

Holy Trinity Church, Tansley
<http://www.tansleyholymtrinitychurch.org>
(Diocese of Derby)

Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Holy Trinity Church, Tansley, adopts and endorses The Diocese of Derby Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults Policy and the Church of England National Statement of Safeguarding Principles:

The Church of England works in partnership with other Christian Churches and other agencies in delivering safeguarding.

We are committed to:

- the care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with all: children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support
- best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse

To this end we will:

- carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with the principles of Safer Recruitment
- respond without delay to every complaint made, that any adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation
- seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including feelings of alienation and/or isolation
- seek to protect survivors of sexual abuse from the possibility of further harm and abuse
- seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of respect and responsibility, where they are trusted by others
- seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The PCC of Holy Trinity Church, Tansley, in the Diocese of Derby adopts and endorses the Church of England national safeguarding policies and practice guidance currently set out in the following documents:

- Promoting a Safe Church (safeguarding policy for adults), 2006
- Protecting All God's Children (safeguarding policy for children and young people), 4th edition, 2010

- Responding to Domestic Abuse (guidelines for those with pastoral responsibility), 2006
- Responding Well to those who have been sexually abused (policy and guidance for the Church of England), 2011
- Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations (2015)
- Risk Assessment for Individuals Who May Pose Risk to Children or Adults (2015)
- Safer Recruitment (2016)
- Safeguarding in Religious Communities (2015)
- Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church (2015)
- Safeguarding Guidance for Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships (2015)
- Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework (2016)

The PCC of Holy Trinity Church, Tansley, is fully committed to implementing new Church of England practice guidance through the '*Diocese of Derby Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance*' document and will review any changes to this Policy.

Finally, there are two key statutory guidance documents that should be followed:

'Working Together to Safeguard Children – a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.' 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf

'Care and Support Statutory Guidance - issued under the Care Act 2014'. Section 14: Adult Safeguarding <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

Within each of these documents there are references to supplementary national government guidance relating to specific situations or circumstances.

Thus, the '*Diocese of Derby Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance*' 2016 represents our commitment to embody the national policies, principles and practice guidance and to promote and ensure best safeguarding practice across the Diocese: in churches, 'Fresh Expressions' groups, parishes and communities, schools, youth clubs and voluntary groups – with and for thousands of people; children, young people and adults, across the Diocese of Derby.

The Responsibilities of the PCC and Parish officers:

The PCC is responsible for approving, adopting and promoting the '*Diocese of Derby Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance*' 2016 and monitoring safeguarding activity in the Parish. The PCC must appoint a Parish Safeguarding Link (PSL), whose responsibilities are set out below.

Safeguarding should be a regular agenda item on the PCC meeting agenda (minimum of three times a year) and the PCC should receive reports of activity from the PSL at the meeting prior to the APCM relating to the previous year's work and planning for the future. The PCC should support the PSL and the clergy in safeguarding matters and ensure that the PSL has sufficient resources and capacity to undertake their role and responsibilities.

The PCC should ensure that any issues arising from Parish Self-Audit tool, or the Activity Risk Assessments must be acted upon and/or the insurers are advised as to the reason why the risk remains.

The PCC should ensure that there is sufficient insurance cover relating to public liability, that any policy covers church activities away from parish premises and that the parish insurance policy is kept up-to-date.

The PCC should ensure that Parish insurers are aware of any safeguarding issue that might affect the terms of their policy cover,

The PCC must support all those in the parish to access safeguarding training as required.

PCC and Parish Officers Should:

- support the PSL, volunteers, helpers and leaders in promoting safe and positive practice by reviewing information about the appointment of volunteers, helpers and leaders and their compliance with the *'Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment' (June 2016)* and the *'Safeguarding Contract and Code of Conduct for all who work with children and adults within the Church'* and sign to say that they have seen these and agree to follow them
- promote a positive attitude to safeguarding and safe practice by raising awareness and

ensuring that the *'Diocese of Derby Safeguarding: What to do if you have concerns...'*

flowchart

poster is displayed prominently in the church and church hall.

The Responsibilities of the Parish Safeguarding Link:

The Parish Safeguarding Link (PSL) is the safeguarding lead for children and/or adults within the parish and, with the clergy and licensed ministers, is responsible for promoting this safeguarding policy, procedure and guidance and related documents within the Parish and ensuring that the PCC approves and adopts the documents annually.

The PSL does not need to be an elected member of the PCC but may be co-opted. However, PSL must attend sufficient PCC meetings to enable he/she to advise the PCC on any safeguarding implications that arise on any agenda items discussed.

The PSL should:

- ensure that the *'Diocese of Derby Safeguarding: What to do if you have concerns...'* flowchart is displayed prominently in the church and church hall and anywhere regular activities, involving children or adults, take place under the auspices of the church
- ensure that any safeguarding concern is dealt with by the Parish in accordance with the policies of the Church of England and this guidance. In doing so PSL will ensure that any actions taken by the Parish are agreed, *in advance*, with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST)
- report annually to their Parish Church Council (PCC) prior to the APCM (and at other times as requested) including a review of safeguarding activity in the previous year and any plans to promote effective safeguarding activity in the Parish over the coming year

- collate information regarding those in their Parish who require safeguarding training and liaising with the Diocese of Derby Safeguarding Team (DST) to arrange access to training.
- maintain local training records which they will share with the DST as required
- draw to the attention of the PCC any issues arising from Activity Risk Assessments completed either by Church Groups or external groups hiring premises, requiring remedial action
- ensure that Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and other aspects in the national practice guidance on *Safer Recruitment 2016* are carried out for all relevant volunteers, leaders, and others as appropriate
- ensure that all volunteers have signed a contract and at least one of the written references must be followed up with direct contact to ensure its accuracy in line with *'Safeguarding Contract and Code of Conduct for all those who work with children and/or adults within the Church'*
- ensure that all relevant volunteers, staff and post-holders (e.g. churchwardens, PCC members and parish officers) have signed to say they have read the *'Safeguarding in the Parish: A Reference Guide 2016'* and that they are able to access the *'Diocese of Derby Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance' 2016* and are willing to use them in any work they do within the church
- ensure (and monitor) the use of *'Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment' (June 2016)* across the parish/benefice for all appointments working with children, young people and adults
- ensure that volunteers and leaders have signed to say that they have seen *the above* document and the *'Safeguarding Contract and Code of Conduct for all who work with children and adults within the Church'* and sign to say that they have seen these and agree to follow them
- retain relevant documents relating to the employment or volunteering role for the duration of the person's role and after leaving in accordance with the *"Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church" 2015* and the *Diocesan policy on Safeguarding Record-Keeping 2015*
- promote a positive attitude to safeguarding and safe practice by:
 - raising awareness,
 - ensuring that the *'Diocese of Derby Safeguarding: What to do if you have concerns...'* flowchart poster is displayed prominently in the church
 - scrutinising general and specific activity risk assessment records completed by group leaders
 - assist in the completion of specific activity risk assessments relating to individuals.

Along with the Rector and Church Wardens, the PSL will lead on completing the parish Self-Audit tool every 5 years or after 12 months' of a new Incumbent's Installation, and report the findings to the PCC.

The PCC supports the following Policy on Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults: Supporting families, parents and carers.

It is suggested that vulnerable adult and child protection should be seen within the context of family, parents and carer support. If one supports the family, parents or carer, one supports the vulnerable adult or child or young person.

Practice Guidance.

If a child, young person or adult confess that they have been abused:

- listen
- take all concerns seriously
- ask questions only to clarify information/ not to investigate
- make notes and sign and date them within 24 h
- seek advice of your PSL and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DSL)
- follow the flowchart in the Diocese of Derby Safeguarding Procedures
- do not promise confidentiality
- do not forget that abuse can happen even in the context of the church

Insurance.

The PCC must review, on a regular basis, that there is sufficient insurance cover relating to public liability.

Standards in working with children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC must review, on a regular basis, its work with children and vulnerable adults.

Specific work/contact with children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC has identified the following activities within the Holy Trinity Church Parish, Tansley:

- children engaged in school or other projects, including services and workshops, at church or in the church hall e.g. children from Tansley Primary School and uniformed groups (brownies and rainbows)
- child volunteers in social and fund-raising activities
- vulnerable adults who receive communion in their homes
- vulnerable adults, who have mobility and hard of hearing problems
- Holy Trinity Church has a Health and Safety Policy and a Health and Safety Advisor who reports to the PCC
- Tansley Messy Church (An ecumenical initiative in partnership with Tansley Methodist Church)

Date: April 2024

to be

reviewed: April 2025