THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

Safeguarding Policy Statement

This Policy Statement on Safeguarding in the Church was reviewed and readopted by Sharow with Copt Hewick and Marton-Le-Moor at a Parish Council meeting held on 16th April 2018.

Each person who works within this Church in either a paid or a voluntary capacity will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church. The church appoints Nicky Howgate as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The application of this policy will be reviewed every year and a report provided by the Parish Safeguarding Officer to the PCC.

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

The Diocese of Leeds and all parish within it adopt the Church of England policies and practice guidelines relating to safeguarding.

We will endeavour to safeguard children, young people and adults by:

- Ensuring the care, nurture and respectful pastoral ministry with all children, young people and adults.
- Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with relevant vetting and barring scheme.
- Supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work with children, young people and adults.
- Establishing safe, caring communities which provide a culture of " informed vigilance" as to the dangers of abuse.
- Recognising that it is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of children, young people and adults, and to report any such abuse, and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, co-operating with police and local authority in any investigation.
- Seeking to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- Committing ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
- Challenging any abuse of power, especially by anyone in position of trust.
- Offering pastoral care, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or adult.