



## **Policy for Safeguarding Children**

### **We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:**

- are youth-friendly and child-friendly and nurture their positive development
- enable children and young people to be active contributors to the church and local community
- protect children and young people from actual or potential harm
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

### **We recognise that:**

- the welfare of the child or young person is paramount
- all children (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- abuse of children can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to the child
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

### **We will endeavour to safeguard children and young people by:**

#### **In all our activities -**

- valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with children and young people, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities

#### **In our recruitment of paid staff and volunteers, following Diocesan procedures in -**

- ensuring careful selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers as appropriate, voluntary workers, and paid workers with children and young people, in line with safer recruitment principles and checks
- providing supervision, support and training

#### **In our publicity -**

- sharing information about good safeguarding practice with children, parents, and all those working with them

#### **When concerns are raised, following Diocesan procedures in -**

- responding without delay to every concern raised that a child or young person may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm; or about the behaviour of an adult or child
- working with the diocese and appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into child abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community
- challenging any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust

#### **In our care -**

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse
- ensuring that appropriate pastoral care is offered to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made
- Unaccompanied Children: Should parents/carers of secondary school age children wish for their children to attend St Margaret's children's church or any other open church events without a parent/carer present in the building, this is allowed with written consent from the parent/carer and

**Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Ellie Herman [safeguardingteam@stmargaretslee.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingteam@stmargaretslee.org.uk)**

**St Margaret's Visitors Centre, Brandram Road, London, SE13 5EA**

**Telephone: 020 8318 9643**

**Email: [parishadmin@stmargaretslee.org.uk](mailto:parishadmin@stmargaretslee.org.uk)**

contact details that can be used in case of emergencies. On a case-by-case basis this may also be acceptable for children in the last two years of primary school, if they are regularly making their way to and from school unaccompanied. Parents may also nominate another adult to act as the carer of their child if they are not attending church themselves. This information is collected upon registration for children's church. Under 18s may not act as the carer for a younger child, unless they are themselves the parent of that child.

**In our supervision, following Diocesan procedures in -**

- ensuring, in partnership with the diocese and other agencies, that care and supervision is provided for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or young person, or to pose a risk to them.

**We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually.**

**Policy for Safeguarding Adults who may be Vulnerable**

**We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:**

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- encourage adults who may be vulnerable to lead as independent a life as possible, to choose how to lead their life, and to be active contributors to the church and local community
- protect adults who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

**We recognise that:**

- everyone has different levels of vulnerability, and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives
- all adults who may be vulnerable (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- abuse of adults who may be vulnerable can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to them
- working in partnership with adults who may be vulnerable, their carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

**We will endeavour to safeguard adults who may be vulnerable by:**

**In all our activities -**

- valuing, listening to and respecting adults who may be vulnerable
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with adults who may be vulnerable, and boundaries for acceptable behaviour, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities

**In our recruitment of paid staff & volunteers, following Southwark Diocesan procedures in -**

- ensuring careful selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers as appropriate, voluntary workers, and paid workers with adults who may be vulnerable, in line with safer recruitment principles and checks
- providing supervision, support and training

**In our publicity -**

- sharing information about good safeguarding practice with adults who may be vulnerable, their carers, and all those working with them

**When concerns are raised, following Southwark Diocesan procedures in -**

- responding without delay to every concern raised that a adult who may be vulnerable may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm, through abuse, harassment or bullying; or about the behaviour of an adult or child

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## **PARISH OF ST MARGARET, LEE**

Parish Office: The Visitors' Centre, Brandram Road, London, SE13 5EA

- working with the diocese and the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community
- challenging any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust

### **In our care -**

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any vulnerable adult who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired
- ensuring that appropriate pastoral care is offered to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made

### **In our supervision, following Southwark Diocesan procedures in -**

- ensuring, in partnership with the diocese and other agencies, that care and supervision is provided for any member of our church community known to have offended against a vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.

**We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures annually.**

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