



# St Bridget's, West Kirby with Caldy Church Safeguarding Statement

As part of the Christian Church living in the spirit of the Gospel, we are committed to protect and care for everyone in the church community, and especially adults at risk and children.

**The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on**

**THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

The PCC accept and abide by the House of Bishops' Guidance for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in the Church of England and in accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy.<sup>1</sup>

Our church is committed to:

- Recognising that the care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church.
- Promoting a safer environment and culture for our whole Church community.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those, whether volunteers or employed, with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly and appropriately to every safeguarding concern.
- promoting a healthy, compassionate and safe culture which facilitates disclosures and responds well to victims/survivors of abuse and any other affected person in accordance with House of Bishop's Guidance.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those who may pose a present or future risk to others.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Promoting a Safer Church' available on the parish website and Diocesan website

## The Parish will:

- Commit to create a safe and caring place for all by ensuring:
  - We offer appropriate training to those in volunteer roles and raise awareness amongst everyone
  - We have a named person with whom concerns can be raised (Parish Safeguarding Officer)
  - We clearly publicise how to report concerns and make it easy to do so
  - We follow the Church of England safer recruitment policy<sup>2</sup>
  - We ask for DBS checks when appropriate
- Have a Parish Safeguarding Team and named Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults so that they have the confidence and skills to recognise and appropriately respond to abuse or neglect.
- 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, newsletters and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Provide a clear line of accountability within the Church for work on safeguarding
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Have clear reporting procedures to deal with concerns and allegations
- 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.
- Respect the rights and uphold the safeguards afforded in these, both to the victim/survivor and the subject of concerns or allegations
- Have a welcoming attitude to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.

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<sup>2</sup> 'Promoting a Safer Church' page 5:2

- Endeavour to offer pastoral care and support to 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. <sup>3</sup>
- In accordance with the recruitment of ex-offenders guidance, treat DBS applicants who have a criminal record fairly and not discriminate automatically because of a conviction or other information revealed.<sup>4</sup>
- Undertake 'activity risk assessments' for all activities run in the name of the church which are associated with children and vulnerable adults.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are regularly reviewed.
- Ensure that no names or photographs of people are distributed without their consent, especially children and vulnerable adults
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.
- Have safeguarding as a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting

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 Rosemary Morgan as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent .Alex Williams

Churchwardens Gregory Buckridge    Ann Holden

Date September 2024

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<sup>3</sup> Promoting a safer Church page 6: 5&6

<sup>4</sup> St Bridget's Church West Kirby and Caldy Church of the Resurrection and All Saints Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy