



United Benefice of Sileby, Cossington & Seagrave

Safeguarding Policy Statement Promoting a Safer Church

The following policy was agreed at the meeting of the Benefice Council held on 25th November 2019, acting on behalf of the Parochial Church Councils of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave ("the Benefice"), reviewed and revised at its meeting on 24th October 2022 and then adopted by each PCC. It was subsequently signed by the Incumbent and a churchwarden of each parish church acting on behalf of their PCC.

In this document each reference to Benefice Council indicates that this body is acting on behalf of the PCCs of Sileby, Cossington and Seagrave.

The Benefice Council adopts the Safeguarding Policy Statement for children, young people and vulnerable adults, "Promoting a Safer Church", and commits to the implementation of this policy as follows:

A. BENEFICE COUNCIL COMMITMENTS

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those who have or will have, on behalf of the Benefice, any responsibility related to children, young people or vulnerable adults.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those who may pose a present risk to others.
- Ensuring that no-one shall be permitted to serve as a member of the PCC of any of the three churches unless they have completed the required safeguarding training which comprises:

Basic Awareness, this course aims to provide learners with a basic awareness of safeguarding and enables them to integrate this into their Christian faith and the Church's ministry.

Foundation, builds on the basic awareness course to enable learners to contribute to and implement, good safeguarding practice within church and community contexts.

Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse, to develop a greater understanding of what Domestic Abuse is, whom it affects, as well as its impact on individuals, children, the wider family and the community.

Benefice Council:

- Will create a safe and caring place for all.
- Will have a named Benefice Child Safeguarding Officer and a named Benefice Adult Safeguarding Officer (“the BSOs”) to work with the incumbent and the three PCCs to implement policy and procedures.
- Will authorise the BSOs to hold information about those who work with children and adults on behalf of the Benefice, including details of their DBS disclosures.
- Will display on the Benefice website, in each church building, in both halls of the St. Mary’s Centre in Sileby and in any other premises where activities involving children, young people or adults take place, the contact details of the BSOs, along with Childline and Family Lives telephone numbers and web addresses. A copy of this statement of policy will also be displayed.
- Will ensure that the names and contact details of the persons identified in section B below are clearly visible on the front page of the Benefice website.
- Will safely recruit, train and support all those who have or will have any responsibility for children, young people and adults on behalf of the Benefice, so that they have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Will pay particular attention to children, young people and adults with special needs and those from ethnic minorities to ensure their full integration and protection within the Benefice community.
- Will ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children, young people and adults undertaken in the name of the Benefice.
- Will listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Will take steps to protect children, young people and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Will offer appropriate support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Will care for and monitor any identified member of the Benefice community who may pose a risk to children, young people or adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Will ensure that health and safety policies, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Will ensure that every person who works on behalf of the Benefice, in whatever capacity, has access to this policy statement (and any guidelines established by the Benefice in relation to it) and agrees to abide by them.
- Will ensure that the BSOs report to the Benefice Council and the three PCCs at least annually on safeguarding in the Benefice.
- Will ensure that those hiring the premises of any of the three PCCs for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults agree to commit to good safeguarding practice.

- Will review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

B. CHILD AND ADULT BENEFICE SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS AND DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER

Our Child Safeguarding Officer is:

Annette Bowdrey, 39 Greedon Rise, Sileby, LE12 7TE.
T: 01509 814078. M: 07986 656566. E: nettyb77@gmail.com

Our Adult Safeguarding Officer is:

Heather Hall, 6 Rosslyn Avenue, Mountsorrel, LE12 7UQ.
T: 0116 2375587. E: hhall989@btinternet.com

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser is:

Rachael Spiers, St. Martins House, 7 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PZ.
T: 0116 261 5341. E: rachael.spiers@leccofe.org.

Signed: (Incumbent) Date:

Signed: (Church warden of Sileby) Date:

Signed: (Church warden of Cossington) Date:

Signed: (Church warden of Seagrave) Date: