

Diocese of Worcester
Parish of St Martin with St Peter, Worcester

PARISH POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS

The following policy has been agreed and implemented by the Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.).

1. We will implement the House of Bishop's Policy *Promoting a Safer Church* (2006) and the diocesan procedures.
2. We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and everyone may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in their lives.
3. We commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister. We will offer informed pastoral support to any vulnerable adult who has suffered abuse and provide them with details of local and national support agencies.
4. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, and to those defined as vulnerable by statute, ensuring their well-being in the life of the church.
5. We commit to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
6. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable, using the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checking system where legal and appropriate.
7. We will respond without delay to every complaint made that an adult for whom we are responsible may have been harmed or is in significant danger.
8. We will fully cooperate with statutory agencies during any investigation into allegations concerning a member of the church community. We will inform the statutory agency or agencies of any suspected criminal offences or concerns of which we are made aware in respect of our contact with vulnerable adults. We recognise that it is the responsibility of the entire church community to prevent the physical, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
9. We commit ourselves to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
10. We will supervise and support any member of our church community known to have offended against a vulnerable adult.
11. We commit to support the training and regular review of those who work with people who may be vulnerable.

This policy was discussed and agreed at the P.C.C. meeting held on Tuesday, 16 July, 2013.

The Revd Phil Bradford (P.C.C. Chair)

The Revd Canon Ken Boyce (Incumbent)

Bill Simpson (Churchwarden)

Elizabeth Yarker (Churchwarden)