



Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

As a community of faith, we consider the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults to be a key part of our mission and ministry. As such, we will always respond to any concerns in compliance with UK statute and guidance.

As part of the Diocese of Oxford, we abide by the guidelines laid out in the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook. This short policy document should be read in the context of these Diocesan guidelines.

A safeguarding concern is any situation where a parishioner or other person has reason to believe that:

- a child may be being abused emotionally, physically, sexually, spiritually or neglected,
- a vulnerable adult may be being abused emotionally, physically, sexually, financially, spiritually or neglected, and not able to protect themselves.

For definitions of a child, a vulnerable adult, abuse or neglect, refer to the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook.

In the event of witnessing behaviour which causes you concern (including the behaviour of an adult towards a child or vulnerable adult), or if a child or vulnerable adult informs you of something which causes you concern, you should immediately contact by telephone a member of the Safeguarding Team:

Rev'd Hugh Ellis	Vicar	07748966042
Rev'd Jackie Lock	Associate Priest	07976719909
Robyn Connelly	Children's and Families' Minister	07467142541
Jo Norman	Safeguarding Officer	07802748112

Do not share concerns by email, and do not share with anyone outside the Safeguarding Team.

The Safeguarding Team will keep a record of the discussion, in line with Data Protection legislation. In consultation with the safeguarding team, a decision will be made as to what further action (if any) is appropriate, including referral to the Diocesan safeguarding team and/or other agencies where relevant.

If you are working with children or vulnerable adults, you must familiarise yourself with the relevant Good Practice Guide, contained within the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook. Copies of these are available from the safeguarding team or online.

Please be aware of any additional vulnerabilities eg. disability (including learning disability), young people at risk of sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, mental health problems, homelessness, substance and alcohol misuse, risk of radicalisation. Both adults and children may be at risk of trafficking, modern day slavery, forced marriage and FGM, it is important to be aware of the groups most at risk and those from communities that practise FGM.

Children or vulnerable adults may ask you not to tell anybody about what they disclose to you. Do not promise to keep it a secret. Explain that you will only tell the people who need to know in order to keep them and others safe.

The policy of All Saints is to request DBS clearance for adults working directly with children and vulnerable adults, and for those in positions of trust.

In using mobile phones, email or social media to communicate with children and young people or vulnerable adults, please be aware of the guidelines laid out in the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook.

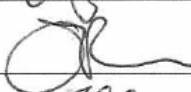
For any specific issues, see Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook or speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team.

Link to online version of Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook.

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-handbook/>

Approved by All Saints PCC at a meeting on: 22nd September 2021

Signed:  (Vicar)

 (Churchwarden)

 (Churchwarden)

This document will be revised annually and the next review is due in July 2022