

Policy on the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults (Revised February 2018)

This statement was adopted by the Parish of St David's Church, Moreton-in-Marsh with St Mary's Church, Batsford at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on 5.1.18..... (date).

This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved and a copy shared with the Archdeacon at the time of the Visitation.

1. 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.
2. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
6. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable, including obtaining DBS checks where appropriate (see 11).
8. The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
9. The parish adopts the Diocese of Gloucester's policy for safeguarding adults (see Appendix).
10. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.
11. The PCC together with the incumbent will ensure that DBS checks are obtained for people who fall into the following categories:
 - Lay people commissioned by the Bishop for pastoral and community work
 - All those who become parish lead people under a parish policy
 - All lay people authorised in a formal way by the parish for pastoral and community work
 - All those commissioned by the Bishop to distribute Holy Communion to people in their own homes
 - According to the House of Bishops' policy, 'Those who regularly care for, train, supervise or are in sole charge of vulnerable people' (as defined in the House of Bishops' Report 'Promoting a Safe Church' (p2):
Any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or 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

12. The PCC nominates Judith Hartridge to be the Nominated Person (Safeguarding Officer) to whom all cases of suspected or alleged abuse must be reported immediately. Her contact details are displayed in the church and the Centre foyer. The Safeguarding Officer will inform the relevant insurer as soon as possible if there is a report of an incident that could lead to a claim, seeking their advice in the event of likely or actual claims and funding support. The insurer will be kept informed of any developments in the situation.
13. The PCC Nominates Margo Stansbury as Safeguarding Administrator - managing the administration associated with implementing the policy.
14. We will ensure that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any vulnerable adult who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint. We also commit to offer appropriate pastoral care to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made.

Definitions and Scope

For the purpose of understanding the application of this policy, while vulnerability in adults may take many forms, we accept the working definition for use with those who may be vulnerable as set out in the national Church of England report 'Promoting a Safe Church':

"Any adult aged 18 or over whom, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation or specific circumstance 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".

The phrase "other situations" includes those who are vulnerable for medical and social reasons and also those who are vulnerable by virtue of their economic position or their status under 'immigration' laws (for example those who are asylum seekers or refugees).

We also recognise that those who are most vulnerable may be least able to report any abuse.

We believe that it is our duty to recognise and support those who are identified as being more vulnerable. Some of the factors that increase vulnerability include:

- a sensory or physical disability of impairment
- a learning disability
- a physical illness
- mental ill health (including dementia), chronic or acute
- an addiction of alcohol or drugs
- the failing faculties in old age
- a permanent or temporary reduction in physical, mental or emotional capacity brought about by life events, including bereavement, previous abuse or trauma, instability to economic or legal circumstances

We are committed to promoting activities and awareness which will help ensure that people are:

- treated with respect and dignity
- have their privacy respected
- are able to lead as independent a life as possible
- have the protection of the law

- have their rights upheld regardless of their ethnicity, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religion, or cultural background
- be able to engage in effective communication
- be heard

Abuse can take many different forms:

- **Physical abuse** – being hit or restrained, or misuse of medication
- **Sexual abuse** – being harassed, teased or touched in a way that the person does not like, being forced to have sex against their will
- **Neglect** – not getting the food, care or clothing needed
- **Psychological abuse** – being bullied, threatened or verbally abused
- **Discriminatory abuse** – being ridiculed or threatened because of race, gender, disability or age
- **Financial abuse** – money or possession being stolen or used in a way that the person does not like
- **Institutional abuse** – being mistreated by an organisation or person that is providing care
- **Spiritual abuse** - using religious language or practise in a way that is domineering, manipulative or as an excuse for inappropriate behaviour

Incumbent SKQ Date 5.2.17

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