

## **The Parish of St Mary the Blessed Virgin Wambrook SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 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 that may pose a present 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 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 adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- 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.

### **Reporting a Concern**

- In the first instance and if you wish to speak to a member of the clergy, the Associate Vicar, the Rev Georgina Vye, can be contacted on 07950 989 916.
- The quickest method of reporting a concern is via the on-line reporting form <sup>(1)</sup>.
- Alternatively, the out of hours Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Ben Goodhind, can be contacted on 01749 670 777. Please leave a message on the voicemail but please note, this is not monitored 24Hrs a day.
- Reporting confidentially – There may be occasions when you do not feel able to provide your personal details with a safeguarding concern. In this instance, you can write to Ben Goodhind, Safeguarding Manager, Diocese of Bath and Wells, Flourish House, Wells BA5 1FD.

<sup>(1)</sup> The on-line reporting form, reports directly to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.