

St. Mary the Virgin, Temple Balsall

Safeguarding Policy Statements

Matthew 19

Jesus said “Let the little children come to me. Do not stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are like children”

Luke 2; 3-6

“There was a prophet whose name was Anna. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer. At that moment, she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem”.

The PCC of St. Mary’s set within the Foundation of Lady Katherine Leveson, has a special role with children and older people, as determined by the will of Lady Katherine Leveson.

The PCC of St. Mary’s is wholly committed to safeguarding and protecting both children and vulnerable adults who are involved in the life and worship of the church. It should be appreciated that we are all vulnerable at certain times in our life and often church meets people at their most vulnerable.

The PCC of St. Mary’s endeavours to provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment where all can feel included. We will develop a policy and implement procedures and practices which ensure the welfare and safety of children and vulnerable adults. This will be constantly monitored and amended as needs are presented.

St. Mary’s Church is set within the Charity of The Foundation of Lady Katherine Leveson. Lady Katherine Church of England School and Lady Katherine Housing

and Care, both on site, have their own safeguarding policies and procedures and there is a great deal of overlap with the church.

We are essentially all a part of the same community and all parts support each other in working to protect and enhance the well-being of those who are a part of that community.

St. Mary's Church PCC endeavours to make the physical environment of the church and its surroundings as safe as possible, supported by the Foundation.

The Old Hall is the property of the Foundation and used by the Church. The Church endeavours to make the Old Hall as safe as possible and is supported by the Foundation.

We commit ourselves to providing sensitive and respectful pastoral care. Jen Jones has completed the Diocesan Pastoral Skills Course and plays an active role in co-ordinating pastoral care. Of course, we hope all within our community will show the loving care demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

We commit ourselves to ensuring that all feel welcomed and included and enabled to take a full part in the worship and life of the church.

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

We commit to sharing our safeguarding policies and procedures with the whole church community and developing an understanding that all have a responsibility in safeguarding children and the vulnerable adults within our community and voicing any concerns they have. These concerns should be made known immediately or as soon as reasonably possible to one of those with specific safeguarding responsibilities: Churchwardens and Deputies and Chris Mundell, Children's and Vulnerable Persons' Officer, (who also has a particular role with older people of the community as she is employed by the Foundation).

We will endeavour to create an open environment in which all feel comfortable talking about their concerns and feel confident that they will be responded to and taken seriously.

We will commit to reporting all allegations of abuse. It may be that at this point the allegation will be subject to the procedures of school or care home but it will continue to be monitored by those with safeguarding responsibility at St. Mary's.

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 significant contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

We will ensure that all church officers required by the Diocese to have DBS checks are put through this process.

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 through St. Mary the Virgin Church, Temple Balsall and will follow all recommendations of the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser in this regard.

The Parish Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Temple Balsall, agreed to adopt all of the House of Bishops' safeguarding policy and practice guidance and The Church of England – Birmingham's procedure for their implementation on February 11th, 2019. <https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/safeguarding-children-vulnerable-adults.aspx>

The policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

This church appoints **the Churchwardens** to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

The Lay Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator will be supported by the Vicar and Master who will be the Information Holder because of our unique setting with the Care Home and School being on site. Both of these roles are currently vacant and will be undertaken by **the Churchwardens**.

The Churchwardens will also be supported by Chris Mundell, who is our Children's and Vulnerable Persons' Officer in terms of the Foundation's communication with the Care Home and School.

This team of three will meet quarterly for the purpose of review and on other occasions when required.

This church appoints **Jen Jones** as a **lead parish identity verifier** to process online Disclosure and Barring Service applications

Incumbent - Currently vacant

Churchwarden - Sheila Betts

Signed...Sheila Betts....

Dated 5 December 2022

Churchwarden - Lorraine Horlor

Signed...Lorraine Horlor....

Dated 5 December 2022

Bishop's Safeguarding Advisers: -

Steph Haynes – Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser
07342 993844 - StephH@cofebirmingham.com

Claire Wesley – Safeguarding Training and Development Office
0121 426 0432 - clairew@cofebirmingham.com

Sarah Rose – Safeguarding Support Officer
0121 426 0407 - sahr@cofebirmingham.com

Amendments log:

5 December 2022 - Policy updated following the meeting of the PCC held on 5 December 2022.

Amendments to points of contact during the interregnum and following the resignation of the parish safeguarding co-ordinator.