

THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY WALTON
SAFEGUARDING POLICY
PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 22 July 2019

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy Holy Trinity Church, Walton are committed to:

- Promoting a safe environment and culture. We will ensure the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults with the care, nurture, and respectful pastoral ministry of all children and all adults. We will establish a safe, caring community which provides a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse, where concerns can be raised and responded to openly and consistently.
- 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. We will value, listening to and respect children, young people and vulnerable adults. We will foster and encourage best practice by setting standards for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons. We will respond without delay to every concern raised which suggests that any child, young person or adult may have been harmed, or are at risk of harm, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation and having a clear reporting procedure in place. We will seek to ensure that informed and appropriate pastoral care and support is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons. We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others. We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult. We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust and respond to concerns about the behaviour of any child, young person or adult.

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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 front page of 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 Team 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.

This church appoints **Lynn McMeekin** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent **Rev Charles Trefusis**

Churchwardens **Anne-Marie Foster and Raj Gnanaiah**

Date:

A copy of this Safeguarding Policy has been sent to: safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org

Diocese of Oxford Safeguarding Team, Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1GF