

Promoting a Safer Church in the Diocese of Lincoln

Parish of St. Swithin's, Lincoln

At its meeting on 26th April 2021, it was agreed that the above would adhere to the current House of Bishops' Policy and Practice Guidance in relation to Safeguarding and would uphold the foundations of the good news of the Gospel that speak of welcome for all. We will pay a particular regard to our care for those who are most vulnerable. We will seek to welcome them into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. We confirm that being faithful to our call to share the gospel compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and of responding well where it has.

We will fully accept the Policy Statement of the Church of England – **Promoting a Safer Church** as the policy statement for this Parish.

We commend for use in this place, the Diocesan Handbook for Parishes in relation to Safeguarding. We recognize it is written to ensure that God's love for all his people is manifested in the way we care for each other and how we respond to those who are vulnerable and in need. In all our interactions with each other we will seek to manifest the commandment to love one another and demonstrate respect for the dignity of each individual created in God's own image.

The below safeguarding policies and procedures are written to support our mission and ministry and therefore all who are ordained, in licensed ministry, paid work or volunteer roles within this Parish will agree to have due regard for:

Policy Statements

- Promoting a Safer Church; House of Bishops policy statement (2017)
- Protecting All God's Children (safeguarding policy for children and young people, 4th edition, 2010)
- Promoting a Safe Church (safeguarding policy for adults, 2006)

Practice Guidance

- Parish Safeguarding Handbook (2018)
- Safer Environment and Activities (2019)
- Code of Safer Working practice (undated)
- Key roles and responsibilities of church office holders and bodies practice guidance (2017)
- Responding to Safeguarding Concerns or Allegations that relate to Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults practice guidance (2018)
- Responding to, assessing and managing concerns or allegations against church officers practice guidance (2017)
- Responding well to domestic abuse practice guidance (2017)
- Responding well to those who have been sexually abused practice guidance (2011)
- Safer recruitment practice guidance (2016)
- Training and development practice guidance (2019)

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In the Diocese of Lincoln

Confident disciples in the joyful service of their church and community actively promote the welfare of all who are vulnerable. We can work together to prevent harm from occurring. This is Safeguarding.

The House of Bishop's Safeguarding Policies were adopted by the Diocese of Lincoln at the Diocesan Synod 3rd November 2018. The Diocese renewed its commitment to follow all of the updated House of Bishop's safeguarding policies and practice guidance at Diocesan Synod on 3rd November 2018. The Overarching Safeguarding Policy Document **Promoting a Safer Church**.

Synod mandated the adoption of The Parish Safeguarding Handbook across all Church of England contexts in Greater Lincolnshire to provide the cornerstone to safer working practice in our churches and safer care for all God's People.

Synod agreed the principle that the care and protection of everyone involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church in Greater Lincolnshire. Everybody who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer Church for all and in preventing harm to the vulnerable.

Under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, all licensed clergy, bishops, archdeacons, licensed readers and lay workers, churchwardens and PCCs must have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops (this will include both policy and practice guidance). A duty to have 'due regard' to guidance means that the person under the duty is not free to disregard it but is required to follow it unless there are cogent reasons for not doing so. ('Cogent' for this purpose means clear, logical and convincing.) Failure by clergy to comply with the duty imposed by the 2016 Measure may result in disciplinary action. (*Church of England Safeguarding Children Young People, Adults 2017*)

For the purposes of all safeguarding guidance and all Church policy a **child is anyone under the age of eighteen years.**

For the purpose of Church policy and guidance **the definition of "vulnerable adult"** is contained in the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. That defines a "vulnerable adult" as **a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect himself or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability or illness, old age, emotional fragility or distress, or otherwise; and for that purpose, the reference to being impaired is to being temporarily or indefinitely impaired**'. Please note that the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014 (14.2) by the Department of Health uses the term 'adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect' in order to assess eligibility to statutory social care services.

However, the term 'vulnerable adult' is used in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and other legislation in relation to eligibility for criminal record checks and as a result appears in DBS guidance.

For advice on all safeguarding issues including allegations or suspicions of abuse contact:

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team on: 07432 522 412 / 01522 504080
safeguarding@lincoln.anglican.org