

Parish Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Every person has a value and dignity, which comes directly from the creation of people in God's image. Christians see this potential 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.

We commit ourselves to nurture, protect and safeguard all our members, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults.

We recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church.

We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection, appointment, training and support of those working with children or vulnerable adults.

We will respond without delay to concerns or allegations that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, cooperating fully in any investigation.

We will challenge any abuse of power by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care to anyone who has suffered abuse.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

The Church has adopted the Diocese of Blackburn's Safeguarding Policy (which can also be seen on our website) which is currently being reviewed in line with the National Church review and an updated policy is expected in 2018. In addition to a Parish Safeguarding Officer (see below) we also have a Safeguarding Team which reviews our policy and practice at least twice a year and comprises our Vicar, Safeguarding Officer, 2 Children's Champions, 2 Adult safeguarding representatives and our DBS Co-ordinator. The terms of reference for the team and can be found on our website. Our current Children's Champions are Caroline Venables at St Johns and Stuart Cross at Clayton Brook Church and our Adult Champions are Roland Orr (St Johns) and Peter Grieve (Clayton Brook).

Parish/Church Safeguarding Officer



David Barlow

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Our Safeguarding Officer is the first person to speak to if you have any concerns around the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult.

You can contact him on: 01772 324376 or at safeguarding.stjohnswlw@outlook.com

All the safeguarding team together with our Parish Readers have completed the Diocesan Safeguarding Training and all PCC members are encouraged to do so as well. Safeguarding is an item on every PCC agenda.

Other Important telephone numbers:

Sharon Hassall, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: 07711 485170

Email: sharon.hassall@blackburn.anglican.org

CCPAS 24-hour helpline: 0845 120 4550

ChildLine: 0800 1111