

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

The Parochial Church Council commits our church community to the welfare, nurturing and safekeeping of children and vulnerable adults, recognising that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole 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, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- The establishing of a safe, caring community which provides a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal record disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will aim to ensure that those who work with children and vulnerable adults have adequate training in safeguarding issues and will know how to respond correctly in a situation where a child or young person is considered to be at risk through abuse or neglect.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with statutory agencies as appropriate in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to 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 or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice and will have special regard to any direction issued by the Church of England and the Diocese of Lichfield.

We will review this policy annually at the first meeting of the Parochial Church Council following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Our Child Protection Representative is:

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Revd Rod Clark *Rector of St Chad's*
Adopted at PCC Meeting 24th May 2018

