



Policy: Safeguarding

Date last reviewed by PCC: 10th November 2021

SAFEGUARDING POLICY - PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Ensure that all PCC members successfully complete the 'C0 Basic Awareness' and 'C1 Foundations' training courses, and that the PSO and Parish Officers (clergy, lay ministers and churchwardens) complete the 'Leadership' training programme.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually. To enable this, details of each incident will be shared with the PCC in accordance with the attached guidelines.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Mrs Irene Mortimore as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent

Revd Jeremy J Putnam

Churchwardens

Mrs Jane Tomlinson &

Mr Rowley Surridge

Date: 08/09/2021

Safeguarding Incident Reporting Guidelines

The following guidelines have been agreed with the Diocesan Safeguarding team as best practice regarding with regards to PCC reporting until the new national system of secure online reporting is in place.

In all circumstances when a safeguarding issue is reported, the following information shall be shared with the PCC:

- The date and time the safeguarding issue was raised.
- To whom the issued was raised.
- Whether anyone was in immediate risk of harm, and if so, what urgent action was employed.
- In situations where there was no immediate risk, what action the person receiving the concern took (such as escalation or reporting the issue on to Police, Safeguarding Team, Parish Officer etc).
- On escalation to (police, diocese, or parish officer) was there further action required – i.e. investigation, intervention etc. And if so, what was the action, and who is tasked with carrying it out.

No detail of the concern is included, but only that the report was raised and that appropriate action was taken. In circumstances when a report was not escalated to either the police or diocesan safeguarding team the PCC are quite right to ask why, and there must be a clear justification for not raising the concern detailed in the report for their peace of mind.

There may be occasions when it is appropriate and helpful to share some of the details of the concern with the PCC, and parish officers. This would be under the guidance of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team rather than a default position. This is simply to protect individuals involved in the circumstances surrounding the concern. Even in cases when anonymity is honoured the circumstances can often reveal the identity of the people involved which may not always be helpful in reducing potential risk.