

All Saints Leyton Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement

Policy statement on the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults

Please note:

- In relation to child protection this applies whether or not there are any children or youth work groups in the Parish as it is likely that children will attend the church in some capacity – for example at weddings.
- In relation to vulnerable adults the guidance applies to all Parishes.
- This Safeguarding Policy and agreement of implementation should be recorded in the PCC meeting minutes and reviewed annually.

Safeguarding Statement: Parish of All Saints Leyton

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of All Saints Leyton takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

This Safeguarding Statement applies to all who make up the church 'workforce' which includes all clergy, holders of Bishop's licence or permission, those commissioned or authorised by the Bishop, those, paid or unpaid, who hold positions of responsibility in a parish and work with children or vulnerable adults, and those with representational parish ministry, for example; churchwarden, organist, server & choir members.

For the purposes of this document the term 'Parish' is used to denote the PCC and Incumbent who are together responsible for ensuring that the House of Bishops safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented.

For the purposes of this document a child is anyone under the age of eighteen years.

Policy

1. The All Saints Leyton PCC has adopted the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy Statement' as our Safeguarding policy.

A copy of the full relevant policy is obtainable on the Diocese of Chelmsford's website www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding and a hard copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook is accessible in the Vestry. Our Safeguarding Officer, Sandra Buffonge, and the Vicar, Revd Maria Holmden, also have copies.

2. The Parish Safeguarding Representative at All Saints Leyton is Sandra Buffonge and has been appointed by the PCC.

Statement of Commitment

The PCC will develop a safeguarding culture that:

- Creates an environment where there is awareness and vigilance about the signs, symptoms and impacts of abuse.
- Enables and encourages all concerns or allegations to be raised in order to protect children and adults from harm.
- Ensures all those who work or volunteer on behalf of the church with children and adults achieve the standards required by this policy.
- Holds to account those in the church community who disregard the safety and well-being of children and adults.

To bring this about we will:

- Formally adopt the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy Statement'.
- Review the implementation of the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy Statement' annually.
- Invite our PSR(s) to become a member of the PCC or attend at least one PCC meeting each year. (At this meeting the PSR will provide a report on Safeguarding for the parish.)
- Ensure that all those authorised to work with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately **recruited** according to safer recruitment practice and are adequately supported.
- Ensure that all those authorised to work with children and vulnerable adults are **trained** appropriately for their roles, including Diocesan Safeguarding Training.
- Provide appropriate insurance cover for all activities undertaken in the name of the church, which involve children or vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that an **Activity Plan** and **Risk Assessment** is completed and reviewed (at least once a year) for each activity, which is associated with either children or vulnerable adults and run in the name of the church.
- Comply with Data Protection Principles¹ – specifically with reference to storing information about the 'church workforce', including volunteers, who have completed a confidential declaration and/or undergone DBS checks and for Safeguarding Agreements of offenders and others who may pose a risk.

The most important point to bear in mind is, if in doubt about any safeguarding matter contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) whose job it is to offer advice, guidance and support in all situations in which a child or adult may be at risk. For this purpose the DST can be contacted at any time on:

01245 294444

Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR)

Sandra Buffonge

Contact details: (07449 024224) dbsrecruiter@yahoo.com

Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Contact details: 01245 294444 (24/7) or email: safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

Safeguarding contact details for Waltham Forest

Children's Services: 020 8496 2310 (emergency out of hours: 020 8496 3000)

MASH (Multiple Agency Support Hub) 0208-496-6503

National Helplines

Childline: 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk

Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 200 0247

MACSAS: 08088 01 03 40 (**Ministers and clergy sexual abuse survivors**): www.macsas.org.uk

Mencap Learning Disability Helpline: 0808 808 1111 (Option 2)

Stop It Now! 0808 100 0900 (For anyone who may need help preventing abuse, even in themselves)

Women's Aid: 0808 2000 247 (Seeking to end domestic violence against women and girls):

www.womensaid.org.uk

Samaritans: 116 123 www.samaritans.org

¹ See ICO for http://ico.org.uk/for_organisations/data_protection