

The **Methodist** Church

CHYNGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

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

Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with¹ the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

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.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

¹ Or membership of (PVG scheme Scotland).

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for Chyngton Methodist Church

This policy was agreed at a Church Council held on 19th September 2017

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Chyngton Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

Chyngton Methodist Church recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

Chyngton Methodist Church fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space 2007*:

The following people have attended the Safer space module (foundation Safeguarding Course)

June 2013:

- Janet Caulfield, Roy Dobson
- Peggy Dobson, Peter Ingram

May 2015

- David Crowther, Sally Crowther
- Brian Feasey, Andrew Feasey

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

Chyngton Methodist Church recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

Chyngton Methodist Church commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

Chyngton Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

Chyngton Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Chyngton Methodist Church affirms and gives thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding vulnerable adults Involved in church activities, whether such activities are held on church premises or elsewhere.

Chyngton Methodist Church will appoint a Safeguarding officer who shall have the following role:

- i) support and advise the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles
- ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii) liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Coordinators
- iv) promote safeguarding best practice within the local church with the support of circuit ministers.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mr. David Coleman, c/o Chyngton Methodist Church, Millberg Rd, Seaford, BN25 3ST. Telephone 01323 892720 email: admin@chyngtonmethodistchurch.co.uk

AREA SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Lydia Goodchild, c/o Haywards Heath Methodist Church, Perrymount rd, Haywards Heath, RH16 3DN email: lydia@csua.org.uk

SOUTH-EAST DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Philippa Read, South East District office, The Methodist Church, Basepoint Business Centre, Metcalf way, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 7XX. Tel: 01293 813970.

Email: safeguarding@methodistsoutheast.org

The following provisions outline basic procedures to be followed by the Church Council and by all those working with children and vulnerable adults on behalf of Chyngton Methodist Church.

It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010).

Best Practise

For church workers with children and vulnerable adults, best practise in relation to Safeguarding means that:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written note of this will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed for safety for children and vulnerable adults and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council in written form. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any church-organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate.
- v) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

c) Appointment and training of workers

Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory CRB disclosure. Each worker will be expected to undergo basic safeguarding training, within the first year of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (e.g. food hygiene, first aid, lifting and handling, etc.) and each worker will have an annual review conducted by a named member of the Church Council and another worker within the organisation.

d) Pastoral visitors

In terms of safeguarding, Pastoral Visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of basic safeguarding training upon appointment.

e) Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults

A leaflet will be produced and reviewed annually to be given to each worker with vulnerable adults outlining good practice and systems. The leaflet will be reviewed annually with this policy.

f) **Ecumenical events**

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

g) **Events with church groups off the premises**

The leaders of church activities taking place off the church premises must ensure adequate staffing. Prior notification of such activities should be given to the minister in pastoral charge.

h) **Other groups on church premises**

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement [which should include Safeguarding Form E],² will be given a copy of this policy and the leaflet. The lettings secretary will consider the various users of the building in making lettings³

i) **Interpretation and Application of Policy**

The Church Council expects that church groups and workers with children and vulnerable adults will interpret and apply this safeguarding policy with due diligence, common sense and pastoral sensitivity. normally, differences of opinion concerning the interpretation and application of this Safeguarding policy in particular situations will be resolved in informal conversations with the Safeguarding officer. where this is unsuccessful, the minister in pastoral charge of Chyngton Methodist Church should be consulted.

In serious cases of dispute concerning the Interpretation and application of this Safeguarding policy, it may be necessary to resort to the complaints and discipline Procedures of the Methodist Church, which Initially Will Involve speaking with the Local Complaints Officer, who Is the Superintendent minister. Rev Irena Byron. c/o Haywards Heath Methodist Church, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3DN

j) **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council.

The date of the next review

October 2018

² To be found in Recruiting Safely in the Methodist Church 2010.

³ Such as the code of practice or the pocket guide.

k) **Key concepts and definitions**

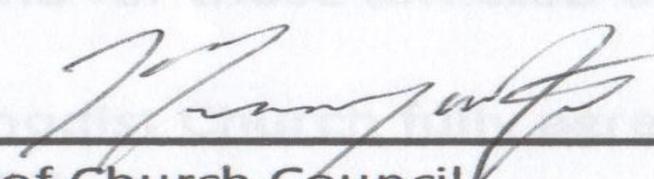
- i) Vulnerable Adults: any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.
- ii) Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iii) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- iv) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Dated 19th September 2017

Rev. Jim Thorneycroft - Minister / Chair - David Coleman

Signed

REV JIM THORNEYCROFT

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Chair of Church Council