



Parish of St Mary & St John the Divine, Balham

Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, Promoting a Safer Church

The following policy was agreed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

This policy is to be followed by all those using the church.

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

- Ensuring all those that use the Church have a responsibility to abide by this policy.
- 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 or with serenity to victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally or with serenity to all those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those who may pose a present risk to others.

The parish and users of the church building 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 and engage with all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse and have training and support.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish or the organisations/people using the Church.
- Display on church premises and on the parish website the details of whom to contact with 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 immediately notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred, in the Church or elsewhere.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community and users of the church, 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 regularly by the church and all hirers, organisations and users of the church.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and 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

Julia de Cruz and (TBC) as the Parish Safeguarding Officers.

Incumbent: **The Revd Jonathan MacNeaney**

Churchwardens: **Diane Holmes and Sarah McDermott**

Date: **March 7th 2023**