

Policy Statement of St. James Church. Burnopfield.

Safeguarding of adults in the Church

- This Church recognises that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and we recognise that each one of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some times in our lives. For the benefit of this policy the following definition used is taken from the '**Diocesan Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy**'

'The term **vulnerable adult** is any person aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation'

Some of the factors which may increase vulnerability include

- Sensory or physical disability or impairment
 - A learning disability
 - A physical illness
 - Mental ill health (including dementia) chronic or acute.
 - Addiction to alcohol or drugs
 - The failing faculties of old age
 - A permanent or temporary reduction in physical, mental or emotional capacity brought about by life events, e.g. bereavement, previous abuse, trauma or family breakdown.
- As members of this Parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care to all adults and to all those whom we come into contact with.
 - We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
 - We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
 - We undertake to take proper care in the appointment of those people who will work with people who may be vulnerable. We will also protect those workers by providing the necessary training and support.
 - We undertake to ensure that any home visits made by volunteers on behalf of St James Church to an **identified** vulnerable adult will be undertaken by two people.
 - It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people, and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
 - The Parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.

St James PCC has appointed Norma Brown and Pamela Martin as Safeguarding Officers to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

This policy document to be reviewed annually by the Parochial Church Council