

The Seven Towers Benefice

The Parishes of Down Hatherley, Norton, The Leigh with Evington, Sandhurst and Staverton with Boddington

SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Benefice Council (BC) meeting held on 10th March 2020

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church 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 church.
- 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 Benefice will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all. *See Appendix 1*
- Have a named Benefice Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people 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 parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Benefice website 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 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 church 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 who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

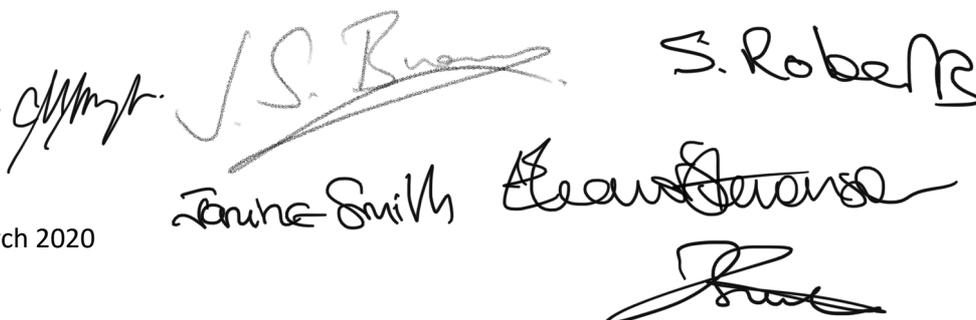
This Benefice appoints Carol Baldwin as the Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent

Churchwardens

Date: 10th March 2020

March 2020



Handwritten signatures of church officials, including the Incumbent, Churchwardens, and Carol Baldwin (Benefice Safeguarding Officer).

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APPENDIX 1

The Benefice identifies the following areas of work with children, young people and adults:

- i. Home groups (in homes around the Benefice)
- ii. Friendly Friday meet-ups (Down Hatherley Village Hall - companionship, coffee & cake)
- iii. Men's & Ladies' breakfasts (in homes around the Benefice)
- iv. Benefice wide children's events / workshops
- v. Bell ringing & Handbell ringing
- vi. After-school club at Norton CE Primary School
- vii. Open the Book at Norton CE Primary School
- viii. Leading school worship at Norton CE Primary School
- ix. Norton Nippers pre-school visits

In addition, home visiting by clergy and members of the pastoral team to:

- i. Sick & house-bound persons
- ii. Residential care homes in the Benefice
- iii. Bereaved families or individuals