

LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP of ALL SAINTS CHURCH STEVENAGE
January 2021

**SAFEGUARDING POLICY – CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE and
VULNERABLE ADULTS**

PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

In accordance with the Joint Safeguarding Statement between the Church of England and Methodist Church our church is committed to:

- The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities being the responsibility of the whole Church.
- everyone who participates in the life of the Church having a role to play in promoting a safer church for all the congregation.
- deepening the understanding of, and respect for, the rights of children, young people and vulnerable adults as people of faith in the life of the Church, through promoting, understanding and adherence to this policy.

Foundations

- **Gospel** - Our Church will share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. We welcome all, with particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into our community, where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.
- **Government Guidance**. At All Saints safeguarding work is undertaken within a legislative framework supported by government guidance which sets out a range of safeguarding duties, responsibilities and best practice.

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Key Principles:

The following key principles underpin All Saint's approach to safeguarding practice:

- Creating a safe and caring place for all.
- The welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is paramount.
- Commitment to the prevention of abuse.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Displays in church premises and on the Church website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- We listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.

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- Respond promptly, taking steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following the Anglican House of Bishops' and the Methodist Connexional Safeguarding Teams' guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) or the District Safeguarding Officer and statutory agencies immediately.
- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or affected persons, regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Show integrity, respect and ability to listen to all.
- Demonstrate transparency, openness and accountability
- Actively management of risk ensuring that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- There is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the Church.
- Promote a culture of informed vigilance.
- Regularly evaluate to ensure best practice.

Good Safeguarding Practice

The following key features help All Saints promote and maintain a safer culture that protects and promotes the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults:

- Named Safeguarding Officers (SO) Helen Gale and Georgina Offei who have clear roles and work with the incumbent and the JCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Leadership commitment, at all levels.
- Safeguarding policy available to Church Officers.
- Clear line of accountability within the Church for work on safeguarding.
- Clear reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations.
- In the event of any perceived or potential conflict of interest the welfare of any children and young people involved always takes precedence over all adults.
- Practice and services are informed by on- going learning, review and by the views of children, young people, families and vulnerable adults.
- Clear arrangements for support and/or supervision.

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- Safeguarding training for all Church Officers working with or in contact with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults.
- Effective working with statutory and voluntary sector partners.
- Arrangements for children, young people and vulnerable adults to be able to speak to an independent person, if needed
- Effective information sharing.
- Good record keeping

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

Reviews the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within All Saints community agrees to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

Incumbent Minister: *Rev. Pete Orton*

Churchwardens: *Norman Kiddle, Peter Dron*

This policy was agreed at the Joint Church Council (JCC) Zoom meeting held on:

19 January 2021 and will be reviewed by January 2022 (annually)

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Appendix: **Social Media Policy: (2021)**

All forms of communication provide opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world. They come, however, with values and responsibilities. Whereas the printed word has a certain finality of declaration about it, social media is interactive, conversational and open-ended. Moreover, it happens in a public, not private, space.

At All Saints, we encourage users of social media to see them as tools and as a means of engaging in an interactive conversation with people of all faiths and none. As Gospel people, our conversation aims to be 'seasoned with salt' (Colossians 4:6), and these guidelines aim to help us to do so.

All Saints applies these principles:

- Being credible. Being accurate, fair, thorough and transparent.
- Being consistent. Encouraging constructive criticism and deliberation.
- Being cordial, honest and professional always.
- Being responsive. When we gain insight, we share it where appropriate.
- Being integrated. Wherever possible, align online participation with other communications.
- Being respectful: respecting confidentiality. Respecting the views of others even where we disagree.

We also aim to:

- Be good representatives of the Church. Remembering that we are an ambassador for Christ, the Church and our part of it.
- Disclose our position as a member or officer of the Church, making it clear when speaking personally. Let Galatians 5:22-26 guide our behaviour. Take appropriate care to keep 'work' (paid forums and volunteer positions) and 'personal' (home/social life) separate where possible.
- Participate online in the same way as we would with other public forums taking responsibility for the things we do, say or write - this includes the use of posts, comments, 'humour' and 'opinion' (personal or otherwise).

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- Never share personal details like home address and phone numbers except with someone we know and trust, and if we decide to do so then we use a private message. We are aware that an address can be disclosed in many ways for example via photos or a GPS position as well as in written form.
- We always remember that participating online results in our comments being permanently available and open to being republished in other media. Once something is posted to a blog or other internet site, it should be assumed to be still available even if it is later deleted from the original site.
- We stay within the legal framework and are aware that safeguarding, libel, slander, copyright and data protection laws apply, as well as the constitution and formal disciplines of the Church and its governing body/denomination(s).
- We follow general guidelines on confidentiality, for example if telling a story about anyone, we ask ourselves **'Is this my story to tell?'**

- We are aware that using these mediums may attract interest in us as individuals, so we proceed with care whether we are participating in an official or a personal capacity. If we have any doubts, we take advice, remembering that we are responsible for our online activities.