



SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on Thursday 28 July 2022

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

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- The establishment of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
- 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* A role description for each role is still to be undertaken.
- 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), and individual church Safeguarding Officers, to work with the Incumbent, Team Clergy and lay ministers, and the PCC / DCCs to implement policy and procedures.
- 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.¹

¹ To include safer recruitment procedures, role descriptions, and regular reviews, and the use of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks, and covering both employees and volunteers.
Abingdon-Thames Safeguarding Policy June 2021



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- 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 front page of the parish website the details of whom 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 Team 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 monitoring of 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.
- Offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- Challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- Ensure that the health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if we use an alternative DBS Umbrella Body to APCS and if we receive any DBS Disclosures that are not clear.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Next Review July 2023

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