

# **The Parish of St Wilfrid's, Brayton**

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

### **PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**

The following policy was agreed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in July 2021

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 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 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 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.
- 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.
- 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 Cathy Rodgers as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.\*

- \*The PSO is not usually someone who works with children and young people. However, due to recruitment difficulties, the current PSO is also a Junior Church leader and toddler group leader.

Incumbent: .....Rev. Pete Watson.....

Churchwarden: .....Pat Jarvis.....

Date:

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#### Appendix 1

#### Safeguarding Children.

##### – Definitions of Abuse

The PCC recognises the following categories of abuse used by every local authority in England and Wales.

**Neglect:** Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
- It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

**Physical Abuse:** Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

**Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual online images, watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

**Emotional Abuse:** Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**Organised Abuse:** Organised abuse is defined as abuse involving one or more abusers and a number of children. The abusers concerned may be acting in concert to abuse children, sometimes acting in isolation, or may be using an institutional framework or position of authority to recruit children for abuse.

(A child may suffer more than one category of abuse).

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#### People who Pose a Risk to Children

If there is good reason to believe that someone attending the church may pose a risk to children, either as a result of a criminal conviction or for any other reason, the first concern will be a commitment to the protection of all children and young people.

Whilst extending appropriate pastoral care to an individual, the Incumbent and Church Wardens (or authorised agent such as the Rural Dean), will discuss with the Diocese Child Protection Officer then meet with the individual and discuss boundaries that the person will be expected to keep. A written agreement will be appropriate in such cases, and the PCC Child Protection Representative and Diocese Safeguarding Advisor informed and supplied with a copy of the written agreement.

#### – Procedures for Referrals:

The following procedures should be observed by Church members (including children's and youth work leaders and volunteers) and nominated PCC Child Protection Representative when there are concerns about possible or actual inappropriate conduct or suspicion of abuse which may have occurred within a church setting or within another context, but which is drawn to their attention in a church setting.

#### 'Please pay particular attention to points high lighted in BOLD'

1. The role of a church member is not to investigate beyond establishing the basic facts so that a decision can be made about what further action, if any, needs to be taken (such as a referral to the investigating agencies).
2. Allow the child to speak, but be very careful not to say anything that may suggest or prompt a particular answer. Anything said by the child should be recorded, using the actual words used by the child.
3. Reassure the child that you are listening carefully to them, but refrain from promising to 'keep a secret'. Make it clear that you may have to tell someone else who can help to sort things out.
4. **Concerns or an allegation must be shared with the nominated PCC Safeguarding Representative as soon as possible, or in their absence, with either the Incumbent or Church Warden or another trusted adult, or with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. If the concern or allegation is about any of these people DO NOT share the concern with them. The concerns MUST be recorded, as must decisions of how to proceed, including rationale for those decisions and consultation with any other persons.**
5. If the Safeguarding Representative and the Incumbent are satisfied that the concerns are unfounded you need take no further action. However, the aforementioned record MUST be kept, and a copy should be forwarded to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.
6. If the concern is a childcare issue (i.e. not thought to be abuse related, but where the parents/carer or child may need support from relevant agencies), the nominated PCC Child Protection Representative should make a referral to Social Services. However, to do this will require parental permission. Seek further advice from Social Services or the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.
7. If concerns remain the nominated PCC Safeguarding Representative should contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor
8. **If there are concerns that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm or is in immediate danger of harm, then a referral to Social Services or the Police should be made at once by the Church member or the Child Protection Representative. Clearly state that you are making a "Child Protection Referral". Identify**

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**yourself and the Church you are representing. You must also advise the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor and if she or he is not available the Archdeacon.**

9. Any concerns in relation to child protection issues should be logged and retained securely by the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.
10. Additional role of the PCC Safeguarding Representative:  
The PCC Safeguarding Representative should support any church member raising or reporting a concern or allegation and make sure that the above procedures have been carried out appropriately.
11. Unless it is inappropriate in view of the nature of the allegation, the incumbent or Church Wardens should be informed of any referral being made as well as the Archdeacon. Do not discuss with anyone else.
12. Careful consideration should also be given as to whether the Parish's insurers should be contacted and advised of the incident or allegation.
13. If the PCC Representative is unsure, or feels they need to take further advice, they should contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor in the first instance, Social Services or alternatively the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service Help line.
14. **In the event of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor being unavailable within a reasonable time, the local Archdeacon should be contacted. Alternatively telephone the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service Help Line. (See useful telephone numbers).**

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#### Appendix 2

#### Safeguarding vulnerable adults

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.

An adult with care and support needs who may be at risk may be:

- An elderly person;
- A person with a physical disability, a learning difficulty or a sensory impairment;
- Someone with mental health needs, including dementia or a personality disorder;
- A person with a long-term health condition; or
- Someone who misuses substances or alcohol to the extent that it affects their ability to manage day-to-day living.

Types of Abuse:

- Physical abuse – including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions;
- Domestic violence – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence;
- Sexual abuse – including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting;
- Psychological abuse – including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks;
- Financial or material abuse – including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits;
- Modern slavery – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment;
- Discriminatory abuse – including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion;
- Organisational abuse – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home.

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This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation;

- Neglect and acts of omission – including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating;
- Self-neglect – this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding;
- Spiritual Abuse: The church should also be aware that spiritual abuse may occur within and outside faith communities and can arise from the inappropriate use of religious belief or practice; the misuse of authority; intrusive healing and deliverance ministries; and the denial of the right of faith or the opportunity to grow in the love of God. The provision of inclusive acts of worship will provide for the spiritual growth and wellbeing of adults with special needs.

#### Procedures If Abuse Of An Adult Is Suspected Or Disclosed

If a church member or worker suspects that an adult is being, or is at risk of being, abused or neglected, they must take responsibility to act on their concerns. Not responding may be seen as act of abuse in itself.

1. Adults may find it difficult to disclose abuse and need support to tell their story. They should be listened to without leading questions or suggestions that may influence or confuse the story. The listener should not show shock or judgment.
2. If the person fulfils the criteria for being an adult at risk of abuse or neglect, or if they express suicidal thoughts, they should be informed that the information will have to be passed on as part of our duty of care, preferable with their consent (unless they lack the capacity to give this).
3. Careful notes must be kept, recording factual information and direct quotes where possible. Notes should be signed and dated and kept securely.
4. If the person is at immediate risk of harm or danger, the police and/or North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults team must be contacted. The Safeguarding Representative or, in their absence the Incumbent, should be informed as soon as possible.
5. If the person is not at immediate risk, the Safeguarding Representative or Incumbent should be informed in the first instance. They will consult with the Diocesan safeguarding officer and may also discuss with and/or make a referral to the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Team. If a criminal offence has occurred the police will be informed.
6. Pastoral care and support will be offered to the person who has disclosed the abuse or is at risk of abuse and neglect. All people within the church who work with adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect will agree to read and abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

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### Appendix 3

#### Useful Telephone numbers:

- |                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Archdeacon of York</b>     | <b>Sam Rushton: 01904 758241</b> |
| Archdeacon of Cleveland       | Amanda Bloor: 01642 706095       |
| Archdeacon of the East Riding | Andy Brown: 01482 881659         |
| Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor | Julie O’Hara 01904 699524        |
- Churches Child Protection Advisory Service Help line: **0845 1204450**
  - North Yorkshire County Council – Social Services (Child Protection)  
**01609 534527 (24 hours)**
  - Local Police: **101 (IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 999)**
  - Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (NB: Contact with the EIG should only be undertaken following discussion with the Archdeacon or Diocesan Secretary if it is with regard to a confidential child protection related complaint or concern)

Write to:

The Managing Director

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group

Beaufort House

Brunswick Road

Gloucester

GL1 1JZ

and marked “Strictly Private and Confidential”

If it is an emergency telephone. .... 01452 528533