

# **Ferndown Parish Safeguarding Policy**

*Promoting A Safer Church*

*Parish Safeguarding Officer*

*Pam Pyke – 01202 572582*

***13<sup>th</sup> Edition***

***Agreed by the St Mary's Church Parochial Church Council***

***6<sup>th</sup> February 2024***

## **Introduction to St Mary's Safeguarding Policy**

Thanking you for taking the time to look at our Safeguarding Policy. In it you will find that we have set out our core principles and provided a list of helpful contacts. There are also two sections which provide a reminder of what to do should you become aware of something which may be putting others at risk.

More detailed information may be found by following the link to the Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Handbook which you will find in the Safeguarding section of the St Mary's website.

We are committed to ensuring that St Mary's provides a safe environment for everyone, especially children and young people and adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

Scripture tells us that safeguarding is not some optional extra. It's not just a business of filling out the right forms and following correct procedures. It goes to the heart of Jesus's mission for His church, and to the core of our lives as Christians.

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

### *Promoting A Safer Church*

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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 adults at risk 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.
- 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. This church appoints **MRS PAM PYKE** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer. **Incumbent** – Rev. Dom Meering (Team Rector)

**Churchwardens** - Mrs Sarah Collins and Mr Michael Raven

Date: 23.1.23



## **Guidance for Responding to a Person Disclosing Abuse**

### **RECOGNISE and RESPOND**

#### **Do**

- Listen.
- Take what is said seriously.
- Only use open questions (open questions begin with words like: who, what, when, where and how. Open questions cannot be answered with a 'yes' or 'no').
- Remain calm.
- Take into account the person's age and level of understanding.
- Check, if face to face, whether they mind you taking notes while they talk so you can make sure you capture the information accurately. At the end you can check with them that you have understood everything correctly.
- Offer reassurance that disclosing is the right thing to do.
- Establish only as much information as is needed to be able to tell your activity leader/ Parish Safeguarding Officer/ DSA and statutory authorities what is believed to have happened, when and where.
- Check out what the person hopes to result from the disclosure.
- Tell the child or adult what you are going to do next.

#### **Do Not**

- Make promises that cannot be kept (e.g. that you won't share the information).
- Make assumptions or offer alternative explanations.
- Investigate.
- Contact the person about whom allegations have been made.
- Do a physical or medical examination

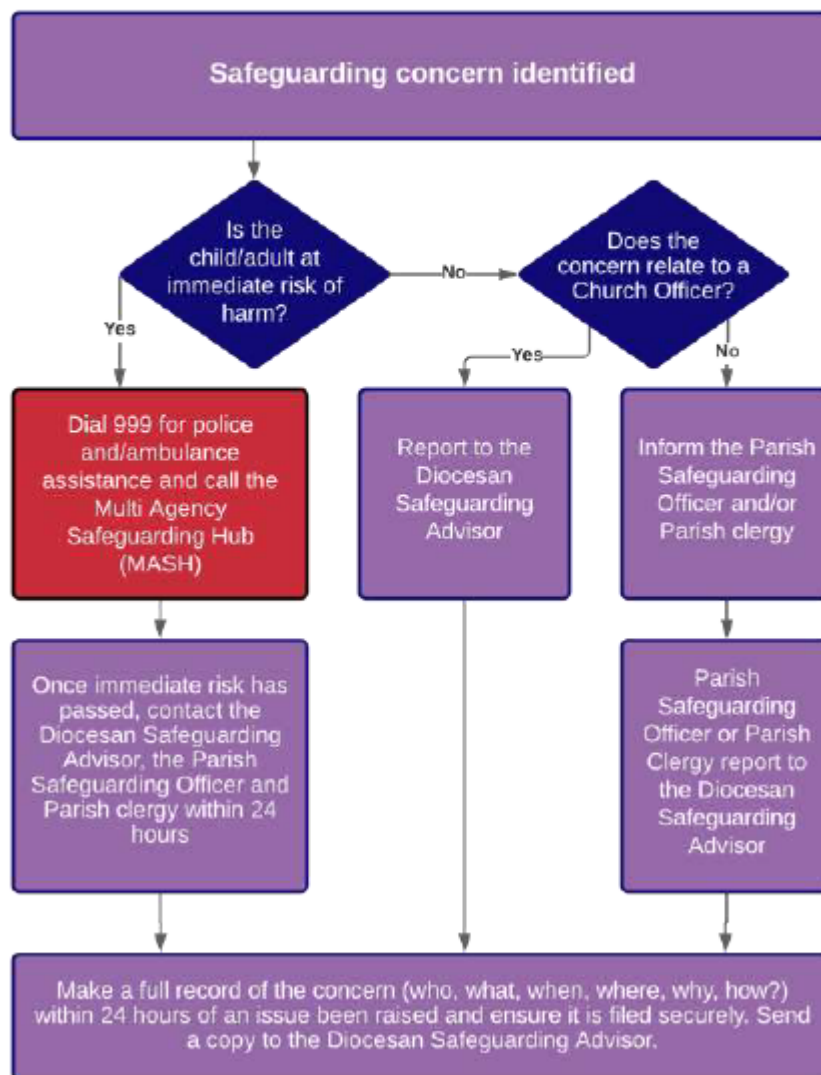
### **RECORD**

- Make some very brief notes at the time, if appropriate, and write them up in detail as soon as possible.
- Do not destroy your original notes in case they are required by the DSA or the statutory authorities
- Record the date, time, place, words used and how they appeared to you including any swear words or slang.
- Record facts and observable things, not your interpretations or assumptions.
- Don't speculate or jump to conclusions.

## REFER

- If there is immediate danger to a child or adult contact the police.
- Otherwise report to your activity leader/ Parish Safeguarding Officer/incumbent immediately.
- Within 24 hours the PSO/incumbent reports the concerns to the DSA.
- The DSA will advise regarding reporting to statutory agencies within 24 hours.
- If there is any doubt seek advice from social services or the police.

## RESPOND



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Safeguarding Officer                      Pam Pyke                      01202 572582

[pam.pyke@stmarys-ferndown.org.uk](mailto:pam.pyke@stmarys-ferndown.org.uk)

[safeguardingadmin@stmarys-ferndown.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingadmin@stmarys-ferndown.org.uk)

(NB safeguarding admin address checked every Tuesday)

Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer      Diane French                      01425 474740

St Mary's Church Office                      01202 897087

Rector:                      Rev. Dom Meering                      01202 897087

Team Vicar                      Rev. Patches Chabala                      01202 895099

Curate                      Rev. Oli Fricker                      01202 981206

### DIOCESAN CONTACTS

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers              Mrs Suzy Futcher                      07500 664800

(Mon-Thur inclusive and on call until 9pm)

[suzy.futcher@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:suzy.futcher@salisbury.anglican.org)

Mr Jem (Jeremy) Carter                      07469 857888

(Tues-Fri inclusive and on call Wed-Thur until 9pm)

[jem.carter@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:jem.carter@salisbury.anglican.org)

General Office                      01722 411922

Email for both      [safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org)

Service provider **Thirty-One Eight** provides advisory cover from 0303 003 1111  
5pm on Friday until 8am the following Monday.

## CHILDREN

**If you think a child may be at immediate risk of harm, contact the Police by calling 999.**

**Children's Advice and Duty Service (Dorset)** 01305 228866  
Single point of contact for safeguarding concerns  
(previously Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub for children

(Additional number for those working professionally with children and young people) 01305 228558)

Local Family Support Team (East Dorset) 01202 868224

**Educational Psychology Service Helpline** for parents – if you are worried how your child is coping and need some more support 01258 474036

**BCP Children's First Response (Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole)**  
Single point of contact for safeguarding Concerns 01202 123334  
Out of Hours Service 01202 738256

## ADULTS

**If you think an adult may be at immediate risk of harm, contact the police by calling 999.**

Care for Adults at risk  
Residents in the Dorset Council area 01305 221016  
Residents in Christchurch, Poole and Bournemouth 01202 123654

Domestic Abuse Helpline for Dorset (YouFirst) 0800 032 5204  
Email: [yofirstdorsetenquiries@theyoutrust.org.uk](mailto:yofirstdorsetenquiries@theyoutrust.org.uk)

Domestic Abuse Helpline for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 01202 710777  
<https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/Contact-us/Contact-us.aspx>

Domestic Abuse Helpline for Hampshire 03300 165112  
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domesticabuse/ineedhelp>



## **National Helplines**

Childline – helpline and website for children and young people	0800 1111
Family Lives – helpline and website-support and advice on family issues	0808 800 2222
Thirty-One Eight–Christian safeguarding charity (Fri 5pm – Mon 9am)	0303 003 1111