

***Branston St Saviours and Burton All Saints with
Christchurch Burton***

Safeguarding Policy

This statement was re-approved by the Parish of Branston and All Saints with Christchurch Burton upon Trent at a Parochial Church Council in May 2024.

1. This policy will be reviewed each January to monitor the progress which has been achieved. We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.

- We recognise that a position of power in relation to another creates a risk of vulnerability. Consequently, we strive to ensure that we consider the position of power when working with and leading people.
- We recognise that by virtue of legal status and dependency on adults for their emotional and physical needs, children will always be vulnerable and at a disadvantage. We commit to considering this in our children's activities by undertaking supervision of volunteers working with them, and risk assessing activities and groups in order to check and balance our work.
- We understand that issues such as illness, disability, race, mental health, gender, sexual orientation and wealth can put adults in a position of vulnerability. We accept that these can be long term (ongoing), or temporary. We commit to considering this in our adult focussed activities and events by undertaking supervision of volunteers working with them, and risk assessing activities and groups in order to check and balance our work.
- We commit to transparency in our actions and accountability for our work.

2. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults and children to whom we minister.

- We will consider issues relating to spiritual care in prayer activity, ensuring that members of our prayer team consider power, control and spiritual abuse issues in their ministry.
- We will ensure that all our work with children takes place in a safe environment with leaders and supervisors who have appropriate enhanced Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) checks; this includes those involved in our Sunday schools, holiday club, Open House toddler group, confirmation classes and adults supervising young people at youth events, and any additional events that occur as part of the growth of the parish.
- We will ensure that all our work with vulnerable adults takes place in a safe environment with leaders and supervisors who have appropriate enhanced

DBS checks; this includes those involved in pastoral visits, drop in events, the Friendship Group and any additional events that occur as part of the growth of the parish.

- We will ensure that those who care for people in our parish attend appropriate safeguarding training every three years.
- We commit to discuss safeguarding as a standing PCC agenda item.

3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of children and adults who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.

- This includes all those who attend events or activities run by our parish, both within our buildings and within our community where we are leading the activity or service, for instance (This list is not exhaustive):
 - Sunday and Midweek services
 - Sunday School
 - Occasional Offices (Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals)
 - Seasonal Occasions (School Carol Services and Harvest festivals, Uniformed organisation carol services)
 - Holiday Club
 - Open House Toddler group
 - Friendship Group
 - Craft Group
 - Pastoral Visiting
 - Holy Communion and Songs of Praise in care homes and care of the elderly homes
 - Drop in
 - Narcotics Anonymous

4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.

- We commit to discuss safeguarding and review this policy every January, and as required as a standing PCC agenda item, and whilst we have a named co-ordinator we will accept collective ownership for this important issue.
- We will ensure that those in positions of trust (such as wardens, readers and clergy), and those with remits or leadership of groups involving vulnerable children or adults have appropriate enhanced DBS checks and that these are updated every 3 years.
- We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding.
- Safeguarding including revision of policy will be a regular PCC agenda item and agree
- We will be transparent and open in relation to our safeguarding policy and any issues that may arise in order that they can be swiftly dealt with, whilst

maintaining a strict rule of confidentiality for persons involved so as not to create additional damage.

- All information and concerns disclosed by a child or vulnerable adult will be treated with confidentiality. However, where there are matters in which information given must be shared and acted upon for the safety of the person concerned or of others, the named Safeguarding Officer and if necessary a figure of authority (headteacher, member of clergy, or an officer of the law) must be engaged. In this event a full and careful written account of the occasion when information was disclosed must be kept securely on file; the words of the child or vulnerable adult must be written as verbatim, or as near as possible, in case it may be called upon as evidence. Before any information is given in confidence this proviso must first be stated.

5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.

- We will consider the impact of power, disadvantage, inclusion, disability, age, gender and race on how we provide and plan for our ministry.
- We will actively (but appropriately), challenge each other in our work in order to ensure we consider a wide range of perspectives and views– ensuring that we do not oppressively impose our own values or views to another's detriment.
- Where a person struggles with an activity due to disadvantage, disability or illness we will go the extra mile to assist them so they can participate and contribute as a full part of the church.

6. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.

- We will not collude, keep secrets or make decisions when we have suspicion of abuse. We will seek through discussion the views of others and ensure through use of external agencies and the diocese safeguarding service that we engage and welcome external perspectives in order to promote a healthy accountable culture.
- We will report concerns to our Safeguarding Officer and if necessary clergy or diocesan safeguarding officer, without being bias to our personal view.
- We will record concerns factually in diocese suggested formats (as per Recording With Care Policy 2017 in the back of this folder).
- We will not take chances with the welfare of children or vulnerable adults.
- We are open to scrutiny and encourage this in others.
- We have zero tolerance to abuse and put the welfare of vulnerable children and adults first.
- We take seriously training and activities relating to the safeguarding of children and seek to engrain this in our congregational culture.

7. The parish undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment, selection, training, supporting and regularly reviewing those who undertake work with people who may be vulnerable.

- We will ensure that those in positions of trust (such as wardens, readers and clergy), and those with remits or leadership of groups involving vulnerable children etc have appropriate enhanced DBS checks and that these are updated every 3 years in line with national guidance.
- We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding.
- Our Incumbent or Priest in Charge will undertake to ensure that to the best of his knowledge all PCC members, wardens and ministry leaders are of good standing.
- The PCC undertakes to ensure, as far as possible, that there is always an appointed and upskilled a dedicated Safeguarding Officer.
- Our Safeguarding Officer undertakes to maintain a relationship with diocese level safeguarding team and endure that this policy is followed.

8. The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.

- The Parish will report and record in line with Diocese policies and comply with local guidance for implementing national policies as defined in diocese policies. These include the diocese safeguarding policy, recording with care policy, social media policy and safer recruitment policy.

10. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

- Those working with vulnerable adults or children will sign a declaration to state that they have read and agree to abide by the points outlined in this policy.

This church appoints Sandra Westwood and Sumesh Ebenezer to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent

Churchwardens

Date