



# SAFEGUARDING POLICY

September 2020

## MISSION

St Francis' Church is a single congregation, local ecumenical partnership between the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. It is our mission to be a blessing to our community and to prayerfully and practically look towards bringing God's Kingdom in the Parish of Valley Park.

## Ecumenical Church Council

Agreed on: 16.09.2020

Review date: 16.09.2020

Review cycle: 1 year

# St Francis Church, Valley Park, Chandlers Ford

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

The following policy statement was agreed at the St Francis Church Council (CC) meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

This Church Council has adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. In particular our church is committed to:

- 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.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Safeguarding Officer to work with the incumbent and the CC 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 Manager (DSM) and/or statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Following advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager, support and manage the safe involvement of 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 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; the Church of England safeguarding policies and practice guidance; and the procedures/guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Dr Helen Kelso as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Mrs Jane Read as Deputy Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent - Rev Dr Sarah McClelland

Churchwardens - Mrs Alison Rhodes; Mr Andrew Grove

Signed on behalf of CC **Rev Dr Sarah McClelland** (Incumbent)

Date: **16.09.2020**

## Contact details and further information

### Local contacts

Tel: 023 8027 1152 (24hr Answer phone)

Resident Minister (Anglican Priest in Charge): Rev Dr. Sarah McClelland, [rev@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk](mailto:rev@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk)

Parish Administrator: [admin@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk](mailto:admin@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk)

Safeguarding Officer: Dr Helen Kelso: [safeguarding@sfvp.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sfvp.org.uk)

Website: [www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk](http://www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisvp>

### Diocesan Contact details

Jackie Rowlands: Diocesan Safeguarding Manager Tel: 01962 737317 (24hours)

Siona Jeffrey: Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator Tel: 01962 737347

Diocesan Office, Old Alresford Place, Alresford, SO24 9DH

[safeguarding@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@winchester.anglican.org)

### The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults

'Promoting a Safer Church' and Further information on detailed policies and procedures can be found at

<https://www.winchester.anglican.org/safeguarding-resources/>

### Other specialist helplines and services:

- **NSPCC Child Protection Helpline:** [0800 800 5000](tel:08008005000) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are worried about a child.
- **Child-line:** [0800 1111](tel:08001111) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are a child or young person and are worried about anything.
- **National Domestic Violence Helpline:** [0800 2000 247](tel:08002000247) (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are experiencing domestic abuse.
- **Samaritans Helpline:** 116 123 (open 24 hours). Phone if you feel you are struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.
- **Action on Elder Abuse Helpline:** [080 8808 8141](tel:08088088141) ( free phone Monday to Friday 9-5pm).
- **National Rape Crisis Helpline:** [0800 802 9999](tel:08008029999) and is open every day from 12-2.30pm and 7-9.30pm.
- The National Safeguarding Team: [safeguarding@churchofengland.org](mailto:safeguarding@churchofengland.org)