

The Parish of North Hinksey with Botley

Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement 2020- “Promoting a Safer Church”

1. Safeguarding is at the heart of our Christian Faith and we are committed to:
 - The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with all children, young people, vulnerable adults and adults at risk.
 - The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.
 - The establishment of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of vigilance to the dangers of abuse by everybody for everybody.
2. We will carefully select and train all those with responsibilities and positions of trust within the Church. The training will be in line with the House of Bishops’ *“Safeguarding and Development Practice Guidance 2019”* and the safer recruitment principles including the use of the Disclosure and Barring Service. We will advise the Diocese which Registered Body we use to process applications for the criminal record checks. We will advise the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor if we receive a Disclosure which is ‘blemished’ or ‘positive’.
3. We will inform the Charity Commission should an accusation be made against a church officer.
4. We will ensure there is a basic understanding of safeguarding by everyone who holds a position of responsibility and also by the wider church community. They will be encouraged to read the contents of the policy statement and abide by its principles for safeguarding.
5. We will ensure the working within the recommended and prescribed policies and procedures, creating a safe working environment and good practice in accordance with the *“Code of Safe Working Practice 2019”*.
6. We will closely monitor the use of social media including photography.
7. We will listen to, take seriously and respond to every safeguarding concern or allegation made which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed and there will be full co-operation with the police and local authority in any investigation. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team will be notified immediately.
8. We will clearly and visibly display the reporting procedure in the form of a flow chart and a list of contact details and help lines. These will be displayed on the church notice boards within the parish and also on the parish website.
9. We will seek to work with and support anyone who has suffered abuse in any form, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
10. We will seek to challenge any abuse of power especially by anyone in a position of trust, promoting acceptable behaviour and parameters of conduct.
11. We will offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person, vulnerable adult or an adult at risk whilst maintaining an appropriate and reasonable level of confidentiality.
12. We will review this policy annually; check that our policies and procedures are up to date as well as monitoring the training needs of those in roles of responsibility and trust.
13. We will supply a copy of the updated policy statement to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Parochial Church Council