

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Ashford Hill with Headley PCC

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Emma Rivers, tel: 0779 093 4972

The PCC of Ashford Hill with Headley churches recognises the importance of its ministry with all members of the community, including children, young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC acknowledges the need to provide a safe and caring environment for people in these groups, and accepts that these people may be the victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect. This Policy therefore has been adopted by the PCC, and will be reviewed regularly.

Introduction

For the purposes of this Policy, all references to:

'child', 'children', 'young person', 'young people' – whether singular or plural – are used interchangeably and are taken to refer to those under 18 years of age

'workers', 'staff', 'volunteers', 'helpers' are used interchangeably and are taken to refer to anyone interacting with children on behalf of St Mary's, Kingsclere.

'abuse' refers to any of the recognised forms of abuse as outlined in the "Guidelines for working with Children and Vulnerable Adults" booklet

We have a Safeguarding Policy to help protect children, young people and vulnerable adults by creating a safe and positive environment for them. Although no procedures can offer complete protection, if we follow these procedures we minimise the risk from abuse and exploitation. The policy also sets out the standards that are required from all those who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults and through the use of best practice guidelines will help to deter those who would wish to abuse those vulnerable members of our church community.

Policy

The Parochial Church Council in the Parish of Ashford Hill with Headley is committed to:

- The safeguarding, care and nurture of children, young people and vulnerable adults within our church community and who participate in any activity of the church;
- Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all who work with these groups, including the use of outside agencies for example the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) to check the background of those offering to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults
- Respond without delay to every report or cause for concern that a child, young person or vulnerable adult for whom it is responsible may be or may have been harmed in any way;
- Full cooperation with statutory agencies during any investigation into allegations concerning abuse in the church community;
- Work with the Safeguarding Department at the Diocese of Winchester to provide informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse
- Seek advice from the Safeguarding Department at the Diocese of Winchester should any member of the church community be known or thought to pose a threat

The PCC have appointed a Safeguarding Officer to assist in the implementation of this policy and who will ensure that all procedures and guidance set out by the Diocese of Winchester are followed. The Safeguarding Officer will also ensure that any concerns are appropriately reported both to the statutory agencies and to the Diocesan Safeguarding department without delay and that information is kept confidential.

The PCC will make further provision for any off-site or residential activities that may take place involving children, young people or vulnerable adults including carrying out a detailed Risk Assessment before such activity commences.

The PCC will provide appropriate insurance cover for activities involving children and young people in the parish.

This policy will be reviewed by the PCC at least annually, or sooner should guidance be received from the Safeguarding Department at the Diocese of Winchester. The PCC will look for ways to improve and extend the policy as work with children in the parish develops.

Further guidance is given in the booklet "Guidelines for working with children and vulnerable adults" which is attached to this policy.

Approved by the PCC: January 2019

To be reviewed: January 2020

Signed _____

Date: _____