

# The Parish of Marcham with Garford

## PCC Safeguarding Policy

### CHURCH DETAILS:

<b>Name:</b>	All Saints' Marcham with St. Luke's, Garford [hereafter "the Church"]
<b>Address:</b>	Church Street, Marcham, Abingdon OXON OX13 6NP
<b>Parish Office:</b>	41 North Street, Marcham OX13 6NQ
<b>Tel. No.:</b> 01865 391319	<b>E-mail:</b> info@allsaintsmarcham.org
<b>Denomination:</b>	Church of England, Diocese of Oxford

### MISSION STATEMENT:

Marcham Parochial Church Council (hereafter referred to as Marcham PCC) recognises the importance of its ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults, and its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults entrusted to the church's care.

As part of its mission, the Church is committed to:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children young people and vulnerable adults, as well as promoting their welfare and protection.
- Safe recruitment, supervision and training for all the children's / youth workers / volunteers within the church.
- Adopting a procedure for dealing with concerns about possible abuse.
- Encouraging and supporting parents / carers.
- Supporting those affected by abuse in the Church.
- Maintaining good links with the statutory childcare authorities and other organisations.

### CHURCH POLICY:

Marcham PCC recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults. It also acknowledges that children and young people can be victims of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and neglect. Marcham PCC has therefore adopted the processes and procedures set out in the Diocese of Oxford *'Safeguarding Handbook for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults'* (March 2012), along with the procedures of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board. Marcham PCC also recognises the need to build constructive links with statutory and voluntary child protection agencies.

Marcham PCC is committed to on-going child protection training for all children / youth workers / volunteers and will ensure that the training delivered is reviewed and is in line with current thinking and practice.

Marcham PCC will seek to challenge any abuse of power especially by anyone in a position of trust.

## **RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE:**

Under no circumstances should a church worker / volunteer carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will do the following:

- Concerns must be reported within 24 hours to either the incumbent (the Revd Richard Zair on 01865 391319), the Children and Families Minister (Jill Rowe on 07811 165351), the Youth Leader (Rob Finch on 07888 331708) or the Parish Safeguarding Officer (Anne Wilson on 01865 391141/07788 535424) who is nominated by Marcham PCC to act on their behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- The Safeguarding Officer may also be required by conditions of the Church Insurance Policy to immediately inform the Insurance Company.
- Advice may also be sought from the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) (Stuart Nimmo on 01865 208290) or for children via the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 050 7666 or for adults via telephone on 0345 0507 666. The DSA will advise on the procedure to be followed.
- The DSA can advise on any matter around referral to statutory agencies. The MASH may redirect the caller to a different team if required. The out of hours emergency number is: 0800 833408. The Thames Valley Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit telephone number is: 01865 309277
- If the allegation involves a person in a position of trust, after contacting the DSA, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) must be contacted on 01865 815956.
- Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the events / concerns should be made. This should be recorded as soon as possible after the concerns have been gathered, writing the child's words rather than paraphrase, if applicable, and with date and signature and details of the person involved and their role in the church. This should be given to the Parish Safeguarding Officer and kept in a secure place.
- Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to those nominated above, their absence should not delay the seeking of advice from the DSA or referral to Children's Social Care.
- Marcham PCC will support the Parish Safeguarding Officer in their role, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way, on a need-to-know basis.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the child protection agencies, although Marcham PCC hope that members of the Church will use this procedure. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Parish Safeguarding Officer has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement as to the

appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that Marcham PCC demonstrate the commitment of the Church to effective child protection.

### **THE ROLE OF THE PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:**

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to Children's Social care or to Adult social care. It is the task of Children's Social Care to investigate the matter under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 or for Adult social care to launch an investigation under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014. Consent for reporting to either childrens or adult social care should be sought, however there are circumstances where a referral to social care can and should occur without consent having been obtained.

### **ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, NEGLECT OR EMOTIONAL HARM:**

If a child has a physical injury, a symptom of neglect or concern of emotional harm, the Parish Safeguarding Officer will:

- Contact Children's Social Care, or the DSA, for advice in cases of deliberate injury, if concerned about a child's safety or if a child is afraid to return home.
- Will not tell the parents or carers unless advised to do so having contacted Children's Social Care.
- Seek medical help if needed urgently, informing the doctor of any suspicions.
- For lesser concerns (e.g. poor parenting) encourage parent / carer to seek help, but not if this places the child at risk of injury.
- Where the parent / carer is unwilling to seek help, offer to seek help with them / on their behalf. In cases of real concern, if they still fail to act, contact Social care direct for advice. Make this referral to Children's Social care via the Oxfordshire On-Line MASH referral form
- Seek and follow the advice given by the DSA (who will confirm their advice in writing) if unsure whether or not to refer a case to Children's Social Care.

### **ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE:**

In the event of allegations or suspicions of sexual abuse, the Parish Safeguarding Officer will:

- Contact MASH or EDT immediately who will speak with the Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit. Do NOT speak to the parent / carer or anyone else. For cases of historical sexual abuse consider the on-line MASH referral route as appropriate to the situation and contact with the perpetrator.

- Seek and follow the advice given by the DSA if for any reason they are unsure whether or not to contact Children's Social Care / Police.

Adults:

In an event of allegations of abuse involving an adult, the Parish Safeguarding Officer will refer to the Adult Threshold of Needs Matrix and refer accordingly. If they are unsure whether a referral is needed, advice via a Safeguarding Consultation can be obtained on 01865 328232 or via the DSA.

## **APPOINTMENT, SUPPORT, SUPERVISION AND TRAINING OF LEADERS AND WORKERS:**

Marcham PCC will ensure all workers / volunteers will be appointed, trained, supported and supervised in accordance with the principles set out in the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook. The same principles will be applied to those appointed to work with vulnerable adults.

All volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults will be DBS checked.

## **SUPERVISION OF GROUP / CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES:**

Marcham PCC will provide details of the supervision for each specific activity.

## **SUPPORT FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY ABUSE:**

Marcham PCC is committed to offering pastoral care, working with statutory agencies as appropriate, and support to those attending the Church who have been affected by abuse.

## **WORKING WITH OFFENDERS:**

In accordance with Diocesan policy, no-one who has been convicted of / cautioned for a sexual offence against a child will be permitted to undertake regulated activity or have unsupervised access to children.

A person convicted of / cautioned for any other offense against a child or for whom there are unresolved serious allegations outstanding will only be able to undertake regulated activity or have unsupervised access to children with the agreement of the incumbent following consultation with the DSA and the Police.

Those identified above will be involved in discussions concerning attendance at worship and other activities.

Having a criminal record does not necessarily bar someone from being involved with children's work – it will depend on the nature of the position and the circumstances around any offenses.

Following its adoption in October 2012, this policy will be reviewed annually in the PCC meeting in September.

A copy of the policy will be sent to the DSA.

Signed:

Date:

Print name:

Appointment:

Signed:

Date:

Print name:

Appointment: