

The Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adult for All Saints' Church, Thurlestone

The Policy

The following policy statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 24th May 2024.

'As members of the PCC we commit our church community to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable. We recognise that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church community. We are fully committed to acting within current legislation, guidance, national frameworks and the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures. We will also act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Children and Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Probation Services and other agencies to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. We welcome staff and volunteers who are recruited in accordance with House of Bishops' Guidelines on Safer Recruitment 2015. This means we will ensure that those who are employed or who volunteer to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults are suitable for the role, that they know what the role entails and that they are supported in carrying it out.'

Parish Groups

- Aune Valley Toddlers in the Meeting Room, Thursday's during term time, 9 - 11 am
- Clergy and Readers leading school assemblies at Thurlstone All Saints', CE Primary School (*ad hoc*)
- The Friday Lunch Club in the Meeting Room, Friday's (12.30 – 2.00 p.m. monthly in winter months)

PCC responsibilities

The PCC will ensure that Churchwardens have up-to-date DBS checks

The PCC will manage and monitor all those who work with children and vulnerable adults through a standing item on the agenda at each PCC Meeting.

The PCC will provide information about safeguarding training to all those who work with children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC will ensure that the named Safeguarding Representative can be contacted with concerns by displaying contact details for the Safeguarding Representative on the notice board in the Church porch.

The PCC will ensure that information about national helplines is displayed on the notice board in the Church porch.

Responsibilities in the event of safeguarding concerns

Any disclosed concern about safeguarding should be directed to the Safeguarding Representative and, if appropriate, the Incumbent.

All concerns raised about safeguarding will then be reported in an appropriate and timely manner to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

If there is immediate risk of continuing harm to a vulnerable person, statutory agencies (police and/or children's or adults' services as appropriate) should be contacted as a first priority.

PCC Commitments

The PCC commits itself to co-operate fully with the Diocese and appropriate statutory agencies during any investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community

The PCC commits itself to ensuring that pastoral care will be offered to children and vulnerable adults and their families and to any member of the church community against whom an allegation is made. **This is always to be arranged and directed by the Incumbent, unless this is deemed inappropriate.** If the Incumbent is unable to arrange and direct such matters, the advice of the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer is to be sought.

The PCC commits itself, in partnership with the Diocese and other agencies, to provide (where it is possible and safe to do so) care and supervision for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.

The Role of the Safeguarding Representative

The responsibilities of the parish safeguarding representative are as follows:

- To implement and monitor the Parish Policy on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults, encouraging good practice.
- In accordance with current safer recruitment diocesan guidelines, to ensure the suitability of all volunteers and PCC employees in regular contact with children and vulnerable adults
- To obtain necessary criminal records checks (including verifying applications) and renew these appropriately.
- To actively encourage volunteers and PCC employees to undertake training, and keep a record of training taken
- To receive, but not to investigate, any suspicions or allegations of abuse which may arise in the church (es) they represent and to inform immediately and subsequently liaise with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.
- To send and update by e mail their contact details to the Diocesan Office.
- Undertake basic safeguarding training where appropriate.

This policy is to be reviewed by the PCC on an annual basis.

Signed by the Vice Chair of the PCC on 24th May 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Gornall', written in a cursive style.

Peter Gornall