

SAFE CHURCH

SAFE CHURCH POLICY

As a church community, we are committed to:

- The care, nurture of and respectful pastoral ministry with all children and adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children and adults
- The establishment of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' regarding the dangers of abuse which:

For young children and young people

- Values them for who they are, and nurtures their positive development
- Enables them to participate fully and contribute to their church community
- Protects them from potential harm

For adults who may be vulnerable, including those suffering domestic abuse:

- Ensures that all people feel welcome, respected and safe from abuse
- Encourage who may be vulnerable
- To lead as independent life as possible
- To choose how to lead their life
- To be active contributors to the church and community
- Protects those who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm

For all people

- Enables and encourages concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently
- Offers support and care for all those, suffering or have suffered, from any form of abuse
- Promotes respect and the value of each person as a child of God

We are therefore committed to best practice according to the national policies and guidelines of the Church of England, in the protection of children and vulnerable people; in the recruitment, training and supervision of all those who exercise a pastoral ministry; and in responding to any allegations or complaints. This policy is reviewed each year by the Parochial Church Council and re-affirmed at the Annual meeting.

Because we understand that:

- God has a special care for those who struggle
- All of us at different periods of our lives are vulnerable and in need of help
- We can make a difference