

AN INTRODUCTION TO SAFEGUARDING

For Your General Awareness (as at February 2021)

“The Church is called to share the good news of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ. The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.”

p11 from ‘Promoting a Safer Church’, The Church of England’s Safeguarding Policy Statement

What is Safeguarding?

“The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.”

p5 from ‘Promoting a Safer Church’ document

“Abuse” includes: neglect, domestic abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial or material abuse, modern slavery, psychological or emotional abuse, self-neglect, discriminatory abuse, organisation or institutional abuse, coercive control, spiritual abuse.

from C0 Basic Awareness Training course

See the Church of England Fact Sheet on Types of Abuse for full details:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/Type%20of%20Abuse%20Reference%20Document%20September%202018%20-%20PROOF%20COPY.pdf>

The Diocese in Europe is the overseer of the Anglican Chaplaincies in Europe, such as ours. All our safeguarding policies are directed from the Church of England in the UK.

The **Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines** ‘document’ is online:

<https://europe.anglican.org/introduction/introduction>

A good reference about safeguarding by the Church of England is their **Promoting a Safer Church** safeguarding policy document:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-05/PromotingSaferChurchWeb.pdf>

Who are we caring for?

“Vulnerable people”, by which we mean:

p5 from ‘Promoting a Safer Church’ document

Children

Young People

Ages 14-17

Vulnerable Adults

Section 6 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 defines a ‘vulnerable adult’ as ‘a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect himself or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability or illness, old age, emotional fragility or distress, or otherwise; and for that purpose, the reference to being impaired is to being temporarily or indefinitely impaired’.

But also those who are responsible for abuse.

Our BIBLICAL mandate to care for “the vulnerable”

Safeguarding therefore is at the heart of Christian expression of community and family. It is 'gospel' work. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury said: "Every day the vulnerable come to us for shelter, for support and for comfort. Their trust cannot be taken for granted."

From the C0 Basic Awareness Training course

1. Church is to reflect the image of God through being a compassionate presence to those who are vulnerable and suffering.

Ps 34:18

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

2. Defend and speak up for those who are unable to do so for themselves.

Ps 82:2-4

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

3. We are to be a community of welcome hope and healing for those who have suffered harm, as well as those who may pose a risk.

Luke 9:11

Jesus spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

The Christian Bible reveals a God of compassion and mercy, who opposes injustice and who calls his people to protect those who are vulnerable.

Jer 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

St George's Church's SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The church council and Chaplain has determined to uphold good safeguarding practices. Furthermore, we need each person in the congregation to also be aware of the need for this, and to vigilantly care for each other too. Abuse is not kept secret...

We have a **CHAPLAINCY SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (CSO)** who works, with the Chaplain and Church Wardens, to ensure that we fulfil best practice regarding safeguarding, and who manages the training, checks and reporting of concerns or allegations. Concerns or allegations are recorded - and may be passed on to the Diocese Safeguarding Team - for action and/or advice.

WHAT WE DO (the church leadership)

We have identified roles in the church which are involved with vulnerable people. Depending on the level of responsibility, the level of Safeguarding TRAINING the person will require will vary, and the person may also have to undergo Safeguarding CHECKS (police clearance checks from countries they've lived in for more than 6 months). Everyone involved in any role will need to fill out a confidential QUESTIONNAIRE (CDF).

WHAT YOU DO (as a church attendee)

- EACH PERSON - needs to **be aware** of what Safeguarding is, and to be vigilant ... keeping an eye out for possible signs of abuse, then **reporting** those to the Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer or directly to the Diocese Safeguarding Team (in the UK).
- EVERYONE - should do the **online C0 Basic Awareness Training**. It applies to DAILY LIFE!
- Certain church ROLES - need to also do the online C1 Foundation TRAINING, and perhaps also the C2 Virtual Leadership TRAINING. Consult the CSO.
- may also need to do Safeguarding CHECKS. Likewise consult the CSO.

Safeguarding TRAINING - for your awareness

The training courses are explained in this link: <https://europe.anglican.org/safeguarding/online-training>

There are 3 courses:

C0 Basic Awareness	(online)
C1 Foundation	(online)
C2 Virtual Leadership	(two online classes, by date with a trainer)

If you have a SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

YOU may be the only person, in the life of a vulnerable person, who notices the presence of abuse. So mention your concern just in case it could be serious. WISDOM will be used by the Safeguarding Officer and Diocesan Team in treating your concern seriously, and making a record of it. Should action be needed, on the advice of the Diocesan Team, then they will proceed in an appropriate way, with their experience and wisdom of experts on hand.

TOGETHER,
LET'S ENSURE OUR CHURCH IS A PLACE
WHERE EVERYONE IS SAFE AND SECURE

If you have **any questions, or concerns**, please contact:
CSO - Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer,
Josephine Deelman
safeguarding@st-georges-church.com

If you have **a concern or allegation**, contact the CSO or:
Diocesan Safeguarding Team (UK)
Tel: +44 207 898 1163
europe.safeguarding@churchofengland.org