



St Columba's

United Reformed Church, Oxford

Policy about Using Candles

This is a policy document appended to the Fire Policy for the St Columba's building.

Candles can be used during any event provided the following rules are observed:

- They must not be placed directly onto wooden tables, stands, or other combustible materials.
- They must not be surrounded or wreathed in combustible materials such as ivy or holly at Christmas.
- During Christenings, the gift candle must be blown out before the recipient puts it down anywhere. They should be advised to do this before the service.
- Candles must be securely mounted, not free-standing.
- If a candle looks like it might catch light to something, or does catch light, act swiftly to extinguish it:
 - Do not wait for a polite moment to approach the front of the church.
 - Do not presume someone else will act.
 - Acting when it turns out to be a false alarm is always better than not acting at all.