



St Thomas' Church, Kilnhurst Safeguarding Policy for Adults

This statement was adopted by St Thomas' Kilnhurst at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on Monday 20th May 2024. This policy will be reviewed each year.

Statement of Aims in Safeguarding

Our aims are:

- To offer people opportunities to engage with, think and learn about the Christian faith in different contexts
- To encourage a strong Christian fellowship
- Help all people realise their full potential physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.
- To encourage all people to take a full part in the Church's life and worship
- To provide a safe meeting place for all people
- To encourage all people to become responsible adults
- To provide indoor and outdoor leisure activities for all people that are safe, and risk assessed.
- To uphold everyone's equality in the sight of God

This document covers the work of the parish, in its services and in the groups meeting throughout the week.

1. We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
2. As members of this parish, we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church community.
4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of responsibility.
5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
6. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial, and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people, and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.
8. The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
9. The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.
10. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints **Anne McCormick** to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

What to do if you receive an allegation of, or suspect abuse of any kind

If you suspect, or any allegation is made to you (by a child or an adult), that some form of abuse has taken place (whether in the context of a St Thomas' activity or elsewhere), please contact one of the 'responsible persons' listed below as soon as possible. In normal circumstances those nearer the top of the list should be approached first. However, if one or more of the individuals is implicated in the suspicion or allegation, please contact one of the other 'responsible persons'. If all are implicated, you will need to contact a responsible external agency (e.g., Diocese of Sheffield Safeguarding Office, Social Services).

St Thomas Church:

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Anne McCormick

Tel No:

07717 949589

Email:

safeguarding@kilnhurst-st-thomas.org.uk

The Minister

Sheffield Diocese:

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Sian Checkley

07741 013 775

sian.checkley@sheffield.anglican.org

Assistant Safeguarding Adviser

Elina Penttila

07871 796 682

elina.penttila@sheffield.anglican.org

The action the 'responsible person' will take depends on the exact nature of the suspicion or allegation. In all cases they will:

- Ascertain from you the precise details of the allegation or suspicion (they may ask you to fill out an 'incident report' form)
- Inform other 'responsible persons' if necessary and appropriate.
- Keep a written record of information collected and decisions made using the 'incident report' form.

In addition, they will take the following action:

In the case of a suspicion or allegation of sexual abuse:

- Limit their investigation to clarifying specific details
- Refer it to the Incumbent and/or Parish Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.
- If it is urgent contact the Social Services Duty Worker, Police Child Protection Team or Sheffield Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for advice ensure that you then inform the Incumbent and the Parish Safeguarding Officer that this has been done.

In the case of a suspicion or allegation of other serious forms of abuse:

- Contact the Social Services Duty Worker or Sheffield Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for advice on the appropriate action to take

In the case of physical assault:

- Ensure that medical attention has been received
- Ensure that the police have been alerted

If, at any stage, you feel that the individual is in imminent danger, you should contact the police or Social Services immediately.

If you are not satisfied with the action that has been taken, then you retain a responsibility as a member of the public to report serious matters to the Social Services Department and should do so without hesitation.

What are abuse and neglect?

Abuse

Abuse involves potentially or actually causing harm to a person. It can take a number of forms.

Neglect

Neglect involves a persistent failure to meet someone's basic need. This includes failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing or appropriate medical care.

What signs are there of abuse?

General Indicators / Indicators of Emotional Abuse

In general, **changes** in a someone's behaviour or mood, either suddenly or over a period of time, may be significant. Such changes may be particularly important where someone becomes more **withdrawn** or more **aggressive**.

Dr Simon Langmead, Churchwarden

Mr Colin Proudman, Churchwarden

Date