

St. John the Evangelist, Bishops Wood

Safeguarding Policy

November 2019

**Safeguarding Officer for St. Mary & St. Chad Church Brewood
& St. John the Evangelist, Bishops Wood**

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The Parochial Church Council (PCC) reserves the right to review this policy as appropriate

St. John the Evangelist, Bishops Wood

Safeguarding Mission Statement

- Safeguarding adults and children is a vitally important issue that requires a professional attitude and commitment. St. John's Church Brewood regards the issue of safeguarding as a major priority.
- We are committed to establishing a safe, caring environment where all are welcomed and respected.
- We will ensure that all those in the Church who work directly with vulnerable adults and children are aware of the need to protect them from harm.
- We will foster a climate of openness and trust.
- We will respond without delay to any complaint made which suggests that an adult or child may have been harmed, co-operating with all relevant agencies.
- With regard to all our safeguarding principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recommended good practice.

Statement of Good Practice

This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

1 We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.

- We recognise that a position of power in relation to another creates a risk of vulnerability. As a consequence we strive to ensure that we consider power when working with people and leading them.
- We recognise that children by virtue of legal status and dependency on adults for their emotional and physical needs may be vulnerable and at a disadvantage. We commit to considering this in our children's activities – undertaking supervision of staff working with them and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.
- We understand that illness, disability, race, mental health and other issues can put adults in a position of vulnerability. We accept that these can be long term (ongoing), or temporary. We commit to considering this in our adults activities and events – undertaking supervision of staff and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.
- We commit to transparency in our actions and accountability for our work.

2 As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults and children to whom we minister.

- We will ensure that those in leadership in ministries that involve working with vulnerable persons have appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks
- We will ensure that those who care for people in our parish undertake appropriate safeguarding training
- We commit to discussing safeguarding as a regular PCC agenda item.

3 We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church. At present this is applicable to the following groups, although the list is not exhaustive and may be added to in the future as appropriate.

- School visits
- Drop in at Bishops Wood Village Hall

4 We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.

- We will ensure that those in positions of trust (such as wardens), and those with remits or leadership of groups involving children have appropriate enhanced DBS checks and that these are updated every 5 years.
- We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding.
- Whilst we have a named safeguarding co-ordinator we will accept collective ownership for this important issue.
- We will be transparent, open and not have secrets.

5 The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.

- We will consider the impact of power, disadvantage, inclusion, disability, age and race on how we provide and plan for our ministry.
- We will actively (but appropriately), challenge each other in our work in order to ensure we consider a wide range of perspectives and views, endeavouring to ensure that we do not oppressively impose our own values to another's detriment.
- Where a person struggles with an activity due to disadvantage, disability or illness we will aim to assist them so they can participate and contribute as a full part of the church.

6 It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.

- We will not collude, keep secrets or make decisions when we have suspicion of abuse.
- We will engage with and welcome external perspectives in order to promote a healthy accountable culture. We will do this through seeking via discussion the views of others, and through the use of external agencies and the diocese safeguarding service where appropriate.
- We will report without bias or prejudice. We will report and not investigate.
- We will record concerns factually in diocese suggested formats.
- We will not take chances with the welfare of children or vulnerable adults.
- We have zero tolerance to abuse and put the welfare of vulnerable children and adults first.
- We take seriously training and activities relating to the safeguarding of children and seek to engrain this in our culture. We are open to scrutiny and encourage this in others.

7 We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable; and their support, training, resourcing, and regular review.

- For statements regarding appropriate appointment and training see above.
- Our incumbent undertakes to ensure that to the best of his knowledge all PCC members, wardens and ministry leaders are of good standing.
- The PCC undertakes to appoint and upskill a dedicated Safeguarding co-ordinator.
- Safeguarding co-ordination undertakes to maintain a relationship with the Diocesan safeguarding team and to ensure that this policy is followed.

8 The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.

- The Parish will report and record in line with Diocese policies and comply with local guidance for implementing national policies as defined in diocese policies. These include the diocese safeguarding policy, recording with care policy, social media policy and safer recruitment policy.

9 Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

- Those working with vulnerable adults or children will sign a declaration to state that they have read and agree to abide by the points outlined in this policy.

This church appoints **Megan Pittwood** to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies as Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

Incumbent:

Churchwarden:

Churchwarden:

Date:
