



*Chorley Parish Church of St. Laurence
in the Church of England Diocese of Blackburn*

Safeguarding Policy

Issue 4 November 2021

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to staff and volunteers in St Laurence's Parish when interacting with children and vulnerable adults as part of church activities. It should be read in conjunction with the Diocese of Blackburn Safeguarding Policy and the Diocese of Blackburn e-Safety and Acceptable Use Policy.

2. Scope

This policy covers all Clergy, staff, voluntary workers, contractors and/or organisations/individuals hiring church premises.

3. Roles and responsibilities

Overall and final responsibility for policy implementation	<i>Chorley Parish Church of St. Laurence Parochial Church Council (PCC)</i>
Day-to-day responsibility for ensuring this policy is put into practice is delegated to:	<i>Nicola Pilkington, Parish Safeguarding Officer</i>

4. Policy Statement

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. This implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

- We accept and endorse the principles set out in 'Safeguarding in the Diocese of Blackburn'.
- We commit ourselves to nurture, protect and safeguard all our members, particularly children, young people (up to the age of 18) and vulnerable adults.
- We recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church community.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection, appointment, training and support of those working in both paid and voluntary positions with children or vulnerable adults, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) disclosures and making appropriate referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- We will respond without delay to concerns or allegations that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and social care services in any investigation.
- We will challenge any abuse of power by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them appropriate pastoral support.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, 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 vulnerable adult.



5. Policy Guidance

5.1 Policy development

St. Laurence's PCC has a key role within our worshiping community. Their influence and good management of safeguarding is fundamental in keeping all within our churches safe. The PCC will therefore:

- Formally adopt and implement the Diocesan policy for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults 'Safeguarding in the Diocese of Blackburn' and the associated procedures and guidance provided by the Diocese.
- The implementation of the policy and procedures will be discussed and reviewed by the PCC regularly (at least annually). One copy of this policy statement will be filed with the PCC minutes, the Safeguarding Policy will be updated on the church website (with a clear link from the homepage) and copies displayed prominently in the church and wherever work with vulnerable groups takes place (it is recommended that parishes display the Safeguarding Poster provided to Church Safeguarding Officer).
- Appoint at least one Church Safeguarding Officer to work with the Rector and the PCC in order to implement the policy and procedures. The Church Safeguarding Officer should attend the PCC at least annually and should not be a member of the clergy;
- Appoint a person to be a child advocate, where possible this should be different from the Church Safeguarding Officer. This should be someone children can recognise as being someone they can trust and talk to.
- Display in church premises (where activities take place), the contact details of the Church Safeguarding Officer along with contact numbers for: 'Childline' (0800 1111), 'Family Lives' (was 'Parentline Plus' – 0808 800 222), the CCPAS Helpline (0845 120 4550) and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (07711485170).
- Ensure that all those authorised to work with children and vulnerable adults (paid and voluntary) are appropriately recruited according to safer recruitment practice and are trained and supported;
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities which involve children and vulnerable adults undertaken in the name of the PCC and that risk assessments are completed for all activities;
- Ensure all those hiring church premises undertake to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities towards children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- Where working within Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs), agree which denomination or organisation's safeguarding policy to follow, including where to seek advice in urgent situations. This decision should be ratified both by the bishop and other appropriate church leaders in the partnership (in the event of a specific safeguarding concern, we will ensure that all the LEP partners are also notified).

5.2 Hire of church premises

Ensuring the safety and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults lies with those responsible for their care. Where external organisations / individuals are using church premises, hire arrangements must make it clear that the organisations / individuals are to abide by the PCC's safeguarding policy. A copy of the PCC policy statement forms part of the hire agreement and hirers will be asked to sign a copy of this, to acknowledge that this has been seen and will be adhered to and that all concerns about children, young people and vulnerable adults will be reported to the relevant statutory authority. If an organisation has an equivalent safeguarding policy of their own, a copy of this must be provided before consideration of their booking, and will be filed with the hire agreement.

5.3 Policy implementation

At St. Laurence's we are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- are youth-friendly and child-friendly and nurture their positive development
- enable children and young people to be active contributors to the church community



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- protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from actual or potential harm
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child or young person and vulnerable adults is paramount
- all children (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) and vulnerable adults have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- abuse can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to the child
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, vulnerable adults, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting welfare.

We will endeavour to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults in all our activities by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with them, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities.

In our recruitment of paid staff and volunteers, following Diocesan procedures in -

- ensuring careful selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers as appropriate, voluntary workers, and paid workers with children, young people and vulnerable adults, in line with safer recruitment principles and checks
- providing supervision, support and training

In our publicity

- sharing information about good safeguarding practice with children, parents, carers, vulnerable adults and all those working with them.

When undertaking work at church premises

- ensuring that contractors sign and agree to be bound by our Safeguarding policy
- supervising work wherever possible

When concerns are raised, following Diocesan procedures in

- responding without delay to every concern raised that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm; or about the behaviour of an adult or child
- working with the diocese and appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community
- challenging any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust

In our care:

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse
- ensuring that appropriate pastoral care is offered to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made

In our supervision, following Diocesan procedures in:



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- ensuring, in partnership with the diocese and other agencies, that care and supervision is provided for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.

6. Review and monitoring of this policy

This policy will be reviewed, monitored and revised every 12 months (or sooner if church activities change significantly or legislation changes) and will be approved by the PCC and adopted by the Church Meeting after such changes.

7. Further information

For further information please contact:

Rector: Fr. Neil Kelley 01257 266037
rector@stlaurencechorley.co.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer Nicola Pilkington 07736312859
safeguarding@stlaurencechorley.co.uk

8. Authorised

Signed: *Neil Kelley*

Name: Fr. Neil Kelley **Date:** 7 February 2022
Position: Rector

Signed: *Bernard Oakley*
Name: Bernard Oakley
Position: Church Warden Date: 7 February 2022

Version History					
Version	Date	Detail	Author	Approved	Date
1.0	1.3.2018	New policy	M Wilkinson	PCC	6.3.2018
2.0	22.8.2018	Policy detail amendments	M Wilkinson	PCC	4.9.2018
3.0	02.10.2019	Policy detail amendments	M Wilkinson	PCC	08.10.2019
4.0	01.11.2021	Policy detail amendments	N Pilkington	PCC	07.02.2022

Date of next review: November 2023



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Appendix 1

Safeguarding Provision

The Parochial Church Council of Chorley Parish Church of St Laurence has a Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. A copy is attached. Please sign below to agree to comply with this policy for the duration of your work at Chorley Parish Church of St Laurence.

I have read the Parochial Church Council of Chorley Parish Church of St Laurence's Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and I agree to be bound by this policy for the duration of my work at Chorley Parish Church of St Laurence.

Signed:

Name:

Position:

On behalf of (company name):

Date: