

St Giles Church, South Mymms

Safeguarding Policy.

This church community affirms the right of children and vulnerable adults to be valued members of our congregation, to be cared for in a safe environment and to be protected from all forms of abuse. We recognise and accept the House of Bishops recommendation on the Safeguarding of Children and Young People.

All adults working with children and young people and vulnerable adults, including volunteers, should be checked against the National Vetting and Barring Authority lists. Any person found to be listed shall not be permitted to work with children, or given any opportunity to be alone with children or vulnerable adults.

In order to ensure the safety of children and to protect adults from unjust accusations there should always be two adults present during any activity involving children and vulnerable adults.

In the case of an accusation of abuse, the accusation should be reported in the first instance to the parish priest. If an accusation is made against the parish priest then it must be reported to a Church Warden. In the case of any accusation advice should be sought from the Diocesan Safeguarding officer. The reporting procedures must never be delayed. On very exceptional and rare occasions the need for immediate medical attention or police intervention may be necessary or it may be appropriate to report the information to the Local Authority Social Care Department in any of these instances the Diocesan Child Protection Officer should be informed.

In the case of any report of abuse the disclosure must be taken seriously but it is not the responsibility of anyone within the church to investigate.

A written record of the disclosure or concerns should be made as soon as possible and kept safe, in serious cases the notes may be requested by the police. The exact wording used by the alleged victim should be recorded.

Some do's and don'ts

- Do listen to the child or vulnerable adult without interruption.
- Do reassure the victim that they are not to blame and are doing the right thing by telling
- Do stay calm
- Do be honest and say what you will do next.
- Don't make promises that you cannot keep, eg, do not promise to keep the disclosure secret.
- Don't interrogate the victim
- Don't criticise the alleged perpetrator
- Don't ask leading questions.

April 2019.