

Diocese of Worcester - Parish of Holy Trinity & St Matthew

PARISH SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is at all times paramount and takes precedence over all other considerations.

We will fully accept and implement the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy Statement 'Promoting a Safer Church' as the policy statement for this Parish. This is summarized below.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- 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.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) 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 to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on 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 Adviser (DSA) 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.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

As a parish, we agree to follow the procedures and guidance set out in the 'The Parish Safeguarding Handbook', which details the safeguarding responsibilities for parishes as outlined in the House of Bishops' Safeguarding and Practice Guidance. A copy of this book is held by the Parish Safeguarding Officer and can be found at <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/diocesan-compendium/safeguarding/safeguarding-policies/> together with a full list of associated Diocesan policies and links.

This policy was circulated to and agreed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in April 2020 and is displayed on the noticeboard at services.

This church appointed Mrs Penny Welford as the Parish Safeguarding Officer at the APCM on 7 April 2019.

Incumbent : Rev Robert Farmer Churchwarden: Phil Welling