



DRONES AND UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES POLICY

With an increase in the use of drones or UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) to photograph events such as weddings, there is a need to ensure that visitors to the church are not exposed to any harm or any unauthorised invasion of privacy and that the church building is protected from physical damage.

To that end, the PCC requires that any drone or UAV operations in or around the building or churchyards of St Mary's Church, Astbury should comply with the following:

1. The drone operator must obtain prior written approval for the flight from the Rector, Churchwardens or Dr Drage.
2. All operators must hold the following:
 - A current and valid Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) 'Permission for Commercial Operations' (PfCO) certificate.
 - Evidence of valid insurance cover, both Drone Insurance and Public Liability Insurance (minimum cover £1 million).
 - A written Risk Assessment for the proposed flight.
 - A method statement outlining the equipment to be used.
 - A flight plan outlining when and where flying is proposed.
3. Copies of these must be provided before the flight and will be retained in the church Log Book.
4. All drone operations must be conducted strictly in accordance with CAA legislation and regulations.
5. The drone operator should carry out a site assessment with the Rector, Churchwardens or Sally Drage.
6. Data Protection – Using a drone to record images of other people without their consent could constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act or the CCTV Code of Practice.