

## **United Benefice of Lyddington and Wanborough, and Bishopstone with Hinton Parva SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**

This policy was agreed at the Lyddington and Wanborough PCC meeting held on 24 May 2022 and at the Bishopstone with Hinton Parva meeting on 20 June 2022, and reaffirmed at the 17 April 2023 APCM..

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 Benefice will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Appoint a named Parish Safeguarding Officer(s) (PSO) to work across the Benefice to implement policy and procedures, supported by the PCC and community members.
- 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 associated 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.
- Ensure all members of the PCC and other Church Officers have completed the required level of training and holds a current DBS Certificate where appropriate.
- Introduce an Ex-Offenders Policy, in line with the Church of England's requirements.

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

The Benefice appoints: Amanda Mathieson and John Mathieson as the Parish Safeguarding Officers.

Incumbent: Vacant.

Churchwardens: Lyddington and Wanborough: Gaynor Halls

Churchwardens: Bishopstone with Hinton Parva: Doug Stevens and Alan Taylor