

St Peter's Church, Broad Street, Ely

Safeguarding Policy

This policy on safeguarding children and adults in the church was adopted by the trustees of St Peter's Church and follows the Diocese of Ely's recommendations.

The Trustees recognise the need to safeguard the children, young people and adults in our care and guard against the possibility of any form of abuse of children, young people and adults by persons who may be acting in the name of our church. We aim to create a safe environment for the nurture and development of children, young people and adults, in order for them to feel valued and feel confident to ask for support and help. Our policies and procedures uphold the importance of our responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and adults entrusted to our care. A safeguarding officer is appointed to ensure the implementation of this policy.

- We commit to providing a safe physical environment for work with children, young persons and adults.
- We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
- As members of the Trustees we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
- We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of the church.
- We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
- The Trustees commit themselves to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
- We commit to informing the whole church community about our safeguarding policy and procedures and recognise that it is the responsibility of each of us to prevent and report abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We will ensure the children, young people and adults in our care know who they can talk to if they have any concerns.
- We recognise the responsibility to always respond and report abuse in whatever context inside or outside the church environment and will always listen to and take seriously any child, young person or adult who reports that they have been abused.
- We will always report all allegations of abuse and concerns about a child, young person or adult who is experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their illness or disability in accordance with our procedures.
- We will always report all allegations of abuse against Church Officers to the appropriate statutory agency and to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and co-operate with any investigations.
- We will keep records in relation to safeguarding concerns, allegations and recruitment of volunteers and paid workers securely.
- We commit to the safe recruitment of all current and new Church Officers and volunteers who have contact with children, young people and adults experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their illness or disability.
- We will assess all new and current Church officer roles and in every case where the role is deemed to be eligible, apply for an appropriate level criminal record check every five years

- We commit to providing every Church Officer with clear instructions and information in respect of their role, adequate resources and support and regular opportunities for review.
- We will ensure that all Church Officers working with children, young people and adults experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their age, illness, disability or in a trusted role attend regular Church of England safeguarding training (Approximately at 3 year intervals).
- We will inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, and ensure appropriate supervision, of anyone who is known to have offended, or displays risky behaviour against a child, young person or adult at risk of abuse due to their age, illness or disability who attends activities arranged by St Peter's Church and will follow recommendations of the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser in this regard
- We will require all hirers of our premises to have their own safeguarding policy and procedures, to provide us with an assurance that these are implemented and to provide us with a copy
- The Trustees adopt the policy and practice guidance of the Church of England Ely Diocese
- The policy will be reviewed bi-annually (or sooner if required) to monitor the progress which has been achieved
- We will review our safeguarding policy bi-annually (or sooner if appropriate) to ensure it meets all current legislation, House of Bishops and The Church of England Ely policies and practice guidance
- Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church

The Trustees appoint **ROB HENDERSON** to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies as the **Safeguarding Officer**

The Trustees appoint **ROB HENDERSON** as a **Church ID Checker** to process online Disclosure and Barring Service Applications

November 2021