

**ST.
MARY'S
BEARWOOD**

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Promoting a Safer Church

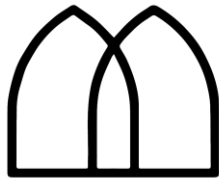
The following was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 13th November 2023

In accordance with the [House of Bishop's Policy Statement 'Promoting a Safer Church' \(2017\)](#) St Mary's Bearwood is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have named Parish Safeguarding Co-Ordinator (PSC) and Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.



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- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser (BSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.
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Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

Further guidance can be found in the [Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance](#).

The Church of England [Parish Safeguarding Handbook](#) and The Church of England – [Birmingham Parish Handbook Supplement](#) provide detailed advice on responding to concerns.


APPOINTED SAFEGUARDING TEAM FOR ST MARY'S BEARWOOD:

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Vicar

Revd. Ben Baker

 vicar@stmarysbearwood.org

 07726 956901

Parish Safeguarding Officers:


Alison Carter

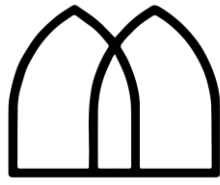
 safeguarding@stmarysbearwood.org

 07900 101595

Rebecca Dawkins

 safeguarding@stmarysbearwood.org

 07753 863665




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Bishops Safeguarding Advisor:

Steph Haynes

 stephH@cofebirmingham.com

 07432 993844

Each of these people are authorised by the church 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.

If the situation is an emergency and it is not possible to contact the Vicar or the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the volunteer should contact Social Services or the Police directly. It is essential that the volunteer inform the Vicar or Parish Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible after this action has been taken.