

SAFEGUARDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND
VULNERABLE ADULTS

POLICY AND PRACTICE AT ST MARY'S IFFLEY

Approved by Iffley PCC on 22nd November 2016

POLICY

At St. Mary's we follow the policy and principles set out in the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook (2012). This is based on the House of Bishops Safeguarding Principles (2010). In line with the guidance, St. Mary's has in place:

- A safeguarding officer to ensure policy and procedures are in place and to deal with any concerns. This is someone not directly involved in work with children and vulnerable adults.
- Proper recruitment procedures for helpers with children and vulnerable adults, including DBS checks and confidential Declaration forms
- Appropriate insurance for all the buildings and care of children
- Extra training in safeguarding has been offered to the leaders of the Fish and Chip club using an online programme from the NSPCC.
- A children's advocate whose photo and contact details are displayed prominently in the Outer Vestry and the Upper room in the Hall where the children meet.
- First Aid equipment and a Fire extinguisher are in both places and regularly checked.
- A file with necessary information for helpers is kept in both the Upper room in the Hall where the Fish and Chip Club meet and the outer vestry where the Crèche meets.
- Local phone numbers for Social Services, Police etc are displayed in both meeting places.
- A Register and Incident book is kept for both groups and for all activities undertaken by Living Stones.
- Contact details are kept securely for each child attending the Fish and Chip Club.

Parish Activities

1. CHILDREN

“A child is defined as anyone who has not yet reached his/her 18th birthday.”

a) Crèche

The Crèche is run by volunteers (who are either DBS checked or have signed the Confidentiality Declaration), together with at least one parent. It is run in the Outer Vestry during the 10.00 service on Sundays. It is very popular with young families.

b) The Fish & Chip Club

There are currently 4 leaders who alternate. They are all DBS checked. There is a planned programme that follows the Church's seasons. It is run in the Upper room in the hall. Numbers of children vary between 2 and 10. The ages vary from 4-13.

c) Participants in Living Stones

Children attending events organised by Living Stones do so under the supervision of the responsible adult(s) with whom they have come. This is made clear on all the publicity and printed information about the events. All volunteers working with Living Stones receive appropriate 'in house' training and are always working under the direction of a DBS checked leader.

2. VULNERABLE ADULTS

“A vulnerable adult is defined as ‘ any adult aged 18 or over, who by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or any other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of him or herself, or to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.”

a) Holy Communion outside the Church building

The parish visits a care home to give communion monthly and provides a similar service to an individual in a care home and in the

home of other adults some of whom could be defined as vulnerable. The volunteers who provide these services are DBS checked.

b) Community Cupboard

All volunteers working at the Community Cupboard receive appropriate 'in house' training and are always working under the direction of a DBS checked leader.

c) Participants in Living Stones

Vulnerable adults attending events organised by Living Stones do so under the supervision of the responsible adult(s) with whom they have come. This is made clear on all the publicity and printed information about the events. All volunteers working with Living Stones receive appropriate 'in house' training and work at all times under the direction of a DBS checked leader.

3. HIRERS OF THE CHURCH HALL

Regular hirers of the Hall who use the Hall more than three times a year and who include children or vulnerable adults in their activities are required to give a copy of their Safeguarding policy to the Church Hall Bookings Secretary as a condition of their hire.