



# WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

## Code for Evangelism

### Sharing Good News

#### Purpose and framework

The following Code for Evangelism seeks to provide guidance for Close Pastors and others who may on the authority of the Dean and Chapter be engaging in the ministry of evangelism in the cathedral grounds.

The ministry of evangelism is part of God's mission of love in the world. Archbishop Justin has made evangelism one of the three priorities of his ministry as Archbishop. He says, 'As a Christian it is my deepest conviction that in Jesus Christ, God comes to call every one He has made. Everyone has been summoned in Jesus Christ. For in Jesus Christ, God has poured out his love and his grace, his forgiveness and his mercy, his faithfulness.'

Evangelism is about sharing what we know of this abundance. As Jesus tells the man freed from an unclean spirit, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you.' Mark 5:19. We seek that God might use us as His ambassadors and we ask for spiritual discernment and humility to help us speak to people in the right way.

Ministry at the cathedral should extend and exemplify a Benedictine welcome: that we seek to treat each guest with the honour, courtesy and respect due to Christ himself. Those who visit the Cathedral Close deserve this same honour, courtesy and respect. It is in this spirit that we seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ with one another and to learn more from others how He is at work in their lives.

#### Behaviour code

In practice this means that

- Since it is Jesus Christ, not us, who gives the gift of faith in God the Father by his Holy Spirit, we are content to sow seeds, not knowing the outcome of our meeting. Conversations will be genuine, loving, and listening. We are not speaking to a script. We are not using conversation with people as a tool to convert.

- We do not block people's path or invade their personal space. We invite people into a conversation, through signage, through personal invitation or by simply being present and available. We will seek to demonstrate warmth and kindness and give people the choice to stop (or not) as they want, respecting their God-given freedom.
- Particular care will be shown to children (under 18s). Conversation will only take place if initiated by them and will only continue beyond a warm greeting if their adult carer is present. Everyone who takes part in this ministry will have taken part in safeguarding awareness training to the level agreed with the Cathedral Safeguarding Officer.
- We will speak only with the faith and knowledge we have, being honest about the limits of our faith and what we don't know. We are effective witnesses when we speak from our own experience of the difference that Christian faith makes in our lives.
- Evangelism must be distinguished from proselytism, which is the encouragement to join one particular confession or expression of faith in Christ. We do not proselytise, but we do evangelise.
- As we listen, there may be many other things we discern that we should offer, including pastoral care, encouragement or prayer. We want to be a blessing and we want to serve others. Where this is appropriate we should be ready and willing to refer to a church or social agency or to leave contact details. It is best practice to leave the visitor to contact us rather than chasing them.
- The ministry of evangelism will be held in prayer, before, during and after activity. Whether this has been specifically asked for or not, we will commend those whom we have met to God in prayer.

Brief notes of evangelistic conversations (without identifying individuals) should be made and retained by each group of evangelists. The ministry of evangelism is the responsibility of the Cathedral Chapter. After reviewing each session, any issues of concern should be sent by the evangelists to a designated member of Chapter. If Chapter receives any complaint or has any other concern about this ministry, it may ask for a meeting with any evangelist or team of evangelists.

Code agreed by Dean and Chapter May 2017.

To be reviewed May 2019.