



THE STODDEN CHURCHES

PART OF THE DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

THE STODDEN CHURCHES SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Joint Parochial Church Council (JPCC) meeting held on 15th July 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 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 Benefice will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the JPCC 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 Benefice.
- Display in church premises and on the Benefice 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 Benefice.

Incumbent:

Benefice / Individual Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Churchwardens:

Date:

Vacant (15th July 2024)

Sarah Croft (07986 153423)

As appointed by individual parishes

15th July 2024

Promoting a safer church

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church

House of Bishops
Safeguarding Policy
for children, young
people & adults

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 a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

Name: Sarah Croft
Role: Parish Safeguarding Officer
Tel: 01234 708485
E-mail: sarahcroft07@btinternet.com

Name: Jeremy Hirst
Role: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel: 01727 818107 / 07867 350886
E-mail: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

Name: Martyn Hedley
Role: Asst Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel: 01727 818106 / 07391 010033
E-mail: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

**IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER
PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 101.**

OUR COMMITMENTS

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

HELPLINES

- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Stop It Now: 0808 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0808 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Family Lives: 0808 800 2222
- National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Action On Elder Abuse: 080 8808 8141