

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

CHRIST CHURCH BARNSTON WITH ST MICHAEL'S PENSBY

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held Tuesday 26th July 2022

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 concern 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.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Coral Greenwood MBE as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Contact 0771 0851201

Incumbent: Rev'd. Christopher R. Slater

Churchwardens: Robert Moots, Anna Mountford

Date: 26th July 2022

PARISH OFFICE

85 Barnston Rd, Barnston, Wirral CH61 1BW

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www.barnston.info

Defining abuse

We do not expect to see any form of abuse taking place in our community. That makes it all the more necessary for us to be aware of the danger signs that abuse may be taking place.

Abuse and neglect are defined in "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 2010.

- **Neglect:** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development
- **Physical abuse:** hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.
- **Emotional abuse:** is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.
- **Sexual abuse:** this involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including physical penetration and non-penetrative sexual acts.
- **Spiritual Harm:** Church communities must be particularly vigilant to identify the inappropriate use of any religious belief or practice which may harm somebody spiritually, emotionally or physically.
- **Domestic Abuse:** It must be recognized that children and young people may be harmed in homes where there is domestic abuse. The Archbishops Council has produced guidelines for those with pastoral responsibility "Responding to domestic abuse" Archbishops' Council (2006).

Action for Dealing with Reports of Abuse

The following procedures are designed to support you in dealing with a disclosure of abuse that may arise in the course of your work with children and young people. For the purposes of this work a child is a person under the age of 18 years. The parish's designated Safeguarding Officers will advise you.

DO

- Make it clear to the child that you cannot be asked to keep a secret.
- Listen to the child or young person, let them express their views and feelings without interruption, accept what they are saying.
- Reassure the child or young person that they have done the right thing in telling someone.
- Explain that you must pass this information on.
- Make notes of what was said using the child or young person's words whenever possible.
- Speak to the Vicar, Parish Safeguarding Officer or line manager.
- Refer to the Diocesan Child Protection Adviser.
- If the subject of the allegation is the Vicar, contact the Archdeacon or Diocesan Child Protection Adviser (the Bishop cannot be involved as per Clergy Discipline Measure).

DO NOT INVESTIGATE ANY ALLEGATION

DO NOT

- Show shock or disbelief.
- Agree to keep the disclosure a secret.
- Make a promise or suggestion that you can stop the abuse.
- Ask questions seeking further detail - you risk contaminating evidence.
- Investigate any allegation - specially trained professionals undertake this role.
- Contact the alleged perpetrator.
- Make any statement or comment to the press.

In emergency, and if the risk to the child is deemed to be urgent, the Local Authority Designated Officer can be contacted on 0151 666 4582, out of hours: Emergency Duty Team 0151 677 6557, or telephone the police.

CONTACTS

- Designated Parish Safeguarding Officer, Coral Greenwood..... 0771 085 1201
- Incumbent: Chris Slater..... 07899 807 507
- Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor..... 01928 718834 Ext. 221