

St James' Church Safeguarding Policy Statement

The initial policy statement was agreed at St James' PCC meeting held on 13th July 2015 and updated subsequently at the PCC meetings held on 11th July 2016 and 17th July 2017. On 14th May 2018 this was replaced with the Church Safeguarding Policy Statement issued by the Diocese in August 2017.

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 complying with the current Church of England and Diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance. In so doing we will comply with the secular multi-agency safeguarding procedures relating to children and young people and adults 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 renting/using our premises for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults is aware of this, our Safeguarding Policy, and aware 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 those appointed are aware of the Diocesan and parish safeguarding policies and aware of their roles and responsibilities. We will support them 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 made with regard to 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 with them an appropriate ministry that 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 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 Pat Cockman 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 St James' 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/>.

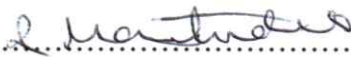
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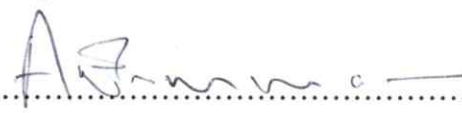
This policy will be formally reviewed annually and a copy will be shared with the Archdeacon at the time of the Visitation.

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 and 10th May 2021. The PCC will review this policy annually. The next review will take place at the first PCC meeting following the APCM to be held on 20th March 2022.

Rector's signature 

Churchwarden's signature 

Churchwarden's signature 

Date 30.05.2021