

Policy Statement for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults

The following policy statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 8th March 2021.

As members of the PCC we commit our church community to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable. We recognise that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church community. We have adopted the House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement" and are fully committed to acting within current legislation, guidance, national frameworks and the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures. In addition, we will also endeavour to act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Children and Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Probation Services and other agencies to safeguard children and vulnerable adults and assist in bringing to justice anyone who has committed an offence against them.

1. We will ensure that we follow the Safer Recruitment 2016 policy and procedures to promote the safe selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers, paid workers and volunteers with children, young people and vulnerable adults. We will provide the necessary supervision, support, validation and training to them in order that they can undertake their roles effectively and ensure that they attend all required training to continue in their roles.
2. *We will respond without delay to every concern raised that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm, or about the behaviour of an adult or child following the Diocesan Safeguarding – Parish Implementation of Safeguarding Policy 2017.*
3. We will fully co-operate with the Diocese and appropriate statutory agencies during any investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.
4. We will ensure that confidential pastoral care is made available to children and vulnerable adults and their families and to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made.
5. We will ensure, in partnership with the Diocese and other agencies, that confidential care and supervision is provided for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.
6. We are committed to reviewing our policy annually, and as part of this, check that our parish safeguarding procedures are up-to-date and relevant.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer/DBS Validator for Children and Vulnerable Adults is:

Ro Stretton Phone: 01372 747957 E-mail: maybaby37@btinternet.com

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor is:

Jackie Broadfoot Phone: 07918 559387 E-mail: jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk

Copies of this statement will be kept in the parish records, displayed on notice boards at Christ Church, and sent to the Diocesan DBS Manager