



Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

This statement was adopted by *St Andrew's Parish Church* with *Trinity Methodist Church Shifnal*, who have agreed to use the *Diocese of Lichfield* framework and reporting structure for Safeguarding. It was agreed at a Parochial Church Council meeting of Trustees held on 26th June 2024 and ratified by Trinity Church Council on July 6th 2024. It applies to activity at the Trinity Centre and at St Andrew's Church.

1. 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:

- We recognise that a position of power in relation to another creates a risk of vulnerability. As a consequence, we strive to ensure that we consider power when working and leading with people.
- We recognise that children by virtue of legal status and dependency on adults for their emotional and physical needs will always be vulnerable and at a disadvantage. We commit to considering this in our children's activities— undertaking supervision of staff working with them and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.
- We understand that illness, disability, race, mental health and other issues can put adults in a position of vulnerability. We accept that these can be long term (ongoing), or temporary. We commit to considering this in our adults' activities and events – undertaking supervision of staff and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.
- We commit to transparency in our actions and accountability for our work.
- We will review this policy each year to monitor progress and update it in accordance with Diocesan guidance.

2. As members of this church partnership we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults and children to whom we minister:

- We will consider issues relating to spiritual care in prayer activity, ensuring that members of our prayer team consider power, control and spiritual abuse issues in their ministry.
- We will ensure that leaders of our children's Sunday schools and house groups as well as other ministries that involve working with vulnerable persons have appropriate enhanced DBS checks.
- We will ensure that those who care for people in our parish attend appropriate safeguarding training.
- We commit to discuss safeguarding and include it as a standing PCC agenda item

3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of young people and those who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this partnership including the following groups:

Everyday Warm Welcome	Little Fishes	Bell Ringers (Tower)
Choristers	Messy Church	What's for Lunch
Young Church	Server Team	Centre Stage
Open Door	Forget-me-not	Alpha
Big House holiday club	Open the Book	Ladybirds

- For all outside groups using our premises on a regular basis our license requires that they show evidence of their own safeguarding policy, or that they adopt this policy.

5. The partnership commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable:

- We will consider the impact of power, disadvantage, inclusion, disability, age and race on how we provide and plan for our ministry.
- We will actively (but appropriately), challenge each other in our work in order to ensure we consider a wide range of perspectives and views— ensuring that we do not oppressively impose our own values or views to another's detriment.
- Where a person struggles with an activity due to disadvantage, disability or illness we will go the extra mile to assist them so they can participate and contribute as a full part of the church.

6. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect:

- We will not collude, keep secrets or make decisions when we have suspicion of abuse. We will seek through discussion the views of others and ensure through use of external agencies and the diocese safeguarding service that we engage and welcome external perspectives in order to promote a healthy accountable culture.
- We will record concerns factually in diocese suggested formats (as per recording with care policy 2017)
- We will not take chances with the welfare of children or vulnerable adults.
- We are open to scrutiny and encourage this in others.
- We have zero tolerance to abuse and put the welfare of vulnerable children and adults first.
- We take seriously training and activities relating to the safeguarding of Children and seek to engrain this in our congregational culture.

7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and people who may be vulnerable:

- We will ensure that those in positions of trust including all PCC trustees and Clergy, and those with remits or leadership of groups involving vulnerable children etc have appropriate enhanced DBS checks and that these are updated every 3 years w.e.f. 1st January 2022.
- We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding.
- Safeguarding including revision of policy will be a regular PCC agenda item and agree that whilst we have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) we will accept collective ownership for this important issue.
- We will be transparent, open and not have secrets.
- Our incumbent undertakes to ensure that to the best of his or her knowledge all PCC members, wardens and ministry leaders are of good standing.
- The PCC undertakes to appoint and upskill a dedicated Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO).
- Safeguarding team undertakes to maintain a relationship with diocese level safeguarding team and ensure that this policy is followed.

10. The partnership adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese:

- The partnership will report and record in line with Diocese policies and comply with local guidance's for implementing national policies as defined in diocese policies. These include the

diocese safeguarding policy, recording with care policy, social media policy and safer recruitment policy.

11. Each person who works with Children and vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church:

- Those working with vulnerable adults or children will sign a declaration to state that they have read and agree to abide by the points outlined in this policy.

This church appoints **Dr Philip Leigh as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)** to represent the concerns and views of Children and vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

Incumbent Chris Thorpe

Revd. Preb. Chris Thorpe

Methodist Minister Roger Dunlop

Revd. Roger Dunlop

Senior Steward Janet Lander

Mrs Janet Lander

Churchwarden D. Senior

Mr David Senior

Churchwarden Jean Odum

Mrs Jean Odum

Date: 15th July 2025