

# **St. Martin's Exminster Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement**

## **Statement of Safeguarding Principles**

The St Martin's Exminster Parochial Church Council fully recognizes and accepts the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy Statement "Promoting a Safer Church 2017", and commits to complying with the current Church of England and Diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance. In so doing we will comply with the secular multi-agency safeguarding procedures relating to children and young people and adults experiencing or at risk of harm, abuse or neglect.

### **We are committed to:**

- Promoting a Safer environment and culture within our Parish and in our Parish activities by adhering to safe working practices and acknowledge the principle that safeguarding is everyone's business.

In addition we will ensure that any individual organization renting/using our premises for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults is aware of this, our Safeguarding Policy, and aware of their own individual responsibilities to have appropriate safeguarding policies and processes in place, including safer recruitment.

- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibilities related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church in accordance with Church of England Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance (2021).

We will ensure those appointed are aware of the Diocesan and Parish Safeguarding Policies and are aware of their roles and responsibilities. We will support them by ensuring they receive Diocesan safeguarding training commensurate with their role and that they are fully aware of and have access to the practice guidance.

- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation in accordance with the statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures and the House of Bishops' safeguarding practice guidance.

We will ensure that any complaint made regarding a vulnerable person, who may have been harmed or is in significant danger, will be reported immediately and we will fully cooperate with statutory agencies during any investigation into allegations concerning a member of the church community or any other person.

- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.

We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation and provide them with details of local and national support agencies.

- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.

We will work with others to ensure the appropriate support for them and those affected. Where that person is considered to pose a risk to others, we will work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor to mitigate any identified risk.

- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

We will endeavor to offer pastoral care and support whilst ensuring any risk has been assessed and is being managed in accordance with House of Bishops' policy and guidance and in collaboration with the statutory agencies and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

### **Safeguarding representative**

We will ensure that there is an identified person/s to be the Parish Safeguarding Representative/s who will be suitably recruited and trained, and is aware of their role and responsibilities, and who will be the point of contact for any concerns.

We have appointed Jo Kirkcaldy as our Parish Safeguarding Representative.

### **Guidance**

Copies of Diocesan and parish guidelines and procedures are held by/can be accessed at [www.exminster.church](http://www.exminster.church)

### **Review**

This policy will be formally reviewed annually and a copy shared with the Archdeacon at the time of the Visitation.

### **Date of Adoption**

The PCC of this Church agreed and adopted the above Policy at its meeting on  
The PCC shall review this policy annually. The next review will take place at the first PCC meeting following the 2025 APCM.

### **Signed**

Incumbent/Vicar/Rector/Priest in Charge .....V J Pestridge.....

Churchwarden .....B Edmond.....

Churchwarden .....J Markham.....

Date .....

**The Parish of St Martin's Exminster**  
**SAFEGUARDING POLICY**  
**PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**  
**Parish Safeguarding Policy**

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 29th July 2025

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 Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish 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 Parish 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 church appoints Jo Kirkcaldy as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent .....V Petridge.....

Churchwardens .....J Markham .....B Edmond.....

Date:

## **Responding to Safeguarding Allegations or Concerns Procedure for St. Martin's Exminster Parish Church**

Under House of Bishops guidance, every PCC must have a procedure in place to deal promptly with safeguarding allegations or concerns. This procedure localises the national and diocesan guidance so that church officers are aware of how to respond properly in their local context when they become aware of a safeguarding concern.

All church officers should be up to date on safeguarding training at the appropriate level for their role. From their training they should understand the principles of:

***Recognise – Respond – Record – Refer***

***Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – concerns must always be shared***

As well as being up to date on training, all church officers should have read section 7 of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook and retain a (hard or electronic) copy for reference. Church Officers should always follow the guidance in section 7 in their response to a concern.

(Link -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>)

Church officers should know who to contact. Appendix 1 of this procedure is a list of the relevant persons a church officer may need to contact in this parish when responding to a safeguarding concern. All church officers should have a copy of this list and up-to-date lists be made available to them regularly, as role changes and address or number changes necessitate.

Relevant Local Authority contact details should be on display in the church buildings and can be accessed on the Safeguarding Contacts page of the Diocese of Exeter website. Church officers are encouraged to note these contact details as well as those of other support services available so as to be able to respond promptly in the event of a concern.

If a church officer is in any doubt as to how to respond to a safeguarding concern they should consult with the Parish Safeguarding Representative or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Outside of office hours, the statutory services will be able to guide the appropriate response to an urgent concern.

This procedure was approved by St. Martin's Exminster PCC on: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and is to be reviewed annually.

Signed: ...V Pestridge..... (Incumbent / Churchwarden in vacancy)