



## **Safeguarding Policy**

1. We are committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, all young people and all adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- The establishment of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
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2. We will carefully select and train all those with any position of responsibility within our Church, in line with the 'Safer Recruitment and People Management' principles. This will include those who undertake Pastoral visiting to housebound, older residents and teaching children at the 11am service.

3. Safe recruitment will include the use of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) criminal record checks, which will be renewed every three years in line with the Diocesan policy. Safeguarding will form part of the induction for new PCC members.

4. We will respond without delay to every safeguarding allegation or suspected abuse which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation and we will have a clear reporting procedure in place. All PCC members are provided with their copy of the CoE pocket guide to safeguarding, which summarises what to do if there is a concern about a child, young person or adult within the church.

5. We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

6. We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

7. 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.

8. In all these principles we will follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice, liaising as necessary with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA).

9. We will advise the Diocese which Registered Body we use to process applications for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) criminal record checks.

10. We will advise the DSA if we receive a disclosure which is 'blemished' or 'positive'.

11. We will review this policy annually, check that our policies are up-to-date and supply a copy of the updated policy statement to the DSA.

January 2023

## Contact Details

If a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention, call the emergency services on 999. If there are concerns about their immediate welfare, don't delay – call Children and Adults Social care on 0345 050 7666 or the MASH Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team on 0800 833408. Please inform the Parish Safeguarding Officer that you have contacted them.

Information about MASH can be found here

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/information-providers/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub>

### Rector

The Very Reverend Jeremy Auld

01993 810749

rectorjeremyauld@gmail.com

### Bladon

Safeguarding Officer

Elizabeth Fendius

safeguarding.bladon@woodstockandbladon.com

07967 551483.

Churchwardens

Gillian Forrest

01993 812651

Jane Benyon

jbenyon@hotmail.co.uk

01993 811722

Recruiter & Verifier

Marion Williams

stmmwoodstock@gmail.com

01993 812915

### Woodstock

Safeguarding Officer  
& Recruiter

Sarah Forshaw

Sarah.forshaw104@btinternet.com

07585 603425

Churchwardens

Ruth Sutherland

rmcdsutherland@btinternet.com

01993 812928

Michael Holmes

mahwarden@gmail.com

01993 811232

Verifier

Marion Williams

stmmwoodstock@gmail.com

01993 812915