

Parish Policy for Safeguarding Children 2024 and formal adoption of the House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement"

Parish of All Saints' Brenchley in the Church of England Diocese of Rochester

The following statement and policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at a meeting held on 20th May 2024

We confirm our adoption of the House of Bishops' safeguarding policy statement "Promoting a Safer Church" and our commitment to implementing the Church of England's a safeguarding policies and procedure which includes:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Providing pastoral care for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Providing pastoral care for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

In pursuance of this, the Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent, Church Wardens and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the Parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Alexandra McCaskill as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Churchwardens: Original signed by Robin Brooks and Moira Tunstall

Date: June 2024