

Safeguarding Policy: Working with Vulnerable Persons

The United Church of St Mark, Tattenham Corner

This policy was agreed at the Church Council held on **14 May 2018**. The Church of England and The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

The United Church of St Mark is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

The United Church of St Mark recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

The United Church of St Mark is committed to implementing '*Promoting a Safer Church Policy Statement 2017*', which is the Church of England's safeguarding policy for children. Young people and vulnerable adults.

The United Church of St Mark fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space 2007*:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

The United Church of St Mark recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

The United Church of St Mark commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

The United Church of St Mark commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the safeguarding policy as laid down by the Diocese of Guildford; the Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the diocese, in the circuit and in the churches.

The United Church of St Mark commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

The United Church of St Mark affirms and gives thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

The United Church of St Mark appoints Mel Bracey as Church Safeguarding Adults' Representative and Mel Bracey as Church Safeguarding Children Coordinator and supports her in her role which is to:

- i) support and advise the vicar, churchwardens and stewards in fulfilling their roles
- ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii) liaise with Diocese, Circuit and District Safeguarding Coordinators
- iv) promote safeguarding best practice within the local church with the support of the vicar and circuit ministers.

a) Purpose

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Diocese of Guildford's *"Promoting a Safer Church 2017"* and the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010).

b) Good Practice

We believe good practice means that:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written note or computerised record of this will be made and kept noting date, start and end time and place of visit.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed for safety for children and vulnerable adults. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any church-organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

c) Appointment and training of workers

Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory DBS disclosure. Each worker will be expected to undergo basic safeguarding training, within the first year of appointment.

d) Pastoral visitors

In terms of safeguarding, Pastoral Visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of basic safeguarding training upon appointment.

e) Ecumenical events

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

f) Events with church groups off the premises

Adequate staffing will be ensured for such events. Notification of the event will be given to the vicar.

g) Other groups on church premises

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement will be given a copy of this policy. The vicar and the leadership team will consider the various users of the building in making lettings.

h) Complaints procedure

It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the organisations. However, a complaint may be made to a person who will be appointed by the Church Council and who is currently Mel Bracey. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to the vicar who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to invoking the complaints system of the Diocese of Guildford, which will involve initially speaking with the Diocesan Adviser, or the Methodist Church which will involve initially speaking with the Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator who is, temporarily, Richard Smith.

j) Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council. The date of the next review is March 2019

k) Key concepts and definitions

- i) Vulnerable Adults:** any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.
- ii) Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults** from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iii) Adult/child protection** is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- iv) Abuse and neglect** may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Dated 19 March 2018

Signed.....**Des Williamson**..... Incumbent

Signed....**Colin Batty**..... Chair of Church Council

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Ministers

Rev. Des Williamson.....01737 353011
Rev Dr David Dickinson 020 8643 0963

St Mark's Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mel Bracey.....

District Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Grahame Snelling.....07960 877740

Methodist Sutton Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Social Worker

Children & Young People (8am to 6pm).....0300 200 1006
Vulnerable Adults (8am to 6pm).....0300 200 1005
LB Sutton.....020 8770 4343
All Vulnerable Persons Surrey (6pm to 8am).....01483 517898

All Vulnerable Persons LB Sutton (6pm to 8am).....020 8770 5000
Children's Services.....01737 737256
Adult Social Care.....01737 737179

Police

Epsom Police station..... 0845 125 2222
In Emergency.....999
Non-critical emergency.....101
Surrey police child/family protection unit.....01483 571212

General

Epsom General Hospital.....01372 735735
ChildLine.....0800 1111
ParentLine Plus.....0808 800 222
Methodist District Children and Youth Adviser, Grahame Snelling..... 07960 877740