

SAFEGUARDING and PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Checks, for members of S. Matthew's and S. Philip's who require them, are up to date or in the process of being renewed. All members of the PCC have signed the Confidential Declaration Form.

The majority of PCC members have undergone Foundation Safeguarding Training, or completed the C1 or C2 Training Programmes and have certificates. A small minority who have been unable to attend training so far, during Covid restrictions, are hopefully doing so in the next few months.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer, Churchwardens for S. Matthew's and one Churchwarden for S. Philip's, have completed C2 Leadership Training, and are doing updating training in August.

The second Churchwarden from S. Philip's is about to embark upon training.

Safeguarding is on the PCC Agenda and discussed at every PCC meeting, to ensure all are aware of new developments, and that current practice is strictly followed.

It has been agreed by the PCC, and in accordance with National Guidelines, of the importance of all church members acting uniformly in their approach towards children, young people and the vulnerable. All parishes have to abide by Safeguarding Practice Guidelines. To ensure there is adherence and uniformity of approach within the Diocese, an individual yearly Action Plan is submitted to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

The Safeguarding information below, is what has been discussed and agreed by the PCC, but it is important that all members of the congregation are aware of it, and follow the same best practice, as we have children, and young or vulnerable people regularly attending and taking part in Church Services, Citizenship Classes, the Nearly New Shop, Friends@10 and other events.

Aspects of best practice

Touch This should be in response to a child's or person's needs and not related to a church member's needs. It should be age appropriate, welcomed and generally initiated by the child, not by the church officer/member.

ALL those working on behalf of the parish with children, young people and adults **must**:

- Allow the child (or person) to determine the degree of physical contact with others, except in exceptional circumstances (e.g. when they need medical attention).
- Ensure that church officers/members at all levels take responsibility for monitoring one another in the area of physical contact. They should be encouraged to challenge one another if necessary, and any concerns about possible unwanted attention, abuse or inappropriate behaviour should always be reported.
- Treat all individuals with respect and dignity.
- Ensure that their own language, tone of voice, and body language is respectful.

- Ensure that children, young people and adults know who they can talk to about a personal concern.
- Record and report any concerns about a child, young person or adult and/or the inappropriate behaviour of another member, with the activity leader and/or Parish Safeguarding Officer. Sign and date the record.
- Obtain written consent for taking photographs/videos/or streaming, and obtain permission for them to be shown, displayed or stored. Permission forms are mandatory.
- Administer any First Aid with others around.
- People must **always** aim to work with, or within sight of, another adult, and **not be alone** in a room with a child or vulnerable adult. **Always keep the door open.**
 - Ensure another adult is informed if a child needs to be taken to the toilet. Toilet breaks should be organised for young children.
 - Visitors should be welcomed and always be accompanied by an approved person.
 - Unknown adults should not be allowed access on their own to children, young people or adults, and should be accompanied by an approved person.

(Reference: Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook)