



THE PARISH OF ST PETER'S, ST ALBANS POLICY STATEMENT ON THE SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & VULNERABLE ADULTS

This Policy Statement was adopted by the Parish Church Council of St Peter's Church, St Albans at a PCC meeting on 8 March 2018 and reviewed on 27 February 2019. The Parish Policy on the Safeguarding of Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults and this Policy Statement will be reviewed by the PCC on an annual basis.

1. 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 this Parish Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all. We recognise that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
2. The PCC formally adopts the House of Bishops' *Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement* 2017; the House of Bishops' 2006 Policy on Safeguarding Adults (*Promoting a Safer Church*); and the House of Bishops' and diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance, while also committing to being responsive to our local parish requirements.
3. The PCC is committed to following **the safeguarding policy of the Church of England**:
 - a. This PCC, its incumbent, officers and congregation are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of this Parish Church.
 - b. 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 and respond well to those that have been abused. We will 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.
 - c. We affirm the 'Whole Church' approach to safeguarding. This approach encompasses a commitment to consistent policy and practice across all Parish Church bodies and Church Officers and that everyone associated with this Parish Church, who comes into contact with children, young people and adults, has a role to play.
 - d. The PCC will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all and to practise fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children, young people and adults; to respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm.
4. The PCC makes the following **6 overarching policy commitments** to:
 - a. Promote a Safer environment and culture.
 - b. Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church.
 - c. Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
 - d. Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
 - e. Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons; and
 - f. Respond to those that may pose a present risk to others.
5. The PCC adopts a Parish Policy for the Safeguarding of Children, Young People & Vulnerable Adults which sets out in detail the steps that will be taken to follow and comply with the guidance, policy and commitment to safeguarding of the Church of England. All those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults shall follow the Parish Policy.
6. The PCC has appointed Ms Patricia Seabright as Parish Safeguarding Officer, in line with the Parish Policy.

Adopted by the PCC of St Peter's Church, St Albans on 22nd March 2023:

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Reverend Mark Dearnley
(Incumbent)

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Ms Lisa Williams
(Churchwarden)

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Mr Mark Waller
(Churchwarden)