

Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Children and Vulnerable Adults.

The following policy is that of the whole of the Benefice. It has been agreed by each of the Parochial Church Councils (PCC). In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our Benefice is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the churches.
- 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 risk to others.

The Benefice will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parishes Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCCs to implement policy and procedures.
- Each PCC will appoint a Safeguarding Representative as the key link between the Parishes Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and the PCC concerning safeguarding matters.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parishes.
- Display in church premises and on the Benefice 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 and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any known member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Application of the Policy

The principal practical effect of the policy is that the PCCs have resolved that no-one is to be appointed to any role where contact with children or other vulnerable people may be had without them having been a regular member of the congregation or of the group involved for at least six months.

The Diocesan and Home Office guidelines for the protection of children stipulate searches of statutory organizations' records which the PCCs reserves the right to carry out.

The PCCs may decline to appoint any person to any role or may refuse to ratify any appointment.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this Benefice.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Dates of PCC meetings when Safeguarding Policy was agreed.

Appendix 2: List of names of current post holders.

Signed: *John Harries*
Rev'd Dr John Harries
Incumbent
Date: *30th June 2019*

Appendix 1

Dates of PCC meetings when Safeguarding Policy was agreed

Sutton:	15th May 2019
Wincle:	13th June 2019
Wildboardclough:	8th April 2019
Bosley:	25th April 2019

Appendix 2

Current post holders

Incumbent: Rev Dr John Harries

Parishes Safeguarding Officer: Neil Wain

PCC Safeguarding Representatives:

Sutton:	Jane Sinclair Smith
Wincle:	Jenny Marsh
Wildboardclough:	Rachael Belfield
Bosley:	Neil Wain

Churchwardens:

Sutton:	Audrey Fernyhough, John Evans
Wincle:	John Henshall
Wildboardclough:	Vacant
Bosley:	AlisonTottle, Neil Wain