

Parish Safeguarding Statement

Policy statement on the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults



Holy Cross Church Parish of Felsted

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Felsted Holy Cross Church takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC and Incumbent are together responsible for ensuring that the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented.

For the purposes of this document a child is anyone under the age of eighteen years.

Policy

The Felsted Holy Cross Church PCC has adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church' (2017)

1. A copy of the full relevant policy is obtainable on the Diocese of Chelmsford's website www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding
2. The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) at Holy Cross Church is James Mackin and has been appointed by the PCC.

Statement of Commitment

This safeguarding policy statement makes six overarching policy commitments:

- 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
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- Caring pastorally 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.

To bring this about we will:

- Formally adopt the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy
- Create a safe and caring place for all
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding 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 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.

If in doubt about any safeguarding matter contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) whose job it is to offer advice, guidance and support in all situations in which a child or adult may be at risk. For this purpose the DST can be contacted at any time on:

01245 294444

Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

James Mackin
Taverners Barn, Crix Green, Felsted, Dunmow CM6 3JT
07949 947896 jamesmackin@felstedchurch.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST)

01245 294444 (24/7)
safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

Contact Details for Safeguarding Organisations/Charities

<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-contacts>



Safeguarding: What to do if....

YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBLE ABUSE

1. In an Emergency Call 999

If the child or adult is considered to be at immediate risk of harm or danger, then this must be reported to the Police immediately. This may also require contacting Children's or Adult Social Care, including the Emergency Duty Team (if the concern arises outside of normal office hours).

Essex Children's Social Care:

Tel: **0345 603 7627** (Children & Families Hub)

Tel: **0345 606 1212** (Urgent and 24-hour contact)

Email: escb@essex.gov.uk

Email: emergency.dutyteamoutofhours@essex.gov.uk

2. Inform the Parish Safeguarding Representative (James Mackin)

In a non-emergency situation the first point of contact should usually be the Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) who will contact the Diocese Safeguarding Adviser (DSA). If not available, then the incumbent may be informed or alternatively the DSA. If an allegation or concern involves the PSR or Incumbent then the DSA should be contacted directly. The PSR and DSA in discussing the concerns will determine who will take responsibility for referral to Children's or Adult Social Care. Please note that a referral to Social Care must not be delayed by the need for consultation with the PSR, Incumbent or the DSA if they are *not available*.

James Mackin: **07949 947896**

jamesmackin@felstedchurch.org.uk

If in doubt don't delay – seek advice from Statutory Agencies

3. Inform the Diocese Safeguarding Adviser (DSA)

This will usually be undertaken by the PSR. Any safeguarding concerns must be reported within 24 hours.

Diocese Safeguarding Duty Officer: **01245 29 44 44**

4. Keep a Record

Record the details of the allegation. Where it is not appropriate to take notes at the time, make a written record as soon as possible afterwards or before the end of the day. Record the time, date, location, and persons present and how the allegation was received (eg telephone, face-to-face conversation, letter). The record should include details of information provided to that person as well as received. Sign and date the record. Keep it factual. Pass on a copy to the DSA (and/or the PSR/Incumbent). The records should be kept secure and confidential.

A CHILD OR ADULT WISHES TO DISCLOSE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABUSED

1. Listen. Keep Listening. Do not Investigate

Whilst not investigating this may be the only time a person discloses abuse so to clarify use only OPEN questions: Who, What, When, Where, How.

Do not make assumptions or offer alternative explanations.

Do not undertake a physical or medical examination.

Check, if face-to-face, if they mind you taking notes whilst they talk.

2. Do NOT promise confidentiality

Tell them we need to share this

3. Assure them they are not to blame

Offer reassurance that disclosing is the right thing to do

4. Tell them what you are going to do and that they will be told what happens

Do not contact the person about whom allegations have been made

5. Keep a Record

See above.

6. Inform

If there is immediate danger to the person contact the police (999).

Otherwise report to the Parish Safeguarding Representative (James Mackin) or Incumbent (Colin Taylor) Immediately.

Within 24 hours the PSR/Incumbent reports the concerns to the Diocese Safeguarding Advisor (DSA).

The DSA will advise regarding reporting to Statutory Agencies (Social Care) within 24 hours.

If there is any doubt seek advice from Children's/Adult Social Care or the Police.

Consent

Whilst those making referrals should seek, in general, to discuss any concerns with the family and, where possible, seek their agreement to make referrals, this should only be done where such discussion and agreement-seeking will not place a child at increased risk of significant harm. This should only be done after advice has been sought from the nominated safeguarding officer and/or the DSA

All people over the age of 16 are presumed, in law, to have the capacity to give or withhold their consent to the sharing of confidential information, unless there is evidence to the contrary.

For a child or young person under the age of 16 who can understand the significance and consequences of making a referral to children's social care, they should be asked their view. However, it should be explained that whilst their view will be taken into account, the Church has a responsibility to take whatever action is required to ensure the child's safety and the safety of other children.

Where a child under 16 years of age is concerned, the consent of their parent or carer should be obtained before their personal information is shared. If this is not possible due to the urgency of the situation, they should be notified that information has been shared as soon as possible. Where a parent or carer has been implicated in the abuse, or the child will be placed at further risk of abuse by involving the parent or carer, the information can be shared without consent.

If in any doubt seek the advice of the DSA. Where a decision is made not to seek parental permission before making a referral to children's social care, the decision must be recorded in the case record, dated and signed, and confirmed in the referral to children's social care.

For further information please see the Chelmsford Diocese Safeguarding webpages at:

<https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding-landing>

Domestic Abuse



If you have concerns or need to talk please contact either:

James Mackin:

jamesmackin@felstedchurch.org.uk

07949 947896

Anneke Müller:

annekemuller@felstedchurch.org.uk

07494 915264

All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship
- all survivors have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities including our own
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse
- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse
- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community
- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse