

Safeguarding Policy: Promoting a Safer Church



The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting of St. Martin's Church, Liskeard, held on 25 September 2023.

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 who may pose a 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 (when in post), the staff team 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 / or vulnerable adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties concerned.
- 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.

Disclosing concerns

Anyone with any safeguarding concerns should report them immediately to one of the following: the incumbent, any curate or ordinand, the parish safeguarding officer, the

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operations manager, the worship leader, or a church warden. They should not discuss them with anyone else.

Receiving a report

Those authorised individuals receiving a safeguarding report must follow the procedures set out in the separate document, "Safeguarding Team Guide" held on SharePoint.

Parish Safeguarding Handbook

In all aspects of safeguarding, we must comply with the further guidance issued by the Church of England in its Parish Safeguarding Handbook, also held on SharePoint.

Training

The Parish Safeguarding Officer, or Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer, must ensure that all clergy, lay readers, front-line staff, parish safeguarding officers, church wardens, other PCC members, and those volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults, have undertaken the appropriate safeguarding training, as set out by the latest Church of England requirements.

Training is provided locally and through the Church of England online portal. The level of training depends on the level of responsibility that goes with the role carried out, but the courses cover:

- Basic awareness & foundations training.
- Parish safeguarding officers' training.
- Safeguarding leadership training.
- Spiritual abuse training.
- Raising awareness of domestic abuse.
- Safer recruitment and people management.
- Clewer initiative – modern slavery.

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For further information please contact the St. Martin's Church office, PL14 3AQ, 01579 347411 or email office@smartchurchliskeard.co.uk.