



# Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

September 2016

Redland Parish Church in accordance with guidance issued by The Church Of England, The Diocese of Bristol, Bristol City Council and the Care Act of 2014 is committed to safeguarding all adults.

We should reflect the character and actions of Jesus to care for all ignored and marginalised in society, those at risk, or needing support and recognise that those who care for them might also require support.

It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of all adults within our community.

We adhere to the principles laid out in Promoting a Safer Church 2007.

## **Definition**

There is no precise definition of a vulnerable adult or adult at risk.

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.

## **Policy**

The PCC will ensure that

- All adults within our church community receive respectful pastoral ministry;
- All those with pastoral responsibility are carefully selected and trained;
- Any complaint that an adult in our care has been harmed or dealt with inappropriately is responded to immediately;
- Anyone who abuses their position of trust will be challenged confidentially;
- All complaints will be handled without fear of victimisation;
- Anyone who has been abused will be offered confidential pastoral care to seek to support them in healing; this may involve contacting or signposting to a more appropriate support;
- Any member of our church community known to have behaved inappropriately or is known to have offended against another will be cared for and appropriately supervised having sought advice from the diocesan safeguarding adviser.

## **Responsibilities**

The PCC is responsible for:

- Reviewing this policy annually;
- The appointment of the Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is responsible for :

- Being the first point of contact for concerns
- Ensuring that the appropriate DBS enhanced disclosure certificates necessary for certain posts are current and relevant;
- Contact and liaison, on behalf of Redland PCC, with outside authorities;
- Informing the PCC of any changes to procedures.

## **Raising Concerns**

### **Telephone numbers and addresses are shown below**

- The term concern covers allegations, disclosures and complaints of a safeguarding nature, whether made in writing or verbally.
- Do not ignore your concerns, discuss them in confidence.
- Always discuss the matter with the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA). Should both be unavailable then the Incumbent or Church Warden should be sought. They will seek advice from the DSA.
- The DSA will advise whether or not matters should be taken further.
- A written report of all concerns and decisions made will be kept in a secure place.
- A concern against a person of trust is to be dealt with by the Diocesan 'Allegations Management Procedure', found on the website.
- If a criminal act has been committed the police should be contacted
- The Bishop is responsible for all clergy licensed staff and Church Wardens. If an allegation involves any of these it is essential that the Bishop's Office is informed directly or via the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

## **Contact addresses and numbers**

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Margaret Matthews	0117 9243350 matthews9birchall@btinternet.com
Deputy PSO	Celia Howe	celia@jinsi.co.uk
Incumbent	Rod Symmons	0117 9464691 rod@redland.org.uk
Churchwardens	Jane Vause	0117 9620395 jane@sjvgroup.co.uk
	Lizzie White	0117 2399607 whitebristol@talktalk.net
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser		.....to be appointed
Diocesan Safeguarding Team		0117 9060100
Diocesan website		<a href="http://www.bristol.anglican.org/safeguarding">www.bristol.anglican.org/safeguarding</a>
Bishop's Office		01454 777728
Police		101 or in an emergency 999