

## **Health & Safety Report for APCM – October 2020**

During 2019 there were a couple of minor incidents, the risks for which were already recorded with the Risk Assessment.

However, having a Risk Assessment does not stop such incidents from happening.

Human nature does not stop us from exposing ourselves to such risks.

There are places within the church where risks of an accident exist, such as trapping fingers between a door and the door frame, or steps where it is not feasible to have fixed handrails.

The law expects us not to put ourselves in harms way by thinking about risks and considering how to reduce the risk of harm to ourselves and others.

So we don't put our fingers between the door and the doorframe, we don't climb the steps without some thing or someone to help us.

So for example, the steps from the nave to the chancel do not have a handrail. At the 10am Communion service, Sidesmen are normally available at the steps to provide a supporting hand. However, at the 6.30pm Communion service, there may not be a Sidesman available to provide a supporting hand. The communicant who finds such steps difficult, has a choice, stay seated in the pew or come to the steps and seek the help of another member of the congregation to use the steps.

We all have a duty to consider possible risk of harm and to make associated choices to reduce the risk of harm to ourselves and others.

Richard Toyn  
Health & Safety Officer