



St. John the Baptist Church **Safeguarding Policy Statement**



The PCC of St. John the Baptist Church, Greatham formally adopt The House of Bishops safeguarding policy statement 'Promoting A Safer Church' on which this statement is based.

Introduction

- This document sets out the safeguarding policy statement of St. John the Baptist Church. It is based on the latest policy statement of the Church of England Promoting a Safer Church (2017) and should be read in conjunction with the Diocese of Durham Safeguarding policy.
- St. John the Baptist Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and service of church

Safeguarding Statement Areas

- St. John the Baptist Safeguarding Statement falls into six main areas

Policy 1: Promoting a safer environment and culture

St. John the Baptist Church strives to create and maintain different environments that are safer for all God's people, that promote well-being, prevent abuse and create nurturing, caring conditions for all children, young people and adults.

This is the responsibility of all who work and volunteer for St. John the Baptist Church, and particularly those who have regular contact with all children, young people and adults in different contexts within the parish.

In Promoting a Safer Church, a 'vulnerable adult' is defined as 'a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect themselves from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation, is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability or illness, emotional fragility or distress, or otherwise; and for that purpose, the reference to being impaired is to being temporarily or indefinitely impaired'.

St. John the Baptist Church supports all those who have regular contact with all children, young people and adults in line with promoting a safer Church and challenge the abuse of power.

Policy 2: Safer recruiting

St. John the Baptist Church recruits those with any responsibility related to all children, young people and adults within the church, in accordance with the Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance (2016).

St. John the Baptist Church equips and trains those who have responsibility related to working with any children, young people and adults. Training is required in order for them to have the confidence and skills they need to care and support all children, young people and adults and to recognise and respond to abuse. This will be done through keeping up to date on Safeguarding training. This is a requirement of those who work or volunteer with these groups to undergo safeguarding training appropriate to the role they undertake.

Policy 3: Responding promptly to all safeguarding concerns or allegations

Anyone who brings any safeguarding suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or non-current abuse to the notice of the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Keith Wilkinson, will be responded to respectfully and in a timely manner, in line with statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures and the relevant policy and practice guidance from the Church of England.

All safeguarding work will be recorded in line with the relevant safeguarding practice guidance. All suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations that reach the threshold for reporting to the statutory authorities will be reported via the diocesan safeguarding adviser, Beth Miller, or other designated safeguarding adviser, to the appropriate statutory authorities.

If anyone feels there is a child, young person or adult at immediate risk they should contact either the Police on **101**, or contact our local social services:

Telephone: 01429 284284

Email: childrenshub@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk.

Telephone: 01642 524 552 (For outside office ours).

Where possible consent should be given by the child's parents or the vulnerable adult, unless it is considered that seeking consent will increase the risk of harm.

Policy 4: Pastoral care for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons

St. John the Baptist Church will offer pastoral support to all those in their care that have been abused, regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred. St. John the Baptist Church is committed to continuing to learn how to respond in a supportive and healing way to the needs of those who have suffered abuse.

Policy 5: Pastoral care for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons

St. John the Baptist Church, in exercising its responsibilities to suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations of abuse, will endeavour to respect the rights under criminal, civil and (where appropriate) ecclesiastical law of any accused.

A legal presumption of innocence will be maintained during the statutory and (where appropriate) Church inquiry process. As the process progresses additional assessment, therapy and support services may be offered.

St. John the Baptist Church will take responsibility for ensuring that steps are taken to protect others when there are known persons accessing church services who are considered to be a risk to any children, young people and adults. This will be done in conjunction with police, probation and the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Beth Miller, and aim to mitigate any identified risks according to a safeguarding agreement.

Policy 6: Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others

St. John the Baptist Church will ensure that any risk has been assessed and is being managed in a safeguarding agreement in accordance with the relevant policy and practice guidance. This will be done in collaboration with the relevant statutory agencies in accordance with criminal, civil and (where appropriate) ecclesiastical law.

Safer Recruitment Support and Training

We shall ensure that all church officers who work with children, young people and/or adults are:

- Recruited following the House of Bishops' Safer Recruitment practice guidance;
- Aware of and work to House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance (includes both policies and practice guidance);
- Complete diocesan safeguarding training at least every three years;

We shall ensure that appropriate insurance to cover is in place for all activities undertaken in the name of the PCC which involve any children, young people and adults.

Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

St. John the Baptist Church, Greatham Safeguarding Officer – Keith Wilkinson can be contacted on 07307184000 to discuss or report a safeguarding concern or incident (please note this number is not answered 24hrs a day, 7 days a week).

Further Safeguarding contact details can be found on the '*Safeguarding*' page on our website.

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