

Parish of St. Clement, Oxford

Policy on Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults

The following policy was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 16 May 2018.

1. We are committed to:
 - The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults
 - The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
 - The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
2. We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks.
3. We will respond as soon as possible to every complaint made which suggests that a child, young person or adult for whom we are responsible, may have been harmed. We will refer any such matters to our Safeguarding Referral Group consisting of the Rector, one or both Church Wardens, the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and / or the Assistant PSO to which Group authority to act on behalf of the PCC is hereby granted without obligation to refer back to the PCC. The Group will however be required to report to the PCC from time to time on the exercise of its delegated powers, bearing in mind any legal requirement to maintain confidentiality.
4. We will fully co-operate with the police and local authority in any investigation and we will have a clear reporting procedure in place.
5. We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
6. We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
7. We will seek to arrange 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.
8. We are committed to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
9. In all these principles we will follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice.
10. We will appoint a Verifier to institute DBS criminal record checks, to keep up to date records and to ensure that renewed checks are done when they are due. The Rector will fulfil the role of Recruiter to receive the outcomes of checks and to oversee appointments on behalf of the PCC.

11. We will appoint a Safeguarding Training Officer (STO) to ensure that staff and volunteers working in areas to which safeguarding applies receive the training stipulated by the Diocese. The Officer will liaise with the Diocese as required.
12. We will advise the Diocese which Registered Body we use to process applications for DBS criminal records checks.
13. We will advise the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser if we receive a Disclosure which is 'blemished' or 'positive'.
14. We will review this policy annually, check that our policies are up to date, and supply a copy of the updated policy statement to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is:

Name: Mrs Fiona Livingstone
Address 2 Blackthorn Close, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9JF
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Our Assistant PSO is:

Name Mrs Kim Gordon
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Signed - Incumbent:

Churchwarden:

Churchwarden:

Date: 2018

A copy of this Policy is to be sent to: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GF

Based on the Diocesan model dated October 2014