

The United Benefice of Mountsorrel

(The Parish Churches of Mountsorrel: Christ Church & Mountsorrel: Saint Peter)

The United Benefice of Mountsorrel, hereafter referred to as 'Benefice' adopts the safeguarding policy statement for children, young people and adults 'Promoting a Safer Church' and commits to the implementation of this policy.

Children and Young Persons' Safeguarding Policy Statement

The Benefice is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within our churches.
- 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.

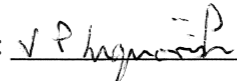
The Benefice will:

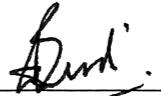
- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Benefice Safeguarding Officer (BSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC's to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence 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 Benefice.
- Display in church premises and on the Benefice 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 either 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.

In addition, ensure that those hiring either PCC premises for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults agree to commit to good safeguarding practice.

This Benefice appoints **Mrs. Melanie Rowley** as the Benefice Safeguarding Officer.

Signed Incumbent:  Date: 11 June 2019

Signed, Churchwarden (Christ Church):  Date: 11th June 2019

Signed, Churchwarden (St. Peter's):  Date: 11th June 2019

The policy for the safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults was adopted at the Joint PCC Meeting of Mountsorrel: Christ Church and Mountsorrel: Saint Peter held on 11th June 2019.

Adult Safeguarding Policy Statement

- Everyone, as a citizen, has a responsibility for the safety, well-being and protection of others. Everyone within the church community also has a responsibility to ensure that there is a welcome for all people, including those seen as vulnerable. A policy about the safeguarding of vulnerable people should be the concern of the whole congregation and therefore should be presented to the Parochial Church Councils for adoption and be reaffirmed at least annually. This is an opportunity for church members to remember their commitment to one another.
- Everyone should be alert to situations where those who might be vulnerable are exposed to unacceptable risks. Those who work with vulnerable people often find themselves in challenging situations and need the support, prayers and encouragement of everyone in the congregation. Sometimes workers may be confronted with difficult behaviour on the part of those with whom they are working; sometimes workers may have to face difficult decisions about incidents that may need to be reported to the statutory authorities. The congregation and church workers need to be clear about the procedures which should be followed when there are concerns about people being harmed or abused.
- Those who work most closely with vulnerable people in lunch clubs, day centres, Bible study groups or as pastoral visitors, baptism visits, etc., are in a unique position to get to know them. As a result, workers might learn about things that give cause for concern or they may see others, sometimes including fellow workers or church members, behaving in ways that may be described as abusive or potentially harmful. When visiting a care home, for example, a visitor may observe another resident showing signs of abuse. Workers should have a good knowledge of the guidelines for good practice and should be implementing them; they should know what to do if they learn of any incidents where vulnerable people are being mistreated or abused.
- Not all concerns about the welfare or safety of a vulnerable person need the public authorities to be involved; sometimes it may be that the concern focuses on behaviour and attitudes that are not immediately harmful and then the matter should be dealt with through training or discussion. The choices of the adult concerned should if at all possible be accepted. The response to any concerns should always be proportionate and appropriate to the issue.
- Each parish should do their best to provide a safe place for those who may be vulnerable. Where the parish organizes special activities or groups for vulnerable people, care should be taken to ensure that those who work in these activities are carefully appointed, supported and supervised. Recruitment to other positions of trust should be carried out sensitively but thoroughly to try to prevent inappropriate appointments being made.
- The PCC's together with the incumbent carries a duty of care for the safety of those who attend or use the church. The PCC's should, with the help of the diocese, ensure that a policy is in place that reflects the need to safeguard vulnerable people and that it is being implemented and has appropriate resources. The PCC's need to find ways to communicate the policy to the whole congregation. Clergy in particular need to be aware of the pastoral needs of vulnerable people, their carers and those that work with them.
- It is recommended that a named individual be appointed by the PCC's to act as the key person to speak on behalf of vulnerable people both within the congregation and to outside bodies. Ideally the appointed person should have some experience in this field. They should be recruited using the Safer Recruitment Policy. Such a person may be the most appropriate person to receive information about concerns and will need to listen carefully, possibly discussing the matter with the adult concerned and making a decision about whether these concerns should be passed to an outside statutory body such as the police or the local authority Adult Services.