

The Diocese of Durham takes the safeguarding of children, young people and adults very seriously.

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will promote the welfare of children, young people and adults. We work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused. We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others, and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

### **Reporting Concerns**

If you are concerned that a child or vulnerable adult has been harmed or is at risk of harm, do not hesitate to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser for advice and support. If you wish to report an allegation of abuse from the past, or in the present, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your information will be treated appropriately and kept confidential.

**Beth Miller** – (Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser)

**Address:** Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham DH1 3RY

**Email:** [beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk](mailto:beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk) | [beth.miller@durham.anglican.org](mailto:beth.miller@durham.anglican.org)

**Mobile:** 07968034075

If you are unable to speak to the Safeguarding Adviser and a child, young person or adult is at immediate risk of harm please call 999.

**Our Parish Safeguarding Office is Mrs Dianne Chew.** Her number can be obtained from any of the contacts on the contact page of this web site.

# **The Parish of St. Helen Auckland**

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

### **PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on Monday 25th March 2019

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Mrs Dianne Chew as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent .....R McTeer.....

Churchwardens .....John Bake Anne Skillcorn.....

Date: 25th March 2019

## **SAFEGUARDING THE PARISH OF AUCKLAND ST HELEN**

The members of the Parochial Church Council of S. Helen Auckland have received and been made aware of the Diocesan document "Safe and Secure". In the light of the recommendations of that document and in the light of the papers "Responsibilities of Clergy and PCC in terms of Safeguarding" and the Parish Safeguarding checklist their current policy statement regarding the protection of children, young people and those working with them and with the Parochial Church Council has been updated as follows:

- A. The Policy will be reviewed annually by the Parochial Church Council at its November meeting.
- B. A report will be given annually at the ACPM .
- C. A copy of the Diocesan Handbook "Safe and Secure" and a copy of the Parish Safeguarding checklist are available from the Vicar. In the first instance he should be contacted with regard to anything contained within the Handbook or this Policy Statement.

### **The policy of the Parochial Church Council will be to:**

- Maintain a register of children and Youth Leaders authorised by the PCC and that DBS disclosures are completed by all those in contact with children and young people.
- Maintain securely Personal Disclosure and Reference records of all leaders and occasional helpers with access to children and young people.
- To form an Appointments Panel for children and Youth Leaders. This will comprise the Vicar and two other named people, one of whom will be a woman. These persons will be approved by the PCC.
- Acknowledge that being convicted, cautioned or bound over for a criminal offence does not automatically debar an individual from working with children or young people.
- Provide as safe and welcoming environment as possible for children and young people who take part in the life of the church.
- Provide adequate insurance cover for leaders, participants and third parties.
- Ensure that all Youth Workers adhere to a Diocesan Code of Behaviour.
- To identify an independent person who is named and accessible to all in contact with the Church.
- To ensure that groups who are not part of the Church but hire Church Halls for activities are asked if they have DBS Checks, adequate Insurance and a Child Protection Policy and to see evidence of this. If the group does not have a Child Protection Policy they would be asked to adopt the Diocesan policy.

### **The Parochial Church Council will maintain copies of the following forms:**

- The Duties and Responsibilities of Children and Youth Workers
- Annual Parent/Carer Consent
- Parent/Carer Consent for special activities
- A register of children and youth leaders authorised by the PCC.
- Confidential Declaration forms by those working with Children and Young People

**The Parochial Church Council will also be responsible for making available in both the church and the Parish Centre:**

- A First Aid Kit
- An Accident Book
- Notification of Accident Forms for Parents/Carers
- Fire Regulation Procedures for those who participate in child/youth activities.

Policy updated February 2019

Signed.....Canon R I McTeer

Parish Safeguarding Officer Mrs Dianne Chew.

Diocesan Safeguarding officer Beth Miller 07968034075

[berth.miller@durham.anglican.org](mailto:berth.miller@durham.anglican.org)