

Parish Safeguarding Statement

The Statement should be signed and dated by the leadership of each Mission and Parish and a copy sent to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

The Leadership of the Mission / Church/ Congregation [*Delete as appropriate*]
Of **The Anglican Catholic Church of St Augustine** in the City/Town of **Painters Forstal, Faversham** in the County of **Kent** recognises the importance of its ministry /work with children and young people and adults in need of protection and its responsibility to protect everyone entrusted to our care.

The following statement was ratified by the Parish Council on: **1st October 2020**

This Congregation is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.

Specifically:

- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of children and young people (those under 18 years of age) and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We believe every child should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that children we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm.
- All children and young people have the right to be treated with respect, to be listened to and to be protected from all forms of abuse.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of vulnerable adults and will ensure all our policies and procedures reflect this.
- We believe all adults should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the place of worship unless they pose a risk to the safety of those we serve.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of all those who will work with children and vulnerable adults.

We are committed to:

- Following the requirements for UK legislation in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and good practice recommendations.
- Respecting the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Implementing the requirements of legislation regarding people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that workers adhere to the agreed procedures of our safeguarding policy.
- Keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Following the policy, guidelines and procedures of the Anglican Catholic Church – Diocese of the United Kingdom, in relation to safeguarding children and adults in need of protection.
- Supporting the Safeguarding Officer/s in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children/vulnerable adults.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this place of worship/organisation.
- Supporting parents, families and care givers.
- Nurturing, protecting and safeguarding of children, young people and the vulnerable.
- Supporting, resourcing, training, monitoring and providing supervision to all those who undertake this work.
- Supporting all in the place of worship/organisation affected by abuse.
- Adopting and following the 'Safe and Secure' safeguarding standards developed by the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service.

We recognise:

Children's Social Services (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care (or equivalent) has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a vulnerable adult.

Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.

Where working outside of the UK, concerns will be reported to the appropriate agencies in the country in which we operate, and their procedures followed, and in addition we will report concerns to our agency's headquarters.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We will participate fully in the Diocesan review of this statement, policy and procedures annually.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as Safeguarding Officers for this Church.

- **Roy Hipkiss (Safeguarding Officer)** Tel no: 07918 078187
email: royhipkiss@aol.com,
Roy Hipkiss is nominated by the Parish to act on our behalf in dealing with allegations or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities.
- In the absence of the Safeguarding Officer or, if the suspicions in any way involve the Safeguarding Officer, then the report should be made to

Dr Roy Fidge (Deputy Diocesan Safeguarding Officer) Tel: 01322 220172
email: roy.fidge@ukgateway.net

A copy of the full policy and procedures is available.

All Clergy, Lay Leaders, Congregations, Parishes and Missions are expected to endorse and fully comply with this policy. This Policy should be adopted by local Congregation and signed by the Priest in Charge of the Congregation concerned below. The Poster on Page 25 [Appendix 2] should also be completed and displayed.

Signed by the Rector



Signed _____

Name: The Right Revd Damien Mead

Date **1st October 2020**

Please return a copy of this Appendix 1 (Parish/Mission Safeguarding Statement) to the Diocesan Office.