

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH
BLYMHILL, TF11 8LJ**

DIOCESE of LICHFIELD

2026-2027

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

**for promoting a Safer Church for all
and especially CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE
and
VULNERABLE ADULTS**

St. Mary's Church, Blymhill

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The following statement was adopted by St. Mary's Church, Blymhill at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on^{29th} April 2026.....

1. This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved. We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.

- We recognise that a position of power in relation to another creates a risk of vulnerability. Consequently, we strive to ensure that we consider power when working with and leading people.
- We recognise that children by virtue of this legal status and dependency on adults for their emotional and physical needs will always be vulnerable and at a disadvantage. We commit to considering this in our children's activities and events by undertaking supervision of people working with them as well as risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.
- We understand that illness, disability, race, mental health and other issues can put adults in a position of vulnerability. We accept that these can be long term (ongoing), or temporary. We commit to this in our adult's activities and events by undertaking supervision of people working with them as well as risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.
- We commit to transparency in our actions and accountability for our work and activities.

2. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all children, young people and adults to whom we minister.

- We will consider issues relating to spiritual care in prayer activity, ensuring that members of our prayer team consider power, control and spiritual abuse issues in their ministry.
- We will ensure that leaders of our Service for All / Family Service and house groups as well as other ministries that involve working with vulnerable persons have appropriate enhanced DBS checks.
- We will ensure that those who care for people in our parish attend appropriate safeguarding training.
- We commit to discuss safeguarding and support of safeguarding as a standing PCC agenda item.

3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.

- this includes activities held for the community such as the Drop-in sessions, and our Seasonal Children's workshops.

4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.

- We commit to discuss safeguarding and support of safeguarding as a standing PCC agenda item.
- We will ensure that those in positions of trust such as the church warden, PCC members and those with remits or leadership groups involving children, young people & vulnerable adults have enhanced DBS checks & that these are updated every 3 years.
- We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the Lichfield Diocese on safeguarding.
- Safeguarding, including revision of policy will be a regular PCC agenda item and we agree that whilst we have a named Safeguarding Officer, we will accept collective ownership for this important issue.
- We will be transparent, open and not have secrets.

5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.

- We will consider the impact of power, disadvantage, inclusion, disability, age and race on how we provide and plan our ministry.
- We will actively (but appropriately) challenge each other in our work to ensure we consider a wide range of perspectives and views - ensuring that we do not oppressively impose our own values or views to another's detriment.
- Where a person struggles with an activity due to disadvantage, disability or illness we will go the extra mile to assist them so they can participate and contribute as a full part of the church.

6. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.

- We will not collude or keep secrets when we have suspicion of abuse. We will seek through discussion the views of others and ensure through use of external agencies and the diocese safeguarding service that we engage and welcome external perspectives in order to promote a healthy accountable culture.
- We will report without being biased to our personal view. We report and not investigate.
- We will record concerns factually in diocese formats (as per recording with care policy 2017)
- We will not take chances with the welfare of children, young people or vulnerable adults.
- We are open to scrutiny and encourage this in others.
- We have zero tolerance to abuse and put the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults first.
- We take seriously training and activities relating to the safeguarding of children.

7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who seek to work with people who may be vulnerable.

AND

8. The Parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.

- We will ensure that those in positions of trust such as the church warden, PCC members and those with remits or leadership groups involving children, young people & vulnerable adults have enhanced DBS checks & that these are updated every 3 years.
- We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding.
- Safeguarding, including revision of policy will be a regular PCC agenda item and we agree that whilst we have a named Safeguarding Officer, we will accept collective ownership of this important issue.
- We will be transparent, open and not have secrets.
- Our incumbent undertakes to ensure that to the best of his knowledge all PCC members and ministry leaders are of good standing.
- The PCC undertake to appoint and upskill a dedicated Safeguarding Officer.
- The Safeguarding Officer undertakes to maintain a relationship with the diocese safeguarding team and ensures that this policy is followed.

9. The Parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.

- The Parish will report and record in line with Lichfield Diocese policies and comply with local guidance for implementing national policies as defined in diocese policies. These include the diocese safeguarding policy, recording with care policy, social media policy and safer recruitment policy.

10. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

- Those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults will sign a declaration to state that they have read and agreed to abide by the points outlined in this policy.

This church appoints Marilyn Jones to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent Aileen Churchwarden J.P. [Signature]

Date 29/04/26/ NEXT REVIEW DATE May 2027

The Parish Safeguarding Officer continues to make a note of any ongoing policy changes in line with both the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy & Practice guidance and The Church of England's Lichfield Diocesan procedures.