

The United Benefice of St John the Evangelist,
Staplegrove
with
All Saints', Norton Fitzwarren

Safeguarding Policy 2020

We are committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with all children, young people and all adults within our church community.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide an environment where there is a culture of “informed vigilance” as to the dangers of abuse.

We will follow safe recruitment procedures to carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the church for children, young people and vulnerable adults, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relative vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond to every complaint made which suggests that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, co-operating with the Police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will care for and supervise any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, recognised good practice and guidance particularly that within the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook recently issued to Churchwardens.

Safeguarding Policy 2020 – continued

Christian communities should be places where all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse. The Church is particularly called by God to support those less powerful and those without a voice in our society. The Church is working towards creating a safe and non-discriminatory environment by being aware of some of the particular situations that create vulnerability. Issues which need to be considered include both the physical environment and the attitudes of workers and volunteers. A person who might be considered to be vulnerable has the right to:

- Be treated with respect and dignity.
- Have their privacy respected.
- Be able to lead as independent a life as possible.
- Be able to choose how to lead their life.
- Have the protection of the law.
- Have their rights upheld regardless of their ethnicity, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religion or cultural background.
- Be able to use their chosen language or method of communication.
- Be heard

Rector

In Vacancy from February 2020

Churchwardens

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In this policy statement is modelled upon that of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, and reviewed annually by the Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Staplegrove and of All Saints', Norton Fitzwarren