

The Parish of Marcham with Garford

Safeguarding Policy

CHURCH DETAILS:

Name:	All Saints' Marcham with St. Luke's, Garford [hereafter "the Church"]
Address:	Church Street, Marcham, Abingdon OXON OX13 6NP
Parish Office:	All Saints' Church, Church Street, Marcham, Abingdon OXON OX13 6NP
E-mail:	info@allsaintsmarcham.org
Denomination:	Church of England, Diocese of Oxford

CHURCH POLICY:

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.

- Inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if we use an alternative DBS Umbrella Body to APCS and if we receive any DBS Disclosures that are not clear.
- 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.

Tim Jack is our Acting Safeguarding Officer

The above policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 24/03/2021

Chaplain to the parish during interregnum.....*Rev. Mark Newman*.....

Churchwardens ...*Neil Rowe & Tamsin Gilbert*.....

Date: 24/03/2021

SAFEGUARDING PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES

1.0 Responding to allegations of abuse:

Under no circumstances should a church worker / volunteer carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:

- Concerns must be reported within 24 hours to either the incumbent (Rev. Mark Newman – Chaplain - 07585446034), the Children and Families Minister (Jill Rowe on 07811 165351), the Youth Worker (Rob Finch on 07888 331708) or the Parish Safeguarding Officer (Tim Jack on 01865 864900/ 07881 485863) who is nominated by Marcham PCC to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- The PSO may also be required by conditions of the Church Insurance Policy to immediately inform the Insurance Company.
- Advice may also be sought from the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) (Richard Woodley on 07391 868478) or for children via the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 050 7666 or for adults via telephone on 0345 0507 666. The DSA will advise on the procedure to be followed.
- The DSA can advise on any matter around referral to statutory agencies. The MASH may redirect the caller to a different team if required. The out of hours emergency number is: 0800 833408. The Thames Valley Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit (TVP CAIU) telephone number is: 01865 309277
- Any allegations involving a church officer or person in a position of trust must be immediately reported to the DSA. After contacting the DSA, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) must be contacted on 01865 815956.
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the events / concerns should be made. This should be recorded as soon as possible after the concerns have been gathered, writing the child's words rather than paraphrase, if applicable, and with date and signature and details of the person involved and their role in the church. This should be given to the Parish Safeguarding Officer and kept in a secure place. Forms for recording concerns are available in Appendix A or in the vestry.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to those nominated above, their absence should not delay the seeking of advice from the DSA or referral to Children's Social Care.
- Marcham PCC will support the Parish Safeguarding Officer in their role, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way, on a need-to-know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the child protection agencies, although Marcham PCC hope that members of the Church will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Parish Safeguarding Officer has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that Marcham PCC demonstrate the commitment of the Church to effective child protection.

2.0 The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer:

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to Children's Social care or to Adult social care. It is the task of Children's Social Care to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 or for Adult social care to launch an investigation under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014. Consent for reporting to either childrens or adult social care should be sought, however there are circumstances where a referral to social care can and should occur without consent having been obtained.

2.1 Allegations of physical injury, neglect or emotional harm:

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or concern of emotional harm, the PSO will:

- Contact Children's Social Care, or the DSA, for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Will not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so having contacted Children's Social Care.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns (e.g. poor parenting) encourage parent / carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of injury.
- Where the parent / carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to seek help with them / on their behalf. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Social care direct for advice. Make this referral to Children's Social care via the Oxfordshire On-Line MASH referral form
- Seek and follow the advice given by the DSA (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children's Social Care.

2.2 Allegations of sexual abuse:

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Parish Safeguarding Officer will:

- Contact MASH or EDT immediately who will speak with the TVP CAIU. Do NOT speak to the parent / carer or anyone else. For cases of historical sexual abuse consider the on-line MASH referral route as appropriate to the situation and contact with the perpetrator.
- Seek and follow the advice given by the DSA if for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children's Social Care / Police.

2.3 Adults:

In an event of allegations of abuse involving an adult, the Parish Safeguarding Officer will refer to the Adult Threshold of Needs Matrix and refer accordingly. If they are unsure whether a referral is needed, advice can be obtained from the DSA.

3.0 Appointment, support, supervision and training of leaders and workers:

Marcham PCC will ensure all workers / volunteers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook (October 2018). The same principles will be applied to those appointed to work with vulnerable adults.

Marcham PCC is committed to on-going child protection training for all children / youth workers / volunteers and will ensure that the training delivered is reviewed and is in line with current thinking and practice.

Marcham PCC encourages *all* church members to be aware of safeguarding issues by undertaking the C of E online Basic Awareness and Foundation courses.

All volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults will be DBS checked and asked to undertake any relevant safeguarding training.

4.0 Working with offenders:

In accordance with Diocesan policy, no-one who has been convicted of / cautioned for a sexual offence against a child will be permitted to undertake regulated activity or have unsupervised access to children.

A person convicted of / cautioned for any other offense against a child or vulnerable adult for whom there are unresolved serious allegations outstanding will only be able to undertake regulated activity or have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults with the agreement of the incumbent following consultation with the DSA and the Police.

Those identified above will be involved in discussions concerning attendance at worship and other activities.

Having a criminal record does not necessarily bar someone from working with children or vulnerable adults – it will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances around any offenses.

5.0 Domestic abuse

Marcham PCC acknowledges that domestic abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, financial, coercive or a mixture of all of these and will seek to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse. It believes that domestic abuse in all its forms is contrary to the will of God and an affront to human dignity. All need to play their part in preventing or halting it. Any concerns of domestic abuse should be reported to the nominated people in section 1.0. Consideration of child welfare always comes first.

6.0 Social media

Marcham PCC recognises that there are safeguarding issues associated with the use of social media where it involves children and vulnerable adults. It will work towards the development of a specific policy on the issue.

Following the adoption of this policy, it will be reviewed annually in the PCC meeting in March and a copy of the policy and procedures will be sent to the DSA.

Comment on safeguarding during Covid-19 pandemic – information and guidance on safeguarding during the pandemic can be found on the diocesan website: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/safeguarding/>

Safeguarding Concerns Communication Sheet

Name of person receiving disclosure:

Date:

Contact Details:

Role:

Name: Address: DOB:	Place where disclosure made:
Parental Details:	Family Details:
School/Nursery/Work place:	Others Involved:
Social Worker Involved: SW Status (S47, 17, CAF):	Safe or the person to return home? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (if no call police)
Contact Type: Consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Advice <input type="checkbox"/> Information Sharing <input type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> _____	
Category: Physical <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual <input type="checkbox"/> Neglect <input type="checkbox"/> DA <input type="checkbox"/> Financial <input type="checkbox"/> CSE/DE <input type="checkbox"/>	
Situation,	
Background,	
Assessment,	
Recommendation	
Action Taken:	
Discussion with Diocesan SG officer <input type="checkbox"/>	Name: _____ Date: _____
Discussion with Parish SG officer/other <input type="checkbox"/>	Name: _____ Date: _____
Written/electronic communication <input type="checkbox"/>	What type: _____ Print out/original obtained <input type="checkbox"/>
Filed in Church Safe: <input type="checkbox"/> Date of filing _____	

Quick Guide to reporting a concern

