

Promoting a Safer Church

Parish Policy Statement

The Parochial Church Council of

St Mark Stockland Green

agreed to adopt all of the House of Bishop's safeguarding policy and practice guidance and The Church of England – Birmingham's procedures for their implementation on 4th October 2018

All forms of abuse are wrong and must stop

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer Church for all.

Our commitments:

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

We will implement good safeguarding practice by ensuring:

- the welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is paramount;
- a leadership commitment, at all levels, to the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- our safeguarding policy is available to all church officers;
- a clear line of accountability within our church for work on safeguarding;
- clear reporting procedures to deal with safeguarding concerns and allegations;
- we report all concerns and allegations against church officers to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser and statutory agencies;
- clear roles for church officers;
- we have clear arrangements for support and/or supervision of church officers;
- all church officers working with or in contact with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults attend diocesan safeguarding training;

- our practice and services are informed by on- going learning, review and by the views of children, young people, families and vulnerable adults;
- safer recruitment procedures are in place;
- effective working with statutory and voluntary sector partners;
- we have publicly advertised arrangements for children, young people and vulnerable adults to be able to speak to an independent person, as required;
- our complaints and whistleblowing procedures are well publicised;
- effective information sharing;
- good record keeping.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to someone
please contact

Mrs. Barbara Ritchie-Lines (Parish Safeguarding Coordinator) or Revd Richard Walker-Hill (Vicar)
0121 373 3466

If you cannot contact the person above and someone is being harmed or is not safe and needs immediate help, dial 999, or contact social care services, or, for a child, the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000

Other useful contacts:

Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser	07342 993 844
Childline	0800 1111
Family Lives Helpline	0808 800 2222
Samaritans	116 123
Elder Abuse	0808 808 8141
Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Men's Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 801 0327
LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline	0300 999 5428
National Association of People Abused in Childhood	0800 085 3330
Stop It Now! Helpline	0808 1000 900

Local Authority Children's Social Care Services:

0121 303 1888 (Birmingham)
0121 569 3100 (Sandwell)
0121 788 4333 (Solihull)
0800 1313 126 (Staffordshire)
01926 414144 (Warwickshire)
01905 822666 (Worcestershire)

Local Authority Adult Social Care Services:

0121 303 1234 (Birmingham)
0121 569 2266 (Sandwell)
0121 704 8007 (Solihull)
0345 604 2719 (Staffordshire)
01926 412080 (Warwickshire)
01905 768053 (Worcestershire)

Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement

This policy statement on safeguarding children and adults in the Church was adopted by St Mark's Stockland Green at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on 4th October 2018.

The Parish Church Council of St Mark's recognises the need to safeguard the children, young people and adults in our care and guard against the possibility of any form of abuse of children, young people and adults by persons who may be acting in the name of our parish. We aim to create a safe environment for the nurture and development of children, young people and adults, in order for them to feel valued and confident to ask for support and help. We will create policies and procedures that uphold the importance of our responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and adults entrusted to our care. A Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator will be appointed to ensure the implementation of this policy.

- We commit to providing a safe physical environment for work with children, young people and adults
- We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
- As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
- We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
- We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
- The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
- We commit to informing the whole church community about our safeguarding policy and procedures and recognise that it is the responsibility of each of us to prevent and report abuse that we discover or suspect
- We will ensure the children, young people and adults in our care know who they can talk to if they have any concerns
- We recognise our responsibility to always respond to and report abuse in whatever context, inside or outside the church environment and will always listen to and take seriously any child, young person or adult who reports that they have been abused
- We will always report allegations of abuse and concerns about a child, young person or an adult who is experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their, illness or disability in accordance with our procedures
- We will always report all allegations of abuse against Church Officers* to the appropriate statutory agency and to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser and co-operate with any investigation
- We will keep all records in relation to safeguarding concerns, allegations and the recruitment of volunteers and paid workers securely
- We commit to the safe recruitment of all new and current Church Officers* who have contact with children, young people and adults experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their, illness or disability.
- We will assess all new and current Church Officer* roles and, in every case where the role is deemed to be eligible, apply for an appropriate level criminal record check every five years

- We commit to providing every Church Officer* with clear instructions and information in respect of their role, adequate resources and support and regular opportunities for review
- We will ensure that all Church Officers* working with children, young people and adults experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their age illness disability or are in a trusted role attend Church of England safeguarding training every three years
- We will inform the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser, and ensure appropriate supervision, of anyone who is known to have offended against a child, young person or an adult at risk of abuse due to their age, illness or disability who attends activities organised by the Parish Church Council of All Saints and will follow all recommendations of the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser in
- We require all hirers of our premises to have their own safeguarding policy and procedures, to provide us with an assurance that these are implemented and to provide us with a copy
- The parish adopts the policy and practice guidance of The Church of England and The Church of England – Birmingham
- The policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved
- We will review our safeguarding policy annually to ensure that it meets all current legislation, House of Bishop's and The Church of England – Birmingham policies and practice guidance
- Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Mrs. Barbara Ritchie-Lines to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies **as the parish safeguarding co-ordinator**.

This church appoints Mrs. Barbara Ritchie-Lines as a **lead parish identity verifier** to process online Disclosure and Barring Service applications

Incumbent *R.J.Walker-Hill*

Churchwarden *D.East*

Churchwarden *L.Spencer*

Date 4th October 2018

**. A 'Church Officer' is anyone appointed by or on behalf of the Church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid
A copy of all parish safeguarding documents that explain implementation of this policy are available for inspection in the Church Vestry.*

Parish Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

Parish of St Mark Stockland Green
agreed by the Parish Church Council on 4th October 2018

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong
and must stop.

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- Ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- Protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- Recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- Enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

In all our activities – valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In our publicity – raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised – ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help and working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care – ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse and identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone
please contact:

Mrs Barbara Ritchie-Lines or Mr. David East
C/O All Saints Vicarage, Broomfield Road, Erdington B23 7QA
0121 373 3466

Other Useful Contacts:

Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser	07342 993 844
National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid	0808 800 0028
West Mercia Women's Aid	0800 980 3331
Staffordshire Women's Aid	0870 2700 123
Black Country Women's Aid	0121 552 6448
Men's Advice Line	0808 801 0327
Galop (LGBT)	0800 999 5428
Action on Elder Abuse	0808 808 8141