



# ENGADINE & HEATHCOTE ANGLICAN

## Alcohol on Church Property

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Diocesan of Sydney Standing Committee report: "Consumption of Alcohol in the context of Parishes Churches, Congregations, and Fellowships in the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney – 14 July 2009".

It is not the aim of this report to simply declare rules for every situation in which alcohol could be used, but to encourage behaviour that reflects biblical truth and holiness while demonstrating loving concern for believers and non-believers, the mature and immature.

Consistent with the Diocesan Report, biblically we are to acknowledge and agree that:

Alcohol is not in itself a bad thing, in that everything God created is good. (John 2; 1 Timothy 4:4)

Man's abuse of God's good creation is to their own detriment. Drunkenness is condemned as sin, and that abuse could leave a person at worst eternally condemned, or at best, physically, mentally, and emotionally damaged. (1 Timothy 3:8, Ephesians 5:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:7)

Christian freedom must always be exercised in obedience to God and with due concern for the welfare of others, i.e., the weaker brother or sister. (Romans 14:1 – 15:6, 1 Corinthians 8:1 – 13; 10:27 – 11:1)

In the light of the social impact of alcohol, every effort must be made corporately and individually to love our neighbours as ourselves by the responsible use or non-use of alcohol, protecting the most vulnerable while caring for those who suffer the effects of alcohol abuse. (Mark 12:31)

The church has a responsibility to set an example to the wider community, and within all its ministries to maintain the highest professional standards and duty of care.

Any policy on alcohol must equip and encourage God's people to think in Gospel terms about the use of alcohol at church and also at home.

### ***Alcohol Policy***

The following is the policy of the ENGADINE & HEATHCOTE ANGLICAN. It is consistent with Diocesan recommendations, and may change with time to reflect best practice.

- That priority be given to providing a safe environment for those for whom alcohol is a particular danger (young people, alcoholics, etc.);
- That every effort be made to care for those who struggle to overcome alcohol addiction, and to source expert help for those in need;
- That all Christians be encouraged to model a godly example as to the use of alcohol, for the sake of each other and the sake of outsiders, leaving no opportunity for public accusation;
- With the exception of 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 commercial lease of church trust property signed by the Property Trust, no alcohol should be consumed or made available in the context of any ministry activity of the parish or any private activity held on church trust property, without the approval of the Senior Minister and at least two parish wardens.

Where functions allow for the consumption of alcohol, all advertising should so note.

The consumption of alcohol is not permitted in any children or youth ministry activity. This includes any youth leadership meetings, camps, or training events.

*Reviewed and Accepted: 10 February 2020*

Duty of Care demands a 0% alcohol policy for all designated drivers acting on behalf of the church in the transportation of people to and from ministry activities.

Careful consideration should be given to the use of alcohol in the company of children at all times. Under no circumstances should parents give permission for, or provide children under the age of 18 years with, the opportunity to consume alcohol in the context of any church function.

Parish policy on the consumption of alcohol should be brought to the attention of the parish. This will be done via a parish policy available on the web site or via the church office.