

**Beacon Parishes Mission Community  
Policy for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults 2019  
(Approved by the Diocese in March 2019)**

The PCCs of the Beacon Parishes have agreed the following policy statement:

“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.

Our safeguarding work is undertaken within a legislative framework supported by Government Guidance which sets out a range of safeguarding duties, responsibilities and best practice to which we adhere. We are fully committed to acting within current guidance, national frameworks and the Diocesan policy statement and safeguarding procedures.

**We have used the Diocese of Exeter Safeguarding Resources Toolkit to update this policy.**

**Principles**

- The following principles determine our safeguarding work as we aim for best practice in the delivery of this policy.
- The welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is paramount
- Transparency and openness and accountability will drive how we work in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Children and Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Probation Service, and other agencies to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.
- We will demonstrate respect, integrity and the ability to listen to all.
- We are committed to the prevention of abuse and the active management of risk
- We will show compassion and vigilance in all our safeguarding work.
- We will regularly evaluate our efforts in promoting a safer church.

**Practice**

We welcome staff and volunteers who are recruited in accordance with House of Bishops' Policy Statement 2017 "Promoting a Safer Church". We take into account the Diocesan resources on Safeguarding and the DBS checks. This means that those who are employed or who volunteer to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults are suitable for the role, that they know what the role entails and that they are supported in carrying it out.

All leaders of activities undertaken with children or vulnerable adults will hold a current DBS certificate. No activity will take place without a DBS checked person present.

The Parish Safeguarding representative is the point of contact for any concerns. She ensures that any concerns about a child or an adult, or the behaviour of an adult towards others which are reported to her, are promptly responded to in accordance with the statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures. These are recorded and reported to the Incumbent and the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

The Parish Safeguarding representative currently administers the Disclosure and Barring Service checks and maintains those records.

All such records will be stored securely in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation of May 2018. It is everyone's responsibility to make themselves available for such checks when required.

In line with the Parish Safeguarding Responsibilities checklist for the PCC, a local advocate has been appointed. This person may only support/listen to individuals who seek help when referred by the Rector and Safeguarding Representative. She supports the work of the Safeguarding representative and is the Safeguarding lead on the PCC.

We will ensure that any complaint made regarding a vulnerable person, who may have been harmed or is in significant danger will be reported immediately. We will fully cooperate with statutory agencies during any investigation concerning a member of the church community or any other person.

We are committed to cooperate fully with the Diocese and statutory agencies during any investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community. The Incumbent and Honorary Assistant Priests will be primarily responsible for this

We will care for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons and work with others to ensure that they are supported appropriately.

Training is made available from the Diocesan team.

Diocesan training events for the PCC and other are publicised through the Beacon, the magazine of the Beacon Parishes Mission Community. They are advertised on the Diocesan website.

Training events on specific needs such as dementia awareness are supported as part of the commitment to develop our culture of "informed vigilance" as described by the Diocese.

Domestic Abuse/Violence awareness is currently provided by the Diocese.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer maintains the list of those who attend training events and it is everyone's responsibility to inform the Safeguarding Representative of training events that they attend.

C2 training is highlighted for leaders of specific groups, including the bellringers and the lead person for the hiring of the hall.

Health and safety procedures are in place and displayed in church.

The level of risk is assessed for all activities. Church Wardens are asked to inform either the Safeguarding Representative or the local Advocate of new activities. Appropriate insurance cover through Ecclesiastical is provided for all activities undertaken.

Children normally will not be allowed in the church tower but must always be accompanied by adults who are DBS checked.

No adults should be in the church tower alone.

We will create an action plan as part of our on - going learning to assist us to confidently "Promote a Safer Mission Community"

#### Hiring of the church hall

We will ensure that any individual organisation renting/using our premises for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults is aware of our safeguarding policy and aware of their own individual responsibilities to have appropriate safeguarding policies and processes in place, including safer recruitment.

The details of the Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding team as well as that of Childline are displayed in the church porches, the vestry and the church halls and toilets.

This policy has been approved by the PCC on 16.7.18

The PCCs will review this policy at the first PCC meeting following the APCM in April 2019. Pastoral Care procedures will be reviewed in line with the principles and practice of this policy.

.This policy is available with other policies in our churches and on the website.