

## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Ham Hill Villages Benefice, Somerset

*'The Church of England is called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, 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. Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well were it has. The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.'* (Promoting a Safer Church, House of Bishops, 2017)

### OUR COMMITMENT

This parish agrees to follow the National Church Safeguarding Policy, Practice Guidance from the House of Bishops on safeguarding matters, and to adopt the Diocese of Bath and Wells Safeguarding Policies. [www.bathandwells.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/safeguarding)

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will

- promote the welfare of children, young people and adults,
- work to prevent abuse from occurring,
- seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused
- respond to well to those that have been abused
- take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others, and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

A key way of protecting children and adults from harm is to ensure the careful recruitment of those working with them, whether they are employed or work as volunteers within the church. For more information on how we do this, please see our **Safer Recruitment Policy**.

Procedures and formal processes alone, though essential, will not protect children and adults. The Church community, including all its members, needs to be aware of the dangers and be prepared to report concerns and take action if necessary. We will act promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child, young person or vulnerable adult or about the behaviour of an adult in a position of trust, and will work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation is necessary. The term 'concern' can cover an allegation, disclosure or statement; something seen or something heard. For more details on what happens when a concern is raised see our **Safeguarding Procedures**.

In any situation where there may be a difference of opinion about priorities, the welfare of any child or vulnerable adult will be the paramount concern. This Parish accepts that, through its workers and volunteers, it is responsible for children, young people and vulnerable adults when in a church building, on church property and other premises being used by the church during church activities.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is: