



Trinity Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement

Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults

Safeguarding Statement from Trinity Church PCC

Our church leadership (Incumbent, Curate, Wardens and PCC of Trinity Church) is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children and adults within our church community. The prevention of harm and protection of the vulnerable is paramount. Our church is an open and welcoming place, but we owe it to those who are vulnerable that we should do all that is possible to safeguard them from harm.

We aim to encourage sensitivity towards survivors of abuse and will signpost them to information about services available to them, and to those who walk the road of recovery with them, as necessary. We also aim to maintain a fellowship of trust and acceptance which is open in all its dealings and which loves and welcomes all – but has illusions about none.

We will challenge any abuse of power by anyone in a position of trust and respond without delay to any complaint, cooperating with police and the local authority in any investigation as required. Church members and others linked with our church are encouraged to report any concerns they have, however big or small, to the safeguarding officer in the first instance, church wardens, or other members of the leadership team as necessary.

We will work to ensure there is no negative comeback for those who raise their concerns; and confidentiality will be kept according to the protocols set out in this policy.

This Policy incorporates the Diocese of Exeter Safeguarding Policy 2021 with personalised content to Trinity Church. It also acknowledges the Church of England National Policy and Guidance in 'Safer Recruitment and People Management' published July 2021, and is underpinned by the Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual/safer-recruitment-and-people-management-guidance>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>

Foreword by the Bishop of Exeter and theological statement

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus tells his followers, 'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill-top cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5. 14). Christians are to be a transformative presence in society bringing light and hope to others. In particular, we are called to be beacons of good practice in the care and protection of children and vulnerable adults. As Jesus says uncompromisingly, 'If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea' (Matthew 18.6).

Today safeguarding is at the forefront of public consciousness. Following the publication of the IICSA report, we have become acutely aware of the way in which in the past incidents of abuse were sometimes hidden or even tolerated. There must be zero tolerance to such behaviour and the Church needs to be at the vanguard, fostering a change of culture across society. We need to embody best practice in our parishes, schools and chaplaincies. As an organisation, it is vital that we keep people safe and support survivors of abuse, apologising for the wrongs of the past.

The Church is a place where all sorts of people, including perpetrators of abuse, seek acceptance, redemption and forgiveness. Some perpetrators will be genuine in their repentance, but others may not be. This is why forgiveness and vigilance need to go hand-in-hand. Compassion and naiveté are not the same thing.

This policy document embodies the latest professional wisdom and sets out best practice for all who are working with the young and the vulnerable in our mission communities. Drawing upon the experience of professionals, it sets out principles to prevent abuse, as well as the protocols that must be followed should a problem arise. By operating within the legislative requirements and following this guidance we can ensure that everyone is given the safety and the security which is their right. It also lists information, resources and contact details, if further help is needed.

We are determined that those who work with children and adults at risk, many of whom are volunteers, receive proper training and are appropriately supported. As one of the largest providers of voluntary children's and youth work in Devon, we are committed to ensuring that, with God's help, our churches, schools and chaplaincies are safe places where everyone is valued.

+ Robert Exon

The Right Reverend Robert Atwell
Bishop of Exeter

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on May 16th 2022.

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. We have appointed Ruth Maxwell as our parish safeguarding representative, supported in the DBS checking by Leanne Gulvin, Caroline Snelgrove and Jo Thomas.
- 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. They may be referred to in documents and guidance as ‘church officers’. A “Church Officer” is anyone appointed/elected by or on behalf of the Church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid.

Guidance

Copies of Diocesan and parish guidelines and procedures can be accessed at <http://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/resources/>

<https://www.trinityexeter.com/safeguarding-and-governance/>

Information is also in folders available at our places of worship.

Review

This policy will be formally reviewed annually and a copy shared with the Archdeacon at the time of the Visitation.

Date of Adoption

The PCC of this Church agreed and adopted the above Policy at its meeting on May 16th 2022.

The PCC shall review this policy annually. The next review will take place at the first PCC meeting following the APCM to be held on 2023

Signed : Incumbent/Vicar – Jonny Elvin

Churchwarden – Jonathan Porter Goff

Churchwarden – David Mackenzie-Clarke

Date:

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others please seek advice from the Parish Safeguarding Officer or if necessary, report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.