

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES IN CHURCH DURING CONCERTS

This note sets out the arrangements for dealing with medical emergencies during (or immediately before /after) concerts. It is based on the procedures for emergencies during church services, which has been adopted by the PCC. All volunteers should be aware of its contents.

The underlying principle is that we have a “duty of care” to those attending concerts with us and, in the case of someone suffering a collapse; this means that they should be assessed by a medical professional.

WHEN AN INCIDENT HAPPENS

The Duty Stewards should

1. take charge,
2. ensure that someone (preferably with the relevant First Aid training*) assesses the casualty,
3. Inform the **Introducer** and ask him / her to request all those not involved with treating the casualty to stay in their places until told otherwise.

The First Aider assesses the casualty using the established DRS ABC procedure and tells a Steward if (R) the casualty is Responsive, (A) the Airway is clear and (B) whether or not the casualty is Breathing.

One Steward should at this point:

1. call an ambulance using a mobile phone or the telephone in the vestry office (downstairs).
2. as a minimum, the NW Ambulance Service will need to know
 - a. what has happened and when
 - b. the location (postcode LA22 9DH) and access directions
 - c. casualty’s approximate age and gender
 - d. whether the casualty is responsive / unresponsive and breathing / not breathing;
3. be prepared to stay on the line with the call handler; but also
4. inform (or get a message to) the Steward that an ambulance (plus possibly First Responder) is on the way.

If the First Aider judges that there has been (or is likely to be) cardiac arrest, **another Steward** (or another member of the audience) should be tasked to fetch the defibrillator from the Parish Centre (on the right hand side of the main entrance). If the First Aider judges that the defibrillator should be used, the Steward should ideally remain in charge of it and know how to use it. The First Aider needs to focus on CPR.

If the casualty is breathing, showing signs of recovery and the First Aider judges that he / she can be moved safely, he / she should be put in the wheelchair (which is stored in the disabled toilet near the main entrance) and taken to the choir vestry (or outside if the weather is warm). If the casualty is not breathing, the First Aider will start CPR and will need help to move the casualty out of the pew.

If the latter case (or if the First Aider judges moving the casualty to be undesirable), the Steward should ask the **Introducer** to bring the concert to an end and invite the audience to leave quietly, avoiding the casualty scene.

A Steward should position him / herself in the car park to intercept the First responder and ambulance and guide them to the casualty’s location.

The Introducer & / or Concert Manager, once the incident is over, should record what happened in the Church Accident Book (in the Vestry).