

# All Saints, Swallowfield

## Parish Safeguarding Policy

The following policy was agreed at the Swallowfield PCC meeting held on 20 September 2017 and reviewed and updated on May 20th 2020. It is reviewed annually, most recently in January 2025.

1. We are committed to:
  - The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults.
  - The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults. We are particularly aware of the importance of protecting vulnerable children and adults.
  - The establishment of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
2. We will train and select with care those who we choose to work with children and young people, and train the whole Parochial Church Council (PCC) and others in positions of relevant responsibility in line with agreed best practice to have the confidence and skills to recognize and respond to abuse.
3. We will listen to, take seriously and respond without delay to every concern made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed within or outside the church community; co-operate with the police and local authority in any investigation; and have a clear reporting procedure in place.
4. We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed and supportive pastoral care.
5. We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
6. Where there are grounds to suspect that a member of our church community may have offended against a child, young people or vulnerable adult, we shall refer the case to the proper authorities and follow their advice on how or whether to allow him or her any further access to these groups. Any such access will be supervised, unless or until we are told otherwise. We shall also seek to offer appropriate pastoral care and support to the person concerned, as a member of our community.
7. In all these principles we will follow statute, guidance and recognised good practice.
8. We shall use the Registered Body appointed by the Diocese to process applications for Disclosure and Barring Service criminal record checks.
9. We will inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser if we receive a Disclosure which

is 'blemished' or 'positive' and would expect to be advised by the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser if he or she is aware of any such information relevant to our parish.

10. We will review this policy annually, check that our policies are up to date, and supply a copy of the updated policy statement to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is:

Name: Mrs Elizabeth Halson

Address: 7 The Naylor's, Swallowfield, Berkshire, RG7 1RZ

Telephone: 07917 116 463

Email: liz.halson@yahoo.com

Signed Parish Priest/Incumbent...Nigel Beer.....

Churchwarden ...Barbara Stanley.....

Approved by PCC **23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025**

Return this form to: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford OX2 0NB