



ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH
SANDPIT LANE | ST ALBANS | AL1 4DF

ssaviours.org

SAFEGUARDING POLICIES 2024

These Policies were agreed at the Parochial Church Council Meeting held on
5 March 2024

We have appointed as our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:

Elaine Wilson

safeguarding.stsaviours@gmail.com

Incumbent

.....
Fr Richard Watson

Church Wardens

.....
Elaine Wilson

.....
David Summers

1. Policy for Safeguarding Adults when they are Vulnerable

- We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that all adults should be offered respect and given inclusion and empowerment within the Church.
- We are committed to implementing a safeguarding policy for adults when they are vulnerable accepting the Church of England Policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults (Promoting a Safe Church 2006) and be responsive to local parish requirements.
- We will review and endorse all safeguarding policies annually so that all members are aware of their responsibilities.
- We will carefully select those working with vulnerable groups and these workers will be given appropriate support and opportunities for training.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made that a vulnerable adult for whom we are responsible may have been harmed.
- This Parish will co-operate fully with the statutory agencies in every situation and will not conduct its own investigations.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any adult who has suffered abuse.
- We will care for and supervise any member of our church community known to have offended in a manner which could affect adults who are vulnerable.
- The PCC acknowledges its responsibility for all work with vulnerable people done in the name of the Church and requires all those engaged in such work to be properly appointed and supported in accordance with the Church of England Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment (July 2016)

2. Policy for Safeguarding Children

- We are committed to implementing a safeguarding children policy and procedures accepting the House of Bishops' **Protecting All God's Children** (4th edition 2010). In addition the Parish will follow the Diocesan Procedures and recommended good practice and be responsive to local parish requirements.
- We will review and endorse all safeguarding policies annually so that all members are aware of their responsibilities.
- The highest standards will be maintained in all the Church's contacts with children and young people and adult volunteers will be given appropriate support and opportunities for training.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made that a child or young person for whom we are responsible may have been harmed.
- This Parish will co-operate fully with the statutory agencies in every situation and will not conduct its own investigations.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
- We will care for and supervise any member of our church community known to have offended against a child
- The PCC acknowledges its responsibility for all work with children and young people done in the name of the Church and requires all those engaged in such work to be properly appointed and supported in accordance with the Church of England **Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment** (July 2016).

3. Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

- In all our activities - valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- In our publicity – raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- When concerns are raised – ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help; and working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.
- In our care – ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse; and identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

4. Policy for the use of Social Media

We determine that

- The group of administrators/publishers should be small and determined by the Vicar and Wardens and reviewed at least annually.
- Administrators/publishers must be aware of their responsibilities and the purpose of our social media presence. A record should be kept of the different social media accounts and who is allowed to publish from them.
- Good, strong passwords are required to secure social media accounts. These should not be written down unless in an encrypted form.

Publishers are to remember the following points at all times:

- If in doubt about posting something, don't post it.
- Be a good ambassador for Christ, the Church and your part in it.
- Be respectful. Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful.
- Know and follow your church's safeguarding policy.
- Users are personally responsible for the content they publish online, whether in a blog, social networking site or any other form of user-generated media.
- Be mindful that what you publish will be public for an indefinite period of time. Even if a post or tweet is taken down, there may still be records of it online (people are now very quick to screenshot posts, particularly if they disagree with the content).
- If your account makes it clear that you are part of the Church of England, be aware that when you write anything you are representing the wider Church. Be a good ambassador.
- Never break a confidence. Do not cite or reference individuals without their approval. If you are telling a story about a third party, ask yourself, 'is this my story to tell?'
- Don't pick fights. The internet is home to a lot of argumentative people. When posting, seek to generate light and not heat.
- Be the first to correct your own mistakes.
- Try to add value. Provide worthwhile information and perspective.
- Social media entries may well attract wider media interest in you as an individual. Proceed with caution and remember that you are responsible for your online activities.

5 March 2024