

Child Protection Policy 2016

St. Giles' Church, Whittington

Diocese of Lichfield

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

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Elizabeth Smith is our approved Safeguarding Coordinator for the calendar year 2016. She is the point of contact through which concerns about child protection will be channelled. She is responsible to the PCC for ensuring these procedures are implemented.

The PCC will work towards adopting the recommendations of the House of Bishops as published in the Policy for Safeguarding Children "Protecting all God's Children" 4th edition (2010)," Promoting a Safer Church" (2006) and the updated guidance "Safer Recruitment" (June 2015).

Children's groups and the PCC

The PCC is directly responsible for the following groups that include children and young people

- Sunbeams (pre school age), which meet on alternate Wednesdays in term time in the Church and the Church Hall with parents/guardians present.
- Messy Church, a family orientated children's group where parents are present, monthly on dates arranged through the year.

These groups will provide in writing a list of current leaders and their roles to the PCC.

Recruitment

The PCC approves the recruitment of suitable candidates with experience in working with children to work as volunteer leaders and helpers with the children's groups.

- It supports the leaders to access guidance and training about child protection/vulnerable adult issues
- It supports guidelines for best practice agreed by the leaders of the groups with reference to Diocesan guidelines
- It requires all volunteers to be given a clearly defined role description with appropriate training and support

Children's groups that hire the Church Hall

An annual record of any children's groups that hire the Church Hall will be provided to the PCC and these groups will satisfy the PCC that they have child protection policy. If they do not have their own policy the PCC will present their own Safeguarding policy for the group to adopt and implement.

Validation of leaders

Leaders must be aged 18 or over working with children and young people,

under 18's may assist with leadership roles but must be supervised at all times. All volunteers aged 18 or over who work as leaders or regular helpers with the groups that include children and young people groups are required

- To complete a Lichfield Diocesan declaration
- To apply for and supply clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service, where appropriate. This will be done via the Safeguarding Office, St Mary's House, The Close, Lichfield, WS13 7LD
- To provide two referees using the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy form
- Completed declaration forms and references will be confidential to and securely held by the Incumbent, or in the event of a vacancy by the Rural Dean or Archdeacon

A copy of this Child Protection Policy for St Giles' Church will be available to all volunteer leaders.

Parish Responsibilities of PCC

- To ensure full compliance with Health and Safety Guidelines
- To monitor that only suitable and responsible people become key-holders for Church premises. If necessary references will be taken up in accordance with the Safer Recruitment Policy and they will be required to complete the Lichfield Diocese Declaration. Access and usage of church premises will be monitored as far as is reasonably possible
- To publish on the notice boards at the back of Church and in the Church Hall a copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Flow Chart. Copies of which will be made available for all validated volunteer leaders and key holders
- To issue clear guidelines for avoiding situations where children and young people could be in danger

Insurance

The PCC will carry public liability insurance and will insure all leaders and staff for personal accident.

Monitoring of Procedures

The Safeguarding Coordinator is to review and report annually to the PCC about this policy and is to monitor that the policy and its procedures are being followed. The PCC is to document issues relating to Child Protection and to review the implementation of this Child Protection Policy annually. The PCC will make available a copy of the most recent Parish Child Protection Policy and procedures, if requested, at the Archdeacon's visitation.

Additional Information

ADVICE ON PROCEDURE FOR DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) guidelines advise any member of its community to whom a disclosure of abuse is made

- Listen to the child and do not ask leading questions
- Take what the child says seriously
- Do not promise confidentiality, others will need to be involved if the abuse is to stop
- Record what the child has said using the child or young person's words. Keep

this record secure

- Note the context, the time and date on your record and sign it
- Avoid judgements and opinions
- Inform the Incumbent and Child protection Officer/Safeguarding Officer
- Ask advice about what to do next
- Never attempt to investigate the situation yourself
- Continue to support the child and seek support for yourself

The Diocesan Child Protection Flow Chart is to be followed without delay where there is any cause for concern.

The Diocesan Child Protection Officer will be informed of any complaint of abuse or if any allegation is made against a member of the church community. Any complaint will be reported to the Safeguarding officer and the incumbent, and in a time of interregnum, the associate minister and/or the Rural Dean.

STAFFORDSHIRE SOCIAL SERVICES

Staffordshire Social Services are the statutory agency that can investigate such a complaint or concern.

First Response Team

0800 1313 126 (free from landline) 8.30-5.00 Monday to Thursday, 8.30-4.30 Friday

Mobile 0777372016

Out of Hours Emergency number

0845 604 28886/mobile 07815 492613

Staffordshire Police Child Protection Central Referrals Unit - Telephone 101 and ssk for M.A.S.H. (multi agency safeguarding hub)

In an EMERGENCY dial 999

CHILDLINE 0800 1111

FAMILY LIVES / PARENTLINE 0808 800 2222

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000

Record of Policy Revision Dates

Latest revision

Elizabeth Smith 13/07/16

Elizabeth Smith 08/07/15

Elizabeth Smith 23/04/14

Complete Revision

Elizabeth Smith 20/01/13

First CP policy provision

Elizabeth Smith 21/11/05

Revised 26/03/06

Revised 18/03/07

Revised 11/09/07

Revised 05/03/08

Revised

16/11/09