



Safeguarding Policy

The following policy was agreed at the Executive Committee Meeting of the Church of England Guild of Vergers.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our Guild is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the guild.
- 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 that may pose a present risk to others.

The Guild will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Safeguarding Officer (SO) to work with the National Chaplain and the Standing Committee to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people, vulnerable adults and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the Guild.
- Display on the Guild Website and at National Meetings the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the local Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the guild community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person within the guild community agrees to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this Guild.

This Guild appoints The Rev'd Canon Dr Maureen Palmer as the Guild's Safeguarding Officer

National Chairman

John Kirby-Shearer

General Secretary

Stephen Stokes

Date: 10 April 2024