

SAFEGUARDING

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Safeguarding Policy Statement of Lickey and Blackwell Parish

This policy statement on safeguarding children and adults in the Church was adopted by Holy Trinity, the Lickey with St. Catherine's, Blackwell on 25th January 2018.

The Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity, the Lickey with St. Catherine's, Blackwell, recognise the need to safeguard the children, young people and adults in our care and guard against the possibility of any form of abuse by persons who may be acting in the name of our parish. We aim to create a safe environment for the nurture and development of children, young people and adults, in order for them to feel valued and confident to ask for support and help. We will create policies and procedures that uphold the importance of our responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of all entrusted into our care.

- We commit to providing a safe physical environment for work with children, young people and adults.
- 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.
- As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
- We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well being within the life of our churches.
- We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
- The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
- We commit to informing the whole church community about our safeguarding policy and procedures and recognise that it is the responsibility of each of us to prevent and report abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We will ensure that children, young people and adults in our care know whom they can talk to if they have any concerns.
- We recognise our responsibility to always respond and report abuse in whatever context, inside or outside our church environment and will always listen to and take seriously any child, young person or adult that say they have been abused.
- We will always report allegations of abuse and concerns about a child, young person or adult who is experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their illness or disability in accordance with our procedures.
- We will always report all allegations of abuse against Church Officers* to the appropriate statutory agency and to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser and co-operate with any investigations.
- We will keep all records in relation to safeguarding concerns, allegations and the recruitment of volunteers and paid workers securely.

- We commit to the safe recruitment of all new and current Church Officers* who have contact with children, young people and adults experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their illness or disability.
- We will assess all new and current Church Officer roles and, in every case where the role is deemed to be eligible, apply for appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service checks every five years.
- We commit to providing every Church Officer with clear instructions and information in respect of their role, adequate resources and support and regular opportunities for review.
- We will ensure that all Church Officers working with children, young people and adults experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their illness or disability, or are in a trusted role, attend Church of England safeguarding training every three years.
- We will inform the Bishop's Safeguarding Advisor, and ensure appropriate supervision of anyone who is known to have offended against a child, young person or adult at risk of abuse due to their age, illness or disability who attends activities organised by the Parochial Church Council Holy Trinity, the Lickey with St. Catherine's, Blackwell and will follow all recommendations of the Bishop's Safeguarding Advisor in this regard.
- We require all hirers of our premises to have their own safeguarding policy and procedures, and to provide us with a copy.
- The parish adopts the policy and practice guidance of The Church of England and The Church of England – Birmingham Diocese.
- The policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress that has been achieved.
- We will review our safeguarding policy annually to ensure that it meets all current legislation, House of Bishop's and The Church of England policies and practice guidance
- Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and guidelines established by our churches.
- The Safeguarding Co-ordinator will keep a register of all holders of the Parish Safeguarding Policy and ensure updates are addressed as necessary.
- Holy Trinity, the Lickey with St. Catherine's, Blackwell confirms **Marlene Parsons** to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies as the parish safeguarding co-ordinator.
- We confirm **Emma Sargeant** and **Maggie Forknell** as parish identity verifiers to process online Disclosure and Barring Services applications.

*A Church Officer is anyone appointed by or on behalf of the Church to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid.