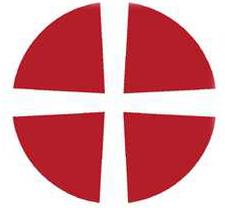




st martin's Church



St. Martin's Church Dorking, St. Mary's Church Pixham and the Christian Centre Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

As members of St Martin's Church and St Mary's Pixham, along with the Christian Centre, we commit our church community to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of all. We are fully committed to acting within the national frameworks of both the Methodist Church and the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures.

Therefore in accordance with the Safeguarding principles of the Methodist Church and the Church of England we will adopt and implement both Safeguarding Policies.

The following policy applies to St Martin's Church Dorking and St Mary's Church Pixham.

The PCC and the incumbent have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in the church community. In terms of safeguarding with the incumbent the PCC will:

PROMOTE

A safer church for all in the church community, and ensure there is a plan in place to raise awareness of safer working good practice, promote training and ensure that safeguarding is taken seriously by all those in the church community.

ADOPT

The House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer Church"; safeguarding policy statement, the House of Bishops' and diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance, while being responsive to local parish requirements.

APPOINT

At least one appropriately experienced designated parish safeguarding officer. They may also be the DBS administrator for church officers who work with children or vulnerable adults. The PSO should be supported, trained and given a copy of the Parish Handbook and safeguarding policy and procedures.

Any additional roles are left to local determination and are described in the Roles and Responsibilities Practice Guidance 2017.

SAFER RECRUIT, SUPPORT AND TRAIN

Ensure that all church officers who work with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults:

- are recruited following the House of Bishops' "Safer Recruitment" practice guidance;
- are aware of and work to House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance (includes both policies and practice guidance);

- attend diocesan safeguarding training at least every three years; all PCC members must complete the national church Core 1 module either online or face to face.

PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INSURANCE to cover for all activities undertaken in the name of the PCC which involve children and vulnerable adults.

DISPLAY

A formal parish policy statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer Church" safeguarding policy. The policy statement should be signed on behalf of the PCC and must be returned to the safeguarding team by 30th June 2019.

Contact details of the PSO, churchwarden and any other local leaders; Information about where to get help with child and adult safeguarding issues, ie local authority contact details, domestic abuse and key helplines.

Details of safeguarding arrangements on the parish website. It is recommended that the minimum information required would be details of a specific point of contact within the parish (this must include the Incumbent and may include the PSO) and a link to the diocesan website.

Provide access to the Parish Handbook.

RESPOND

Create an environment, which is welcoming and respectful and enables safeguarding concerns to be raised and responded to openly, promptly and consistently;

Have a procedure in place to deal promptly with safeguarding allegations or suspicions of abuse in accordance with the relevant policy and practice guidance and in consultation with the diocesan safeguarding adviser;

Report all safeguarding concerns or allegations against church officers to the diocesan safeguarding adviser;

Ensure that known offenders or others who may pose a risk to children and/or vulnerable adults are effectively managed and monitored in consultation with the diocesan safeguarding adviser;

Comply with all data protection legislation especially in regard to storing information about any paid/unpaid workers and any safeguarding records;

Ensure that an "activity risk assessment" is completed and reviewed regularly for each activity, which is associated with either children or vulnerable adults, and run in the name of the church.

REVIEW AND REPORT PROGRESS;

The PSO should regularly report on safeguarding in the parish. Safeguarding should be a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. At the APCM the PCC should provide an annual report in relation to safeguarding. In the PCC's annual report will be a statement which reports on progress and a statement as to whether the PCC has complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding.

The Parish Self Audit must be completed and returned to the diocesan team by 30th September 2019. The purpose of the audit is to identify areas you would value some advice and support from the central teams so we can share best practice and assist in implementing policies.

HIRE OF CHURCH PREMISES

Any hire agreement with any person/body wishing to hire church premises must contain a provision whereby the person/body hiring the premises agrees to comply with the relevant safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops and the diocese.

The hire agreement should contain a provision requiring all those hiring church premises to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are protected at all times, relevant staff have had appropriate DBS checks and that all reasonable steps have been taken to prevent injury, illness, loss or damage occurring. (A template provision is available under the resources section of the Diocesan website)

Ensure all those hiring church premises carry full public liability insurance for this, or be covered through the church insurance (ie hire for a children's party).

DURING A CLERGY VACANCY

During a vacancy or long term sickness absence all information regarding safeguarding matters must be handed over to the Area Dean or Archdeacon as agreed with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. The safeguarding information will be handed over to the incumbent upon their return to work or to the new incumbent as part of their induction in to the diocese.

This Policy was signed and agreed at the Parochial Church Council

Vicar

Churchwardens

Safeguarding Representative

Date _____ 2019