

# **Parish of Reigate: St. Luke**

## **Policy for Safeguarding Children**

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- nurture children of all ages and in their positive development
- enable children and young people to be active contributors to the church 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:

- in all our activities by valuing, listening to and respecting them; fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with them, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities
- in our recruitment of paid staff and volunteers; ensuring careful selection and recruitment and continuing checks, supervision, support and training following Diocesan procedures.
- in our publicity - sharing information about good safeguarding practice with children, parents and all those working with them.
- to follow Diocesan procedures when concerns are raised and offer appropriate pastoral care to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made
- to follow Diocesan procedures for care and supervision for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or young person, or to pose a risk to them

## **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 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) may 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:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- in all our activities by valuing, listening to and respecting them; fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with them, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities
- in our recruitment of paid staff and volunteers; ensuring careful selection and recruitment and continuing checks, supervision, support and training following Diocesan Procedures.

- in our publicity - sharing information about good safeguarding practice with children, vulnerable adults, parents and all those working with them.
- to follow Diocesan procedures when concerns are raised and offer appropriate pastoral care to any member of our church community against whom an
- allegation is made
- to follow Diocesan procedures for care and supervision for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or young person, or to pose a risk to them

## **Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse**

- We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:
- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship
- all survivors (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
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of child abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse
- in our publicity - raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public areas of relevance to survivors, children and perpetrators of domestic abuse
- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help when concerns are raised
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community in our care; ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse. Identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse

All those who work with children and vulnerable adults under the context of St Luke's Church have a DBS, which is renewed every five years under diocesan guidelines.

St Luke's Church Reigate is committed to reviewing this policy and these procedures annually. The full detailed Diocesan safeguarding policies, procedures and guidelines can be found in the Diocesan safeguarding A4 ring binder titled 'A Safe Church'; copies of 'A safe Church' are held: by the safeguarding officers, the vicar & in the vestry

This policy was reviewed and approved by the PCC on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019