Otter Vale Mission Community

POLICY ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS

INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding is about the prevention and reduction of human harm. Everyone has responsibility for safeguarding children, young people and adults experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect (CYP & A). Ministers, leaders, pastoral workers, youth workers, parents, congregations, children, church wardens and members of PCC, volunteers, et al. play a part in preventing and reducing harm.

There are significant numbers of individuals who have been harmed both as children and adults and we have a moral and religious duty to care for them and to prevent further abuse.

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

The Otter Vale Mission Community fully recognizes and accepts the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy Statement "Promoting a Safer Church 2017" and commits to complying with the current Church of England and Diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance. In so doing we will comply with the secular multi-agency safeguarding procedures relating to children and young people and adults experiencing or at risk of harm, abuse or neglect.

PCCs and Churches of the Mission Community are committed to:

- Promoting a Safer environment and culture within our Parish and in our Parish activities by adhering to safe working practices and acknowledge the principle that safeguarding is everyone's business.

- In addition ensuring that any individual organization renting/using our premises for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults is aware of this, our Safeguarding Policy, and aware of their own individual responsibilities to have appropriate safeguarding policies and processes in place, including safer recruitment.

- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibilities related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church in accordance with the House of Bishops' Safer Recruitment and People Management 4th January 2022

- Ensuring those appointed are aware of the Diocesan and Parish Safeguarding Policies and are aware of their roles and responsibilities. We support them by ensuring they receive Diocesan safeguarding training commensurate with their role and that they are fully aware of and have access to the practice guidance.

- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation in accordance with the statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures and the House of Bishops' safeguarding practice guidance.

- Ensuring that any complaint made regarding a vulnerable person, who may have been harmed or is in significant danger, will be reported immediately and we fully cooperate with statutory agencies during any investigation into allegations concerning a member of the church community or any other person.

- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons by seeking to offer informed pastoral care and support. We develop with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation and provide them with details of local and national support agencies

- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons. We work with others to ensure the appropriate support for them and those affected. Where that person is considered to pose a risk to others, we work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor to mitigate any identified risk.

- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others. We endeavour to offer pastoral care and support whilst ensuring any risk has been assessed and is being managed in accordance with House of Bishops' policy and guidance and in collaboration with the statutory agencies and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

- Identifying a person/s to be the Parish Safeguarding Representative/s who will be suitably recruited and trained, be aware of their role and responsibilities, and be the point of contact for any concerns.

- Making the OVMC Safeguarding Policy available in the Church Office and on their church website.

- Copies of Diocesan and parish guidelines and procedures are available on Diocesan Websitehttps://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/local-and-national-policies/

To this end we will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse
- Pay particular attention to children, young people and adults with special needs and those from ethnic minorities to ensure their full integration and protection within the church community.
- Challenge any abuse of power especially by anyone in positions of trust
- Ensure that local Ecumenical projects agree which denomination's Safeguarding policies to follow and be ratified by the respective church leaders.
- *Appoint a member of PCC to be responsible for Safeguarding matters*
- Act in an open, transparent and accountable way when working in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and other agencies particularly during investigation of allegations against members of church community.

- Ensure that appropriate health and safety policies and procedures are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Display Safeguarding contact details on front page of Church website
- https://exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Parish-Contact-Poster.pdf
- Display the ChildLine telephone number, 0800 1111, Promoting a safer Church Poster, information about help that is available for current victims and survivors of abuse, including Domestic Violence.
- Provide appropriate insurance cover for all activities with CYP that are undertaken in the name of the church
- Review this policy, procedures and good practice annually and a copy shared with the Archdeacon at the time of the Visitation

This policy was adopted by Wardens of Otter Vale Mission Community on:

……Church (PCC) appoints …….. to be Parish Safeguarding Representative voicing concerns and views of children, young people and vulnerable adults at our meetings and to outside bodies.

Parish Priest …….

Date …….

Date for Review Sept 2027