



## Safeguarding Policy Statement 2020

**Our Vision:** Our vision for our church is to establish a safe, caring community which provides a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse. We consider safeguarding to be part of our mission. We hope to achieve this through the care, nurture and respectful pastoral ministry of all children and all adults. As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly. In pursuit of this, we commit ourselves to this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

**Our Safeguarding Responsibilities:**

- **Inclusivity:** We recognise our responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults, regardless of gender, sexuality, ethnicity or ability.
- **Prevention and reporting of abuse:** It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of any child or adult. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor and statutory authorities. The church will fully co-operate with investigations by statutory authorities into any suspected abuse linked with the church.
- **Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers:** The church will carefully select and appoint volunteers and paid church workers, in line with the principles of safer recruitment, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal record checks. We will 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.
- **Respecting children and adults at risk:** Our church will expect all who are appointed to work with children and adults known to be at risk to adopt a code of behaviour which reflects respect.
- **Safer working practices:** The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults and will adopt ways of working that promote safety and well-being. All workers and volunteers will be requested to undertake appropriate training to promote safeguarding of the congregation and the workers themselves.
- **A safer community:** The church is committed to the prevention of bullying. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any individuals who may pose a risk to children, young people and adults in the community of the church is managed appropriately.
- **Our Safeguarding Team:** We have appointed a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee the implementation of our safeguarding policy and procedures. They will liaise with the diocese and advise the PCC on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected and keep objective records. Our Church Wardens and Church Secretary will assist the PSO. Our new Parish Priest, when appointed will also be an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. The Team will work together when issues arise and will follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice, with due regard to the Church of England's House of Bishops.

Parish Priest:

Church Warden: *S. C. Murga*

Parish Safeguarding Officer: *Swigme*

Church Warden: *K. K. K.*

Church Secretary: *[Signature]*

11.11.20