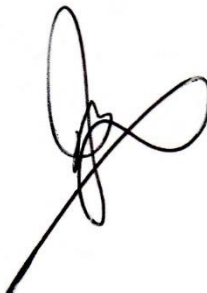




SAFEGUARDING POLICY

for

All Saints Church, Babbacombe
Cary Avenue, Babbacombe, Torquay TQ1 3QT

Reviewed & Approved by	PCC in General Meeting
Approved Date	Sep 2020
Signed on behalf of PCC	
Signed by & Position	Fr Paul (Vicar)
Next Review by Date (3 Yrs)	2023

1 INTRODUCTION

This concerns all who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults in the life of the Church, all who come into contact with them and all who have to make decisions within the Church. If you are reading this, you either have regular contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults, you regularly visit vulnerable people in their homes, or you are on a decision-making body in the Church.

1.1 Children and Young People

It would be good to think that children in Church-led activities are always safe. Most of the time, good common sense provides protection for our children, and much of the detail of this document is normal common sense.

For the overwhelming majority of children and young people the experience at Church and related activities is good and we are appreciated for it. But we also occasionally hear national news that a child is injured in a preventable accident. More rarely, a child is hurt or abused by another member of a Church Community. Further, we have a responsibility to our volunteers and leaders to protect them from situations where they may be falsely accused.

1.2 Vulnerable Adults

As Church members we have a duty to care for all vulnerable people who worship with us or we come into contact with in pastoral situations.

Our Safeguarding Protection Policy is based upon Diocesan policy and other recommended national policies. It applies to all paid and volunteer workers in the Parish and aims to follow the spirit of the Diocesan Policy with amendments and advice made for our own situation.

We have a nominated person in our Parish to ensure that another person shares with the Vicar the responsibility for safeguarding. She is a person to whom anyone can turn to for support and advice, particularly if they have concerns about a child/young person/vulnerable adult or the behaviour of another worker.

1.3 Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is:

Pat Bence
58 Perinville Rd, Babbacombe, Torquay, TQ1 3PA
Tel: 01803 428 878 Mob: 07747 626 462
Email: patbence@yahoo.co.uk

2 DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING POLICY¹

2.1 Diocesan Safeguarding Policy Statement

The safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk is an important part of all Church activities. Our Safeguarding Policy demonstrates and guides all within the Diocese of Exeter on the part that they play in safeguarding across the whole Church community. The Diocese of Exeter (i.e. the Diocesan Bishop, the Diocesan Synod and the Diocesan Board of Finance, whose clergy and lay membership is drawn from parishes and deaneries throughout Devon) is therefore wholeheartedly committed to the wellbeing and protection of all those who are vulnerable or at risk of abuse.

The Diocese of Exeter commends this commitment and its safeguarding policy to parishes and, mindful of their legal responsibilities, encourages them in the strongest possible terms to adopt and proactively implement an appropriate parochial safeguarding policy as informed by national and diocesan guidance.

The Diocese of Exeter adopts and endorses the principal safeguarding policies of the Church of England: 'Protecting All God's Children' (4th edn, 2010) and 'Promoting a Safe Church' (2006). Synod is also committed to the implementation of the policies and guidance contained in 'Responding well to those who have been sexually abused' (2011) and 'Responding to Domestic Abuse; guidelines for those with pastoral responsibility' (2006).

It is further committed to safer recruitment for posts relating to children and other vulnerable people as set out in the joint Church of England and Methodist 'Safer Recruitment Policy' (2013). The Diocese of Exeter will also monitor national developments, whether through updated policy and guidance or through reports from elsewhere in the country (such as the Commissaries Report into Safeguarding in the Diocese of Chichester) and undertakes to follow relevant emerging requirements and recommendations in a timely and fulsome manner.

2.2 Diocesan Safeguarding Commitment

The Diocese of Exeter is committed to safeguarding vulnerable people throughout the diocese and wholeheartedly endorses the commitment to safeguarding as described in the 'Joint Statement of Safeguarding Principles for the Church of England and Methodist Church of Britain' ²

2.3 We are therefore committed to:

- the care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry for all: children, young people and adults.
- the safeguarding and protection of children, young people and all adults.
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support and best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.

¹ This Policy was adopted by Diocesan Synod on 17th May 2014

² Issued within the Safer Recruitment Policy for the Church of England and Methodist Church of Britain, 2013. This statement has been adapted from the previous statement of principles issued within the 'House of Bishops Policy for Safeguarding Children' in 2010 to encompass adults at risk of abuse.

2.4 To this end:

- We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration/membership of the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made, that any adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognizes the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation.
- In as far as we are able, we will seek to protect survivors of sexual abuse from the possibility of further harm and abuse.
- We will challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- We will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.
- It is the responsibility of everyone to uphold these principles. However, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, alongside each Bishop's office, the Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Management Group, and the remaining Senior Staff, will share the overall management of safeguarding across the Diocese, drawing in specialist support as needed to achieve the above.

3 ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BABBACOMBE POLICY

- 3.1** Scripture teaches that all people are special because they are made in the image of God. This is therefore true for children and young people, who should be respected and protected. Jesus warned that those who exploited or abused children deserved profound condemnation. Within the Kingdom of God, children matter in their own right and are to be taken seriously.
- 3.2** The Church is required by God to foster relationships of the utmost integrity, truthfulness and trustworthiness. Clergy and laity who work for the Church in a paid or voluntary capacity need to exercise the greatest care when working with those for whom they have been given responsibility.
- 3.3** The highest standards should be maintained therefore in all pastoral, counselling, educational, worship and recreational circumstances. The exploitation of any relationships for any purpose will not be tolerated.
- 3.4** All Saints' Church is committed to creating a culture of informed vigilance which takes children, and adults who are vulnerable, seriously – and will work closely, and in partnership with, the local authority and statutory authorities to ensure that we offer best practice advice and guidance.
- 3.5** All Saints' Church accepts the principle of The Children Act (1989) that the welfare of the child is paramount, and will follow the Home Office Code of Practice: "Safe from Harm", and the House of Bishops' "Protecting all God's Children" and "Safer Recruitment" advice and guidelines. Other guidance documents are 'Promoting a Safe Church' and 'Responding Well' (2010) – available to download.

3.6 If allegations of abuse are made, the Vicar of All Saint's Babbacombe, Fr Paul Jones and the appropriate representative from the Parish or Diocese will respond without delay and collaborate fully with the statutory and voluntary agencies concerned with investigating such allegations of child abuse. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) will not conduct investigations on its own and will work in partnership with the police, local authority, and others to follow legal compliance, and to ensure we are able to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person, or adult who has suffered abuse.

4 COMMITMENT TO THIS POLICY

- The PCC accepts the All Saints' Babbacombe Church Policy on Working with Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults, and so seeks to follow the 'Safe from Harm' guidelines in the ways described in the attachment to this document.
- The PCC seeks to provide a caring, warm and consistent atmosphere and environment in which children, young people and vulnerable adults can develop and grow, and in which they can learn in safety.
- The PCC will ensure that everyone involved in the care of children, young people and vulnerable adults is made aware of the Diocesan Policy and the PCC Policy.
- The PCC will ensure that people wanting to start working with children, young people or vulnerable adults will go through our 'Safer Recruitment' process, outlined in the 'Called or Collared' leaflet in the attachment to this document. Some checks may also be needed at 5 year renewals for existing volunteers.
- The PCC will ensure everyone involved in work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is clear as to the nature of the work they have agreed to do and the name of the person to whom they are responsible.
- The PCC will delegate to the Vicar and the Parish Safeguarding Officer will be responsible on the PCC's behalf for implementing and monitoring the PCC's policy. However it recognises that it is their responsibility to ensure that this work is done.
- The PCC will ensure that Safeguarding training opportunities are encouraged for all those who may require them.
- A copy of this policy will be made available to any member of the congregation who wishes to view it.
- If any other body or party uses church or associated premises for the use of children or young people then it will be made clear that we expect them to undertake to follow the 'Safe from Harm' Guidelines.

5 COMPLIANCE

All PCC members must read, understand and accept this policy.