

St Mary's overall purpose is that Jesus may be known....

- more deeply in our hearts,
- in our character,
- in our relationships,
- in our community, and
- in our world.



The Parish of St Mary's Cholsey SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on November 20th 2023. This policy will be reviewed every year.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church places a high priority on safeguarding the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing of all our children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Our policies are taken from the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook 2018. Our Church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Understanding that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- 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 Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all, being vigilant in the prevention and detection of forms of abuse.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and team to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults, including the PCC members. Enabling them to have the confidence and skills to recognize and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises, including the Laurence Hall and signpost from the home page of the parish 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 Team 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 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.

- Ensure that all members of the church community who are using social media tools on behalf of the church will adhere to the guidance set out in The Church of England parish safeguarding handbook Section 12.
- Inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if we use an alternative DBS Umbrella Body to APCS and if we receive any DBS Disclosures that are not clear.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually. To implement changes if necessary.

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

This church appoints Alex Hammond as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent - Rev Rebecca Peters

Churchwardens - Tim Hammond and Rosie Price

Date 20th November 2023

Please send a copy of your Safeguarding Policy to: safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org or Diocese of Oxford Safeguarding Team, Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1GF