

ST MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, NORTHBRIDGE

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL POLICY



Date approved: December 2023

Date to be reviewed: 3 years after approval (December 2026)

Related policies:

1. Commitment

- 1.1 St Mark's recognises that drinks containing alcohol are a gift from God to be enjoyed in moderation, but also that alcohol abuse has caused significant damage in our community. Whilst the consumption of alcohol is a personal matter, to be determined according to one's conscience, any consumption of alcohol at parish activities or on church property needs to occur responsibly.
- 1.2 St Mark's seeks to create an environment which promotes the good health and wellbeing of all, particularly those vulnerable to alcohol abuse, so that they can participate in church activities with confidence.
- 1.3 St Mark's will effectively communicate this policy and related policies to those involved in organising and hosting events.

2. Policy

2.1 Except for:

- services of public worship where wine is provided as part of the Lord's Supper,
- private activities in ministry residences, and
- activities undertaken pursuant to a lease of church property (approved by the parish council),

no alcohol should be consumed or made available in the context of any public ministry activity of the parish on church property or any private activity held on church property, without the approval of the parish council.

2.2 Church leaders, including home group leaders, children's and youth leaders should also consider the impact of their consumption of alcohol on others who attend church events, especially those who are impressionable or vulnerable to the abuse of alcohol. Where alcohol is consumed, it is expected that this will occur in a responsible manner.

2.3 Church leaders, including home group leaders, children's and youth leaders should avoid being in photographs while consuming alcohol that could be posted on social media.

References

Consumption of Alcohol in the Parish Context: Updated Report (May 2023).