

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY: PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

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.

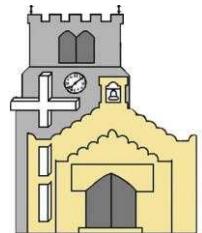
Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Vacant

Incumbent: vacant

Churchwarden: Peter Robinson

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025



## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY: PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**

### **Parish statement on domestic abuse: Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse**

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

#### **We recognise that:**

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

#### **We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:**

##### **In all our activities –**

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

##### **In our publicity –**

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

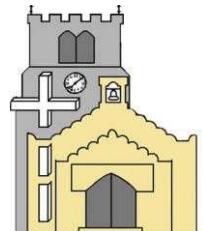
##### **When concerns are raised –**

- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

##### **In our care –**

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone, please contact: Churchwardens



## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY: PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES**

The use of *Social Media* within the ministry of the church is becoming more common. It is seen as a channel to reach and connect with people that we might struggle to reach by other channels.

These good practice guidelines are aimed to help Social Media users to be an effective on-line ambassador for the Parish, the wider Church and our Christian faith.

The principles of common sense and good judgement apply since as a user you are part of a public forum. You are responsible for the things you do, say or write and your actions should be consistent with your work and Christian values.

Social Media is immediate, interactive, conversational and open-ended and as such needs a new way of thinking. Typical examples include: blogs, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Websites, Sound cloud, Audio boo, Foursquare, Google+, Flickr, Instagram, LinkedIn, Yammer and Pinterest.

**Don't rush in:** Think before you post. Read and consider other postings before joining in.

**Transient yet permanent:** be aware that, once posted, your comments may be re-published elsewhere

**You are an Ambassador:** your posts may well be interpreted in your role as representative of the Church.

**Don't hide:** Anonymity or hiding behind an alias is frowned upon when using social media. Shared accounts such as a parish Facebook page need to identify who is responsible for the content.

**Blurring public/private boundaries:** There are risks associated with personal opinions being interpreted as public statements.

**Safeguarding:** The informality of social media can mean that it is harder to maintain a professional distance when working with children, young people and the vulnerable. Private messaging is like meeting someone in private. This is not a replacement for the Safeguarding Policy and must be read in conjunction with that Policy.

**Legal Framework:** Any shared thoughts and reflections posted on Social Media are treated as being published and are subject to legislation including libel, defamation, copyright and data protection.

**Confidentiality:** The use of Social Media does not change the Church's understanding of confidentiality.

**Security:** be mindful of your own security.

Don't share personal information such as your address or telephone number or your next holiday.

These notes are extracted from the guidelines produced by the Diocese of Sheffield which may be viewed on their website at <http://www.sheffield.anglican.org> by searching for Social Media.