk Policy	No changes	Nick Wells	March 2027

This policy explains Christ Church trustees' approach to risk. It is to be read in conjunction with the Christ Church Risk Management Guidance and the Risk Register.

The trustees acknowledge that the proper execution of the Trust Deed and Standings Orders requires the systematic identification and management of risk. Risks to the trust are to be found externally as well as in our everyday activities, in seasonal activities such as budgeting and planning, and in new initiatives and projects. Risks to any part of Christ Church's activities are regarded as risks to the Trust.

Proactive identification and management of risk gives confidence both to members of the church and to the public of our ability to meet the Trust's objectives.

Responsibility for identifying risks lies both with trustees and members of the church community, any of whom may bring them to the attention of the Priest-in-Charge or any Church Warden or Trustee.

This policy calls for all newly noted risks to be evaluated and entered into the Risk Register. Each risk should be ascribed an owner, and mitigations should be acted upon. The Risk Register is to be reviewed annually by Trustees, as is the content of this Policy document.

Christ Church's major areas of risk have previously been agreed, based on the Charity Commission's guidance, which gives structure to the Risk Register. These include Governance, Physical (including safety), Operational, Financial and Environmental.

Christ Church's appetite for risk is generally low, particularly for human safety and safeguarding. The case of financial investments is an exception, where the targeted moderate capital growth inevitably attracts commensurately higher risk-taking.

The accompanying Risk Guidance document gives advice on risk identification, evaluation and mitigation measures, and this itself should also be reviewed annually.

Risk Factors

The following are acknowledged as Risk Factors specific to Christ Church, i.e. areas within the wide spectrum of risk of particular relevance to Christ Church. The listing of these risk factors below is intended as a focussing aid in risk identification exercises but should not be taken as an exhaustive list.

Governance

- Small number of formally employed staff
- Maintaining focus on the core requirements of the Trust Deed
- Lack of formal managerial and organisational structures within the Trust and Christ Church operations, and resulting ill-defined lines of control and sanctions
- Keeping track of changes in regulations
- Timely compliance with regulations given intermittent meetings of trustees
- Lack of formal training of trustees

Physical

- Old buildings, infrastructure and utilities, particularly complex permissions systems affecting their maintenance
- Inherent difficulties of access
- Identification of emerging hazards as the use of the church changes

Operational

- Employment issues
- Aging congregation
- Presence of many young people
- Involvement with vulnerable persons
- Interfacing with and control of visiting public, particularly in secular public events

Financial

- Impact of economic conditions on voluntary charitable giving
- Dependence on property rental income

Environmental

- Keeping pace with regulations
- The environmental expectations of the church community
- The potentially damaging power of judgemental public opinion on environmental issues
- Conflicts between various regulatory bodies