



Safeguarding Policy Statement

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

St James' Parochial Church Council fully recognises and accepts the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy Statement, 'Promoting a Safer Church 2017,' and commits to comply with the current Church of England and diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance. In so doing, the PCC will comply with the secular multi-agency safeguarding procedures relating to children and young people and adults who are experiencing or at risk of harm, abuse or neglect.

We are committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture within our parish and in our parish activities by adhering to safe working practices and acknowledging the principle that safeguarding is everyone's business.

In addition we will ensure that all individuals and organisations who hire/use our premises for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults are aware both of our Safeguarding Policy and of their own responsibilities to have appropriate safeguarding policies and processes in place, which include safer recruitment.

- Safely recruiting and supporting all who have any responsibilities relating to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church in accordance with the House of Bishops' Safer Recruitment: Practice Guidance 2016.

We will ensure that the people appointed are aware of the diocesan and parish safeguarding policies and of their roles and responsibilities. We will support these people by ensuring that they receive diocesan safeguarding training commensurate with their role and that they are fully aware of and have access to the practice guidance.

- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation in accordance with the statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures and the House of Bishops' safeguarding practice guidance.

We will ensure that any complaint concerning a vulnerable person who may have been harmed or is in significant danger will be reported immediately, and we will fully cooperate with statutory agencies during any investigation into allegations concerning a member of the Church community or any other person.

- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected people.

We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing an appropriate ministry with such a person, which recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation, and providing them with details of local and national support agencies.

- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected people.

We will work with others to ensure the appropriate support for such people and for those who are affected. Where such a person is considered to pose a risk to others, we will work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor to mitigate any identified risk.

- Responding to those who may pose a present risk to others.

We will endeavour to offer pastoral care and support whilst ensuring that any risk has been assessed and is being managed in accordance with House of Bishops' policy and guidance and in collaboration with the statutory agencies and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

Safeguarding Representative(s)

We will ensure that there is an identified person or that there are identified people to be the Parish Safeguarding Representative(s), who will be suitably recruited and trained and aware of the role and responsibilities and who will be the point of contact for any concerns.

We have appointed Caroline Adams and Andrew Mimmack as our Parish Safeguarding Representatives for children and adults respectively.

Guidance

Copies of diocesan and parish guidelines and procedures are held by the parish office and can be accessed by contacting the office. A hard copy of our full policy can be found at the back of the church, in the children's corner. The diocesan guidelines are also available on the internet at <http://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/resources/>.

Review

This policy will be formally reviewed annually and a copy will be shared with the Archdeacon at the time of the Visitation.

An initial policy statement was agreed by St James' PCC on 13th July 2015 and subsequently updated by the PCC on 11th July 2016 and 17th July 2017. On 14th May 2018 it was replaced with the Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement issued by the Diocese of Exeter in August 2017, which has been reviewed annually.

Date of Adoption

The PCC of this Church agreed and adopted the above policy at its meeting on 14th May 2018 and subsequently reviewed it on 13th May 2019, 11th May 2020, 10th May 2021, 11th May 2022, and 16th May 2023 and 14th May 2024. The next review will take place at the first PCC meeting following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held in March 2025.

Rector's signature

Henry Payne

Churchwarden's signature

L. Mallett

Churchwarden's signature

A. Mimmack

Date

30.05.2024