



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 21st January 2019. 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.

Regular Midweek Groups

- Tuesday Together (Tuesdays 09.30 – 11.00am)
- Home Groups (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – various times)
- Young at Heart (2.45 – 4.15pm – 1st Monday of each month)
- Lunch Club (12.00 – 2.30pm – 2nd Wednesday of each month)
- 121 Bible Study (Various times throughout the week)

Regular Sunday Groups

- Morning Service (10.00 – 11.30am)
- Fresh (4.00 – 6.00pm – 3rd Sunday of each month)

1. 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.
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 **Jane Proudman** 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).

- The Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Jane Proudman**
- The Minister: **Andy Brewerton**
- The Curate: **Tom Brown**
- Pastoral Worker: **Jenny Newman**
- Children's Worker: **Lydia Proudman**
- Children's Advocate: **Simon Langmead**
- One of the Church Wardens: **Simon Bradshaw or Colin Proudman**

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 the other 'responsible persons' listed above
- 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, including the following:

- i. **Emotional Abuse:** Persistent emotional ill-treatment such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the person's emotional development. It may involve conveying to someone that they are worthless, unloved or inadequate. It may also involve frequently frightening them or making them feel in danger or persistent rejection or humiliation.
- ii. **Physical Abuse:** Causing physical harm to someone.
- iii. **Sexual Abuse:** Actual or potential unwilling involvement of someone in sexual activity or sexually inappropriate behaviour (including the production or use of pornographic material).
- iv. **Domestic abuse:** Domestic abuse is any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality.
- v. **Spiritual abuse:** Within faith communities harm can be caused by the inappropriate use of religious belief or practice, including the misuse of leadership authority or discipline, oppressive teaching, obtrusive/healing and deliverance ministries (including abuse linked to belief in spiritual possession) or rituals, any of which may result in people experiencing physical, emotional or sexual harm.
- vi. **Group leaders should also be aware that other forms of abuse can occur:**
 - Stranger abuse
 - By electronic communication, including internet abuse, or texting
 - Bullying – including by electronic communication
 - Fabricated or induced illness
 - Abuse of disabled people
 - Deliberate self-harm
 - Allegations of possession by evil spirits
 - Trafficking
 - Sexual exploitation
 - Forced marriage
 - Peer abuse

Neglect

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

General Observations

- Abuse may be spontaneous or organised. Organised abuse involves one or more.
- Most cases of abuse or neglect involve those already known to the person rather than complete strangers.
- Adults with special needs are especially vulnerable to abuse

What signs are there of abuse?

Abuse and neglect can be difficult to spot. However, any of the following observations may be a sign of abuse or neglect. However, in many cases, there will be another explanation.

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**. Examples of such changes are listed below.

Mood

- Anxiety or depression
- 'Frozen watchfulness'
- Loss of ability to learn or concentrate
- Obsessions, phobias or fears
- Loss of self-esteem

Behaviour towards others

- Excessive attention seeking
- Running away or withdrawal
- Aggression
- Stealing or Lying
- 'Clinginess'

Lifestyle

- Loss of appetite
- Eating disorders
- Severe sleep disturbances and persistent tiredness

Indicators of Physical Abuse

- Reluctance to reveal parts of the body (e.g. remove a jumper when hot)
- Repeated urinary infections or tummy pains
- Marks of injury, especially injuries which:
 - have not received medical attention
 - are not consistent with the explanation provided.
 - occur to the body in places not usually exposed to falls and other accidents.

Guide to Injuries

- Bruises, especially:
 - those in or around the mouth
 - those of different colours (indicates injuries of different ages)
 - those from fingertips, especially on arms, chest or face indicating tight gripping or shaking
 - those from belt, implement, hand
 - those around ear-lobes (also signs of tears)
 - those to head or soft tissue areas of the body
- Bite-marks
- Burns and scalds, especially:
 - those with a clear outline – in particular circular (e.g. cigarette burn) or linear (e.g. from hot metal rod)
 - those of a uniform depth over a large area
 - those caused by friction (e.g. from being pulled across a carpet)
 - those surrounded by a clear water line (e.g. from immersion or pouring of hot water)
 - those surrounded by splash marks (e.g. where hot liquid has been thrown)
 - those that have caused scars (indicating previous burns)
- Fractures:
- Cuts, scratches

Indicators of Sexual Abuse

- Inappropriate sexual behaviour towards adults or other children

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- Pre-occupation with sexual matters and requests for sexual advice
- Allusions to unusual practices (e.g. unusual bed-sharing arrangements at home)

Neglect

- Under-nourishment
- Failure to grow
- Constant hunger
- Stealing food
- Untreated illness

The Rev'd Andy Brewerton, Incumbent

Mr Colin Proudman, Churchwarden

Dr Simon Bradshaw, Churchwarden

Date