

PARISH SAFEGUARDING FOR THE CHURCHES OF
S.MATTHEW with S.MARY,
S. PHILIP & S. AUGUSTINE

The Safeguarding Policy at S. Matthew's Church has been agreed by the PCCs and is in accordance with the diocesan and national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and adults, following Church of England policy and practice.

The Safeguarding Policy can be found on the main notice board at the back of Church, in the church hall, and on the S. Matthew's Church website. matthewhighelswick.com

Safeguarding is the responsibility of all church members, to prevent physical, mental, emotional, sexual, financial or spiritual abuse. **Any suspected abuse will be reported.**

Safeguarding is at the heart of our Christian faith and we commit ourselves to care for one another, ensuring the safety and wellbeing, in the life of the church, of children or vulnerable adults who may be at risk. This also reflects upon caring for all in the community, and how people treat one another.

Those in positions of trust within the church, have completed DBS checks, and Safeguarding Training which is regularly updated.

We promote safe practice, along with the inclusion and empowerment of those who are vulnerable, so they may pursue their faith journey in safety.

Any concerns should be shared with the Vicar or Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Contact Details

- **The Vicar**, Father Richard Deadman Richardgsd@aol.com

0191 2329039

- **Parish Safeguarding Officer, DBS Administrator, Children's Advocate** Margaret Evans mgt.evans@gmail.com

0191 2735103

- **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser** Vacant

Agencies available to assist can be found on "**Promoting a Safer Church**" poster.

Free helplines with 24 hour access.

- NSPCC Child Protection helpline 0808 800 5000
 - Child Line 08001111
 - National Domestic Violence helpline 0808 2000 247
 - Samaritans Helpline 08457909090
 - Action on Elder Abuse helpline 08088088141
- Freephone Mon.-Fri. 9am.-5pm.

Updated January 2024