

LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP of ALL SAINTS CHURCH STEVENAGE
JANUARY 2023

**Annual Review SAFEGUARDING POLICY – CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE
and ADULTS AT RISK**

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 adults at risk 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 adults at risk as people of faith in the life of the Church, through promoting, understanding and adherence to this policy.

Foundations

- **Gospel** - Our Church of All Saints 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, particularly 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.

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 adult at risk is paramount.
- Commitment to the prevention of abuse.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and adults at risk 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.
- 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 manage 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 adults at risk:

- Named Safeguarding Co-ordinators (SO) Helen Gale and Georgina Offei, Linda Parker (Verifier) and Chris FFinch (Risk Assessments) 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:
website allsaints-stevenage.org.uk, displayed on Safeguarding notice board in church and in file labelled ' SAFEGUARDING ' in office.
- 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 adults at risk.
- Clear arrangements for support and/or supervision.
- Safeguarding training for all Church Officers working with or in contact with children, young people and/or adults at risk.
- Effective working with statutory and voluntary sector partners.
- Arrangements for children, young people and adults at risk to be able to speak to an independent person, if needed
- Effective information sharing.
- Good record keeping

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

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

Incumbent Minister

Churchwardens

**This policy to be agreed at the Joint Church Council (JCC) MEETING held on:
17 January 2023 and will be reviewed by January 2024 (annually)**