

The Parish of Hawkley with Priors Dean

SAFEGUARDING POLICY*

PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy seeks to ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to safeguard vulnerable groups to allow them to participate fully in pastoral, social and other PCC approved activities and events, safe from harm and abuse. It was approved electronically by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on **20th May 2024**.

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 vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding to, recording and reporting promptly 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.

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 care and supervision is provided to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.
- 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.
- Fully co-operate with the Diocese, police and appropriate statutory agencies during any investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.
- 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 policies, procedures and appropriate risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.
- Ensure safe storage of safeguarding records.

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 **Jo Knight** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer and **Mike Offin** as Deputy. Please contact them if you have any safeguarding concerns or support needs, or speak to one of the following:

Vicar**Ven Peter Sutton**..... Churchwardens:**Neil Chrimes and Tom Wilkinson**

** This policy statement applies to both the PCC and the Incumbent (Vicar), who are together responsible for ensuring the safety and protection of all vulnerable people involved with the church.*