

The Chadbrook Benefice

**The Churches of Holy Trinity with St Catherines, Long Melford,
St Peter and St Paul, Alpheton and St George, Shimplingthorne's**

Safeguarding Policy

The Parish Churches within the Chadbrook Benefice (in all aspects of its life) are committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people, both in society as a whole and in their own communities. They fully accept, endorse and will implement the principle enshrined in the Children Act 1989 that the welfare of the child is paramount. We will foster and encourage best practice within our communities by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents and carers in the care of their children. We will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well being of children and young people. We are committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when a child protection investigation is necessary.

In implementing our policy on safeguarding children and young people, the Parochial Church Council's within the Benefice are committed to the following principles:

- ❖ The safeguarding, care and nurture of children and young people within our church community
- ❖ Carefully recruiting and training ordained and lay ministers, volunteers and paid workers with children and young people. The use of the Criminal Records Bureau, amongst other tools, will be used to check the background of each person.
- ❖ Responding immediately to any complaint made, that a child or young person for whom we are responsible may have been harmed or subjected to abuse.
- ❖ Fully co-operating with statutory agencies during any investigation they make into allegations concerning a member of the church community.
- ❖ Seeking to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.

In each Parish we will:

- ❖ Create a culture of *informed vigilance*, which takes children and young people seriously.
- ❖ Ensure that appropriate health and safety policies and procedures are in place.
- ❖ Provide appropriate insurance cover for all activities undertaken in the name of each parish
- ❖ Accept the prime duty of care placed upon the Rector and each Parochial Church Council to ensure the well being of children and young people in the church community. Adopt and implement a Safeguarding Policy and Procedures accepting as a minimum the House of Bishops Policy on Safeguarding but informed by additional Diocesan procedures and recommended good practice.
- ❖ Appoint a Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Benefice to work with the Rector and the Parochial Church Councils to implement and review policy and procedures. The Co-ordinator must ensure that any concerns about a child or young person or the behaviour of an adult are reported both to the statutory agencies and to the Diocesan Safeguarding

Officer. Ideally, this Co-ordinator should be someone without other pastoral responsibility for children and young people in the Benefice.

- ❖ The Safeguarding Officer shall ensure that all those who work with children and/or young people attend Diocesan Safeguarding training and are subject to recruitment procedures referred to above. This applies to individuals already in post.
- ❖ Appoint a person, who may be different from the Co-ordinator, to be a Children and Young Person's Advocate. This should be someone whom children and young people feel that they could talk to about any problems, if they so wish.
- ❖ Ensure that suitably experienced and skilled pastoral care is available for those adults who have disclosed that they have previously experienced abuse.
- ❖ Provide, as appropriate, support for all parents, carers and families in the congregation.
- ❖ Promote the Safeguarding Policy to the local communities and ensure that useful advice-line numbers are included in appropriate publications and locations.
- ❖ Work towards creating an environment within our church communities where all individuals are valued, welcomed and feel safe.
- ❖ Ensure that all those authorised to work with children and young people, or in a position of authority, are appropriately recruited, trained and supported and provided with a copy of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Good Practice Guidelines. Pay particular attention to disabled children and young people and those from minority communities to ensure their full integration and safety within the church communities.
- ❖ Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, procedures and good practice annually at the first meeting of each Parochial Church Council following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Signed:

Matthew Lawson (Rector)
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Policy approved by:

Long Melford PCC on 12th September 2016

Alpheton & Shimpling PCC on 20th September 2016