

All Saints Gosforth



Policies and Procedures on Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- *To protect children, vulnerable young people and adults who access our services from harm. This includes the children of adults who access our activities.*
- *To provide our staff and volunteers, (as well as children, young people and vulnerable adults) with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and protection.*

Introduction

At All Saints Church, part of the Diocese of Newcastle, we are committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults and creating protective and supportive environments where all people, and especially those who may be vulnerable, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey in safety.

We follow the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and adults, and Church of England policy and practice, and have fully adopted The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults.

NB Further information from our Diocese about safeguarding can be found on the relevant part of the Diocesan website. We hope that if you or anyone you know has been affected by abuse within the Church, we will be able to give you the confidence to speak out.

All Saints is committed to putting in place safeguards and measures to reduce the likelihood of abuse taking place within the church and that all those involved will be treated with dignity and respect. These procedures have been designed to ensure the welfare and protection of any adult or child who accesses church or any of its functions.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers who act on behalf of All Saints and who come directly into contact with vulnerable adults and children.

Every individual has a responsibility to inform the designated person (the Parish Safeguarding Officer) in respect of safeguarding, or the incumbent of concerns relating to safeguarding.

The designated person (PSO) with the incumbent, must decide if the concerns should be communicated to other relevant organisations.

Policy Statement

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.
- Ensuring a zero tolerance approach to abuse and neglect within the church.
- Caring pastorally and with dignity for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally and with dignity for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Ensuring the safety and well-being of people who do not have the capacity to decide how they want to respond to abuse that they are experiencing
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

In order to implement the Policy, All Saints will work to:

- Create a safe and caring place for all by promoting good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm, abuse and coercion occurring.
- Ensure that any allegations, disclosures of abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing abuse is supported.
- Implement processes which enable it to meet the requirements of the Multi-agency Safeguarding Adults policy and Child Protection Procedures
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC
- 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 a Health and Safety Policy, procedures and Risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Endeavour to keep up to date with national developments relating to preventing abuse and welfare of vulnerable adults and children
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

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

This PCC appoints ***Kath Davies*** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (***PSO***)

Incumbent:

Church Wardens:

Date of APCM:

Date this policy is to be reviewed annually and reaffirmed at the APCM: