



# Safeguarding

**St. Helen's, Church, Dry Sandford has a moral duty to ensure that it functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.**

Throughout these policies and procedures, reference is made to 'children and young people'. This term is used to mean 'those under the age of 18'. The PCC recognises that some adults are also vulnerable to abuse, accordingly, the procedures may be applied (with appropriate adaptations) to allegations of abuse and the protection of vulnerable adults.

1. Everyone has different levels of vulnerability and each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
2. Respectful pastoral care should be available to all adults to whom we minister.
3. The need to provide formal Safeguarding is covered by the Safeguarding Policy and is intended to protect those who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
4. All those in positions of trust will be made aware of the Health and Safety Policies and the need for safe practices in the Church.
5. Vulnerable persons should be able to find inclusion and empowerment in our community, including the sick and those with disabilities.
6. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect, to the Safeguarding Officer.

In particular we aim to be aware of the following 3 groups in particular:

- a) People who may be suffering from some form of dementia. We aim to provide a 'dementia friendly environment'
  - b) As a community we are aware that Domestic Abuse takes many forms and is very common and may include social media. In the first instance the Safeguarding Officer may be approached and will aim to direct people to the appropriate local agencies.
  - c) From time to time we may find that an ex offender wishes to join our church. In that case we would liaise with Diocesan Advisory Coordinator and follow the guidelines provided. If it is felt that anyone joining our congregation poses a risk to others, we would follow the same procedure.
7. Only appropriate people should work with those who may be vulnerable.
  8. The same support, resources, and training, will be offered to those who undertake work with people who may be vulnerable, in the same way as work with children is managed and reviewed. This may include for example pastoral visitors. The PCC will be responsible for identifying such a need.
  9. This parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.

10. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

11. The Parish is aware of the special needs of those members of the church suffering from dementia and other similar conditions and will take steps to ensure the environment is as 'user friendly' as possible.

The Safeguarding officer appointed by the PCC will represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies as required.

Date July 2019

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## **SAFEUARDING POLICY and PROCEDURES**

### **St. Helen's Church, Dry Sandford**

This document will be reviewed by the Parochial Church Council regularly.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) will take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of the children, young people and vulnerable adults for whom it bears responsibility.

#### **Procedures:**

1. The PCC is directly responsible for the following groups which include children, young people and adults:-

- Occasional activities, such as social activities under the auspices of the Church
- School children who will be accompanied and supervised by a teacher from Cothill House and Dry Sandford Primary School.

2. The PCC is responsible for ensuring that outside bodies e.g. School or visiting choirs using the Church have their own safeguarding policies or adopt our policy for the event.

3. Only suitable and responsible people may become church key holders, references may be taken up in accordance with the Safer Recruitment Policy, and Declarations completed as necessary. Access and Usage of Church Buildings will be monitored as far as is reasonably possible.

The PCC may use the Disclosure and Barring Service for checking the records of relevant personnel.

4. Mixed age activities may include:

Bellringing / Choir.

#### **Responsibilities of validated leaders:**

1. To manage their activity with the interests and protection of children as paramount.
2. To observe and monitor interaction between adults and children in the group.
3. To monitor the behaviour of new members, particularly those whose background is unknown.
4. To raise any matter of concern regarding the behaviour of an adult or child promptly with the incumbent or Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

### **Responsibilities of the Safeguarding Co-ordinator:**

1. To ensure that validated leaders of these activities are made aware of their specific responsibilities listed above.
2. To ensure that newly appointed validated leaders are made specifically aware, on appointment, of the potential for undesirable adults to seek access to their activity.
3. The PCC will provide leaders and those working in Safeguarding access to guidance and training in the understanding of child/vulnerable adult abuse. All members of the PCC have an opportunity to read the document provided by the Diocese.
  - a) In all 'children only' activities there must be at least two adults present, one of whom should be a validated leader.
  - b) In all 'mixed age' activities there must always be two validated leaders present.
4. The PCC will carry public liability insurance and will insure all leaders and staff for personal accident.
5. The PCC will make a copy of this policy and its procedures available on the website.
6. This policy will be kept under review by the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, who will report monthly to the PCC. The PCC will review the policy and all its procedures annually at a PCC meeting. If members are happy with any changes they can be approved then or if necessary after discussion at a later meeting. Safeguarding will be an agenda item at each PCC meeting.