

Knowle Parish Church SAFEGUARDING POLICY for adults

This policy statement on safeguarding adults in the Church was adopted by Knowle Parochial Church Council (PCC) on 25th November 2020.

Knowle PCC recognises the need to safeguard adults to whom we minister and guard against the possibility of any form of abuse by persons who may be acting in the name of our parish. We aim to create a safe environment so that all feel valued and confident to ask for support and help. We will create policies and procedures that uphold the importance of our responsibility to protect and safeguard their welfare. A Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator has been appointed to ensure the implementation of this policy.

1. We commit to providing a safe physical environment for work with adults.
2. We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
3. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
4. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
5. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
6. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
7. We commit to informing the whole church community about our safeguarding policy and procedures and recognise that it is the responsibility of each of us to prevent and report abuse that we discover or suspect.
8. We will ensure the adults to whom we minister know who they can talk to if they have any concerns.
9. We recognise our responsibility to always respond to and report abuse in whatever context, inside or outside the church environment and will always listen to and take seriously anyone who reports that they have been abused.
10. We will always report allegations of abuse and concerns about anyone who is experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their, illness or disability in accordance with our procedures
11. We will always report all allegations of abuse against clergy, staff or volunteers to the appropriate statutory agency and to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser and co-operate with any investigation.
12. We will keep all records in relation to safeguarding concerns, allegations and the recruitment of volunteers and paid workers securely.
13. We commit to the safe recruitment of all new and current clergy, staff or volunteers who have contact with adults experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their, illness or disability.
14. We will assess all new and current clergy, staff or volunteer roles and, in every case where the role is deemed to be eligible, apply for an appropriate level criminal record check **every five years**.
15. We commit to providing every clergy, staff or volunteer with clear instructions and information in respect of their role, adequate resources and support and regular opportunities for review.

16. We will ensure that all clergy, staff or volunteers working with adults experiencing or at risk of abuse due to their age illness disability or are in a trusted role attend Church of England safeguarding training every three years.
17. We will inform the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser, and ensure appropriate supervision, of anyone who is known to have offended against a child, young person or an adult at risk of abuse due to their age, illness or disability who attends activities organised by Knowle PCC and will follow all recommendations of the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser in this regard.
18. We require all hirers of our premises to have their own safeguarding policy and procedures, to provide us with an assurance that these are implemented and to provide us with a copy.
19. The parish adopts the policy and practice guidance of The Church of England and The Church of England – Birmingham.
20. The policy will be reviewed **each year** to monitor the progress which has been achieved.
21. We will review our safeguarding policy **annually** to ensure that it meets all current legislation, House of Bishop's and The Church of England – Birmingham policies and practice guidance
22. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

This church has appointed **Carol Leetch** as the **parish safeguarding co-ordinator for adults**.

This church has appointed **Sarah Covington, Gareth Roberts-Davies** and **Natalie Smith** as **parish identity verifiers** to process online Disclosure and Barring Service applications

Incumbent Rev Geoff Lanham

Churchwarden Matthew Baggott

Date 25th November 2020