



ST AGNES
LONGSIGHT

candle & incense safety guidelines

- Always put candles on a heat resistant surface: be especially careful with night lights and tea lights, which get hot enough to melt plastic.
- Put them in a proper holder. Candles need to be held firmly upright by the holder so they won't fall over. The holder needs to be stable too, so it won't fall over either.
- Position them away from curtains, clothes, altar frontals, furniture etc.
- Keep them out of draughts.
- Don't put them under shelves.
- It's easy to forget that there's a lot of heat above a burning candle. If you put it under a shelf or other surface then it can burn the surface. Make sure there's at least three feet (one metre) between a candle and any surface above it.
- Keep clothes and hair away.
- Candles should be out of reach of children and pets.
- Keep candles apart. Leave at least four inches (10cm) between two burning candles.
- Take care with votive or scented candles: these kinds of candles turn to liquid to release their fragrance so put them in a glass or metal holder.
- Extinguish candles before moving them. Also, don't let anything fall into the hot wax like match sticks.
- Don't leave them burning unattended. Extinguish candles before you leave the church building.
- Use a snuffer or a spoon to put them out. It's safer than blowing them, which can send sparks and hot wax flying.
- Double-check they're out. Candles that have been put out can go on smouldering and start a fire. Make sure they're completely out.
- Beware, incense charcoal can spark when being lighted and it may be hot even when not glowing.
- The thurible gets very hot when incense is burning in it: keep away from clothes, robes, furniture and clothes.
- Avoid directly breathing incense or charcoal smoke.
- Ensure the charcoal is completely extinguished before leaving.