



Safeguarding Policy Statement

- 1) This parish accepts the principle of the Children Act 1989 that the welfare of the child (a person under 18 for most purposes) is paramount. It also accepts the implication that the Act is there for the protection of adults who work with children. We also follow the recommendations of the Church of England's Child Protection guidelines.
 - Clergy and laity that work in a paid or voluntary capacity need to exercise the greatest care in their use of power. They must never take advantage of trust.
 - The highest standards will be maintained in all pastoral, counselling, educational, worship and recreational circumstances.
 - The exploitation of any relationship for self-gratification will not be tolerated.
- 2) In line with government recommendations, all those volunteering or applying to work with children or young people will be safely recruited for the post in accordance with the diocesan recruitment policy. All applicants called for interview must complete a Confidential Declaration Form, and appointment to the post will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS). Members of the clergy (priests) and readers are appointed by St. Alban's Diocese subject to a satisfactory enhanced disclosure; while churchwardens, who are elected by their respective parishes, are encouraged to apply for one. Records of those who have obtained disclosures are kept by the Safeguarding Officer.
- 3) All those working with children or young people will be given a copy of the Safeguarding Policy, receive relevant training and sign a declaration of agreement. They will also be given practical advice as a means of protecting themselves and the children they work with. All those working with children and young persons' groups will aim to meet regularly to discuss concerns and share good practice.
- 4) All children's and young person's activities should have at least two adults present, preferably one of each sex, to ensure that the group need never be left unattended.
- 5) In general, situations where a child is alone with an older person should be avoided unless they can be easily observed by others nearby.
- 6) Allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and this church will collaborate fully with statutory and voluntary agencies concerned with child abuse. It will not conduct its own investigations. The clergy will initiate pastoral care as appropriate.
- 7) Adequate insurance cover will be provided for all children's and young person's activities. Approval will be required from the relevant incumbent before any group can hold an activity away from the church premises, although regular offsite activities can be approved for a period of up to one year. Written parental consent must be obtained from all children taking part in activities away from church premises.
- 8) The Safeguarding Policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.