

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Beighton, Sheffield

SAFEGUARDING POLICY – PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on 4 December 2021.

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

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and/or 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 known risk to others.

In order to fulfil this commitment, 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.
- Keep an up-to-date copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook in the church building. (This can also be referenced online.¹)
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and/or vulnerable adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse. In particular, we will support them to undertake the appropriate safeguarding training via the Diocese (and elsewhere, where appropriate).
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children, young people and/or vulnerable 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, young people and vulnerable adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance (according to section 7 of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, 2018), including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and/or statutory agencies.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred (according to section 8 of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, 2018); in particular, signposting to professional help and offering pastoral care.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a known risk to children, young people and/or vulnerable adults, whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties (according to section 10 of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, 2018).
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually. We will aim to do this in Q1, and report that it has been done in the annual meeting.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, and Procedures and Practices, at least annually. We will aim to do this in Q1, and report that it has been done in the annual meeting.

Each person who works within this church community will be given a copy of this policy, and asked to sign a confirmation, agreeing to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone, please contact any of the following:

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Elinor Noble

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Mike Healey

Churchwardens: Mrs Susan Hayward and Mr Ian Hudson

Contact details for the above are available in the church building and on our website: <http://www.beightonchurch.co.uk/>

¹ Parish Safeguarding Handbook: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>