

Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Kensworth

PCC Policy for Safeguarding Children

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Kensworth fully supports the Church of England Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church (2017).

We believe that every child and young person is a valued member of our church community and that they should be taught the Word of God and nurtured in a safe, secure and caring community.

Aims

- To provide a safe and welcoming environment for children and young people who take part in the life of the church, and for the protection of the adults who work with them
- To ensure that high standards will be maintained in all contact with children and young people
- To ensure that proper care takes place in the selection and appointment of those working with children and young people, whether paid or voluntary, and to support such workers at all times. To ensure that all applicants understand their role and that the necessary introduction procedures have taken place
- To eliminate opportunities for abuse to take place
- To minimise all dangerous situations
- To ensure that all those who have regular supervision of children under the age of 18 obtain a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) 'Enhanced Certificate', and that it is up-dated when necessary
- To listen appropriately to any concern
- To respond immediately when any concern is raised in accordance with the procedures
- To seek to make appropriate referrals for any child or young person who has suffered abuse
- To care for and oversee any member of our church community known to have offended against a child
- To co-operate fully with the statutory agencies
- To review the Safeguarding Policy annually and ensure that PCC members, and those working with children, have read the Policy and also the St. Albans 'Best Practice Guidelines'

Definitions of Child Abuse

There are four categories of abuse:-

Neglect, Physical Injury, Sexual Abuse, Emotional Abuse

Responsibilities

The PCC has elected a Safeguarding Officer who is conversant with current policy and practice. The Safeguarding Officer is responsible for the maintenance of a register of leaders, helpers and young people and children, and ensures that any leaders are DBS checked. The Rector, the Safeguarding Officer and the PCC are responsible for dealing with any allegations or concerns that may arise.

Parish Safeguarding Officer – Mrs Katherine Huggins

Rector – Rev. Nicola Lenthall

July 2018

A copy of the Procedures Document can be found in the Vestry

Procedures for Safeguarding Children and Young People

- Every child and young person should be treated with respect, in an environment in which they feel comfortable
- Every activity should be led by a minimum of one DBS checked leader. If only one adult is present they should be within hearing or sight of other adults. A minimum of one DBS checked leader and a helper for groups of children who are under five years of age
- Encourage every child or young person to respect other children or young people and to discourage unkind behaviour
- Groups of children should never be left unattended
- In planning activities, be aware of risks in the environment
- Parents of young children and disabled children should be advised if toilet visits are needed
- Consent from parents should be sought before photographs of children are taken.
- Provide on-going training opportunities for the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Rector where necessary
- The Group leader should maintain a register of attendance. Contact details of parents/carers should also be kept
- Maintain an up to date register of all authorized leaders and occasional helpers who have access to children and young people
- Listen appropriately to any concerns, but do not question. Do not promise to maintain confidentiality
- The Rector or Parish Safeguarding Officer to be contacted immediately in the case of any possible abusive situation or expression of concern
- Any concerns should be recorded accurately and this information passed to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Jeremy Hirst
Telephone: 01727 818107

Mobile: 07867 350886

Email: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

All *safeguarding serious incidents* must be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer/Adviser DSA with all the information required. The DSA, in consultation with the Diocesan Secretary, will

decide whether the safeguarding incident is sufficiently serious to be reported to the Charity Commission.

- Severe concerns should be passed to the Police: telephone 999

Central Bedfordshire:

0300 300 8142

- Ensure everyone concerned with children and young people has a copy of this policy
- Display a copy of the current policy in a prominent place in the church building, so that all are aware of its existence

Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Kensworth
PCC Policy for Safeguarding Adults when they are Vulnerable

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Kensworth fully supports the Church of England Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church (2017).

We recognise that adults can have different ways and levels of vulnerability and that all adults should be respected and given inclusion and empowerment within the Church.

Aims

- To ensure that every vulnerable adult is treated as a respected member of the Church Community
- To ensure that proper care takes place in the selection and appointment of those working with vulnerable adults, whether paid or voluntary, and to support such workers at all times. To ensure that all applicants understand their role and that the necessary introduction procedures have taken place
- To listen appropriately to any concern
- To respond immediately when any concern is raised
- To seek to make appropriate referrals for any adults who has suffered abuse
- To care for and oversee any member of our church community known to have offended in a manner which could affect adults who are vulnerable
- To co-operate fully with the statutory agencies
- To review the Safeguarding Policy annually and ensure that PCC members, and those working with vulnerable adults, have read the Policy

Responsibilities

The PCC has elected a Safeguarding Officer who is conversant with current policy and practice. The Rector, the Safeguarding Officer and the PCC are responsible for dealing with any allegations or concerns that may arise.

Parish Safeguarding Officer – Mrs Katherine Huggins

Rector – Rev. Nicola Lenthall

July 2018

Emergency Telephone Numbers:

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Jeremy Hirst

Telephone: 01727 818107

Mobile: 07867 350886

Email: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

Police: telephone 999

Central Bedfordshire:

0300 300 8142

All *safeguarding serious incidents* must be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer/Adviser DSA with all the information required. The DSA, in consultation with the Diocesan Secretary, will decide whether the safeguarding incident is sufficiently serious to be reported to the Charity Commission.

Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse

Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Kensworth

Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

In all our activities –

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In our publicity –

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised –

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care –

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to any one please contact

Parish Safeguarding Officer – Mrs Katherine Huggins. Telephone: 01582 607841

Rector – Rev. Nicola Lenthall. Telephone: 01582 872223; Email revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Jeremy Hirst

Telephone: 01727 818107; Mobile: 07867 350886; Email: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

Severe concerns should be passed to the Police: telephone 999 / Central Bedfordshire: 0300 300 8142

January 2019