
**SAFEGUARDING
POLICY
OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF
ST. MARTIN'S, BARTON, TORQUAY**

The Safeguarding Policy of the Parochial Church Council of St. Martin's, Barton, Torquay.

1. The Parochial Church Council of St. Martin's Barton, Torquay, regards Safeguarding as an integral part of its brief, and as a matter of paramount importance.

2. The Annual Report of the P.C.C. - presented at the Annual Meeting of the Parish every March / April - states, within its description of its activities, that:

“The Parochial Church Council believes that it has complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, and that it has due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The relevant individuals, as well as the Parochial Church Council as a body, are fully appraised of the requirements which go both with the offices they hold, and also with their qualification to be nominated for such offices.

“The Parish Safeguarding Officer is automatically co-opted as a member of the Parochial Church Council. Safeguarding is an integral agenda item of every P.C.C. meeting, even if only to report that there are no current issues. The parish was subjected to a Diocesan Safeguarding audit in 2016; the (then) Diocesan Safeguarding Officer reporting to the Bishop of Exeter that our policies and practices were “excellent”, and our policies and practices later described verbally to the Vicar by the Bishop of Exeter as being “outstanding”.”

3. The P.C.C. adopted the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy in 2016. There follows below our own additional customization of the Policy as pertaining specifically to protocols and procedures within our own Church and parish.

4. The P.C.C. also follows the Church of England's “Safer Recruitment Guidelines”. There is a clear and safe recruitment process for appointments to the various Offices within the P.C.C. and for the leaders of groups and organizations holding activities in the name of the P.C.C.

5. The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mrs. Rosemary Porter. This fact is extensively publicized both verbally and in writing. Notices giving Mrs. Porter's details - including details of how to contact her - appear in the Church, in the Church porch, in the Church Hall, on the front page of our parish Website, and in every Parish Magazine.

6. The following people are required to hold DBS Certificates:

All serving and ministering clergy and licensed ministers,
whether stipendiary, non-stipendiary or retired.

Both Churchwardens

The Safeguarding Officer

The Director of Music

The Head Chorister

The Head Server

The Sunday School Supervisor

Any three other members of the Parochial Church Council

7. Those holders of DBS certificates attend such courses and training as is required, and fully expect to do so.

8. The P.C.C. reviews its Safeguarding Policy once a year; firstly in April / May after the A.G.M. and in particular as regards any individuals newly chosen for or elected to Offices in the Church.

9. Church activities which potentially involve minors and vulnerable adults include all Church Services, Sunday School, Choir membership, and Altar Servers. It is P.C.C. policy and practice that we supervise the activities in which children are taking part, and we supervise the adults in whose care the children are.

Membership of the Choir is not open to anyone under the age of eighteen unless an adult member of their family is also a member of the Choir.

These policies cover not only the activities listed, but also any rehearsals for any of these activities.

The choir and the serving team are in full view of everyone throughout the Church services.

10. Separate changing rooms - vestries - are provided for choir and servers male, for choir and servers female, and for the Clergy and licensed Ministers of Religion.

11. Sunday School is run in the Church Hall by a P.C.C. Member who holds a DBS Disclosure Certificate. Adult relatives of children attending are welcomed and encouraged - but not compelled - to remain in Sunday School throughout the activities. The Sunday School joins the Church service for the final part of the service.

12. The Toddlers Group - full name Parents and Toddlers - runs on weekdays, and - as its full title implies - it is a group for Toddlers with parents (or other adult relation) - and the expectation is that the adult relation will remain at the Church Hall throughout the duration of the session. It is not a crèche. The supervisor of the group makes it clear that she is supervising the activities and the adults, and the adults remain in charge of their children throughout.

13. Travel.

While the P.C.C. cannot control, nor take responsibility for, private arrangements which are made between individuals or families, there is a general expectation that under normal circumstances Church Members do not transport unaccompanied children in their cars unless they are holders of the DBS disclosure certificate.

On occasions, a small number of vulnerable adults are transported in cars by people who hold the DBS disclosure certificate.

Children who join Church outings must be accompanied by an adult relative throughout the outing, and are expected to sit next to that relative throughout the coach journey.

14. St. Martin's is a close-knit community of people who know one another well, and who have - in many cases - known one another for many years. Our life and our activities here are based on a personal knowledge of everyone, and of mutual care and love and trust. The slightly draconian tone of the above policy reflects the seriousness of our intent that everyone attending any event or activity on our premises, or in the name of the Church and parish, should be safe, should be protected, and should know where and to whom to turn in case of any issue, danger or uncertainty. That said, we hope and intend and expect our parish activities to be pursued with no Safeguarding issues arising, and we work towards that aim.

15. This Policy was last reviewed in JUNE 2021.

**KIM HEWINGS, CHURCHWARDEN OF ST. MARTIN'S, BARTON, TORQUAY
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARTIN'S.**