



St Luke's Church
SAFEGUARDING POLICY

May 2019

General Introduction

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Durham Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and adopts the House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer Church safeguarding and policy Statement".

This policy applies to all church members and visitors to Saint Luke's Parish Church, Hartlepool without exception.

Promoting the safety of children and young people under the age of 18 years, and those who are deemed to be vulnerable (for example by illness, disability or mental impairment.) is the responsibility of all members of society.

Responsibilities

The parochial church council (PCC), is responsible for ensuring appropriate measures are in place to protect those who work, worship or visit the church and its premises.

The nominated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the Parish and Diocesan Policies and encouragement of good practice in relation to safeguarding within St Luke's Church. Where possible the safeguarding lead should have some previous experience of the safeguarding agenda.

The current nominated Safeguarding Lead is Maggie Hammond.

Safeguarding Practice

All those working with those under the age of 18 years or with adults in a 'caring' or official capacity (for example pastoral visitors or those providing home communion), will be subject to the Diocesan 'Safer Recruitment Policy', which includes a DBS check and submission of references.

Once accepted by the PCC, individuals will complete the Diocesan Safeguarding Training as directed by the Parish and /or Diocesan Safeguarding Lead before undertaking any work with people (Voluntary or otherwise), within the Parish.

Ideally home visits will be undertaken in pairs in order to protect both those being visited and those undertaking the visit.

All members of the PCC will undertake The Diocesan Safeguarding Training as directed by the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead.

The Parish Safeguarding Lead supports the work of, and is supported by the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead.

A formal risk assessment must be undertaken prior to any event taking place. This risk assessment will identify potential risks to the safety of those who are under the age of 18 years, or who could be deemed to be adults who are vulnerable.

The Safeguarding Lead will monitor risk assessments and advise of any necessary adjustments which may need to be made.

All safeguarding concerns or issues should be discussed with the Parish Safeguarding Lead in the first instance. Where this is deemed inappropriate or the safeguarding lead is unavailable, concerns should be raised with the Minister in Charge or the Diocesan Safeguarding lead.

A log of all safeguarding concerns raised within the Parish will be kept securely in the administrator's office, and overseen by the Safeguarding Lead.

The Safeguarding Lead will report to the PCC on a regular basis, and to the Church members on an annual Basis via the Annual General Meeting.

Procedure

If a Church Member, member of clergy or visitor to the church has any concerns about the safety of another, especially those under the age of 18 or who could be deemed as being vulnerable (Unable to protect themselves), then they have a duty to report it.

If there is an immediate risk of serious injury or death, 999 should be called for immediate assistance.

Where there are less urgent concerns, allegations or suspicions, these will be discussed with the Safeguarding Lead in the first instance. The Safeguarding Lead will provide advice and guidance on the most appropriate response.

This includes concerns relating to officers or members of the clergy.

This also includes concerns relating to the potential harm which may be posed by others. (for example those with historical convictions against others)

Where the concern is related to the Safeguarding Lead, the concern should initially be discussed with the Priest In Charge, (Currently Rev Norman Shave) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead.

The Safeguarding Lead is supported by the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead, who will be able to provide additional advice or guidance in more complex or sensitive areas.

If it is agreed that a referral should be made to the local Safeguarding teams, this will be undertaken with the support of the Safeguarding Lead.

Complaints and second opinions

Complaints or concerns relating to the advice given by the Safeguarding Lead can be discussed with the Priest in Charge or with the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead.

Contact Details

Parish Safeguarding Lead...Maggie Hammond....01429 872966

Diocesan Safeguarding Lead...Beth Miller. (beth@bethmillerisw.co.uk)

Priest in Charge.....Rev Norman Shave...01429 233609...

Signatures

Parish Safeguarding lead.....

Priest In Charge.....

Date.....