

The Anglican Parishes of Whittington, Weeford and Hints

He has told you, what is good and what the Lord requires of you; to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God

Policy on the Safeguarding of Adults and Children for ST GILES' CHURCH, WHITTINGTON 2020

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. Psalm 51:11

This statement was adopted by ST GILES' CHURCH, Whittington at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on 2020.

1. This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved. We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
 - We recognise that a position of power in relation to another creates a risk of vulnerability. As a consequence we strive to ensure that we consider power when working and leading with people.
 - We recognise that children by virtue of legal status and dependency on adults for their emotional and physical needs will always be vulnerable and at a disadvantage. We commit to considering this in our children's activities including
 - SUNBEAMSundertaking supervision of volunteers working with them and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.
 - We understand that illness, disability, race, mental health and other issues can put adults in a position of vulnerability. We accept that these can be long term (ongoing), or temporary. We commit to considering this in our adults activities and events
 - COFFEE STOP
 - WHIST FOR PLEASURE
 - HOME COMMUNION TEAMundertaking supervision of volunteers and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.
 - We commit to transparency in our actions and accountability for our work.
2. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults and children to whom we minister.
 - We will consider issues relating to spiritual care in prayer activity, ensuring that members of our prayer team consider and reflect upon the potential for and of power, control and spiritual abuse issues in their ministry.

- We will ensure that leaders of our children's church services, children's church groups and house groups as well as other ministries that involve working with vulnerable persons have enhanced DBS checks, where appropriate.
 - **N.B. At present (May 2020) the leaders of Sunbeams and lay leaders of children's church services do not require a DBS check because parents or guardians are present at all times and the activities do not count as frequent i.e .weekly.**
 - **Volunteers who assist on the transport rota for Coffee Stop or church services or Home Communion team are required to be DBS checked .**
 - We will ensure that those who are required to so and who care for people in our parish church context attend appropriate safeguarding training.
 - We commit to discuss safeguarding and support to of safeguarding as a standing PCC agenda item.
3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
- **Sunbeams** : Wednesdays 10.30 - 12.00 fortnightly in term time for babies and preschool children with parents or carers present .
 - **Coffee Stop** : Thursday mornings for the housebound and elderly.
 - **Whist for Pleasure** : Thursday afternoons
 - **Home Communion Team** :
4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
- We commit to discuss safeguarding and support to of safeguarding as a standing PCC agenda item
 - We will ensure that those in positions of trust (such as wardens), and those with remits or leadership of groups involving vulnerable children etc have appropriate enhanced DBS checks and that these are updated as a minimum, every 5 years.
 - We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding as required.
 - Safeguarding including revision of policy will be a regular PCC agenda item and agree that whilst we have a named co-ordinator we will accept collective ownership for this important issue.
 - We will be transparent, open and not have secrets in respect of safeguarding matters.
5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
- We will consider the impact of power, disadvantage, inclusion, disability, age and race on how we provide and plan for our ministry.
 - We will actively (but appropriately), challenge each other in our work in order to ensure we consider a wide range of perspectives and views

- Where a person struggles with an activity due to disadvantage, disability or illness we will try within our means and capability to assist them so they can participate and contribute as a full part of the church.
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.
- We will not collude, keep secrets or make decisions when we have suspicion of abuse. We will seek through discussion the views of others and ensure through use of external agencies and the diocese safeguarding service that we engage and welcome external perspectives in order to promote a healthy accountable culture.
 - We will report without being bias to our personal view. We will report and not investigate.
 - We will record concerns factually in diocese suggested formats (as per Recording with Care Policy 2017)
 - We will not take chances with the welfare of children or vulnerable adults.
 - We are open to scrutiny and encourage this in others.
 - We have zero tolerance to abuse and put the welfare of vulnerable children and adults first.
 - We take seriously training and activities relating to the safeguarding of children and seek to engrain care for all in our congregational culture.
7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.
- We will ensure that those in positions of trust (such as wardens), and those with remits or leadership of groups involving vulnerable children etc have appropriate enhanced DBS checks and that these are updated as a minimum every 5 years.
 - We will engage with appropriate training as required and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding.
 - Safeguarding including revision of policy will be a regular PCC agenda item and agree that whilst we have a named co-ordinator we will accept collective ownership for this important issue.
 - We will be transparent, open and not have secrets.
 - Our incumbent undertakes to ensure that to the best of his knowledge all PCC members, wardens and ministry leaders are of good standing.
 - The PCC undertakes to appoint and up skill a dedicated Safeguarding co-ordinator.
 - The PCC will complete annually appropriate persons' forms.
 - All PCC members and parish administrator commit to completing C1 safeguarding training as a minimum, every 3 years.

- The Safeguarding Co-ordinator undertakes to maintain a relationship with diocese level safeguarding team and ensure that this policy is followed, including meeting annually with Weeford Safeguarding Officer and Parish Priest to evaluate Safeguarding Provision.
8. The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing and training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
- as per clauses detailed in section 7
9. The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.
- The Parish will report and record in line with Diocese policies and comply with local guidances for implementing national policies as defined in diocese polices. These include the diocese Safeguarding policy, Recording with Care policy and Safer Recruitment policy.
10. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.
- Those working with vulnerable adults or children will sign a declaration to state that they have read and agree to abide by the points outlined in this policy.
- 11. A summary of this policy document will be displayed in Church and Church Hall and on our website.**

This church appoints Lynne Ingham Safeguarding Co-ordinator to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies as Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

Parish Priest

Churchwarden

Churchwarden

Safeguarding Coordinator.....

DATE _____ 2020