

SAFEGUARDING AT ST MARY DE HAURA, NEW SHOREHAM

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is committed to the protection of children, young people and adults visiting St Mary de Haura and those attending services, as well as our employees and volunteers. 'The Gospel speaks of welcome for all, especially the most vulnerable into a Church which affirms the value and dignity of every person and that those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.

Being faithful to this compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.'¹

As members of the PCC we are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of all in our Church community.

- We recognise that safeguarding is EVERYBODY'S business.
- We are committed to implementing all safeguarding policies and practice guidance issued by the House of Bishops.
- We will select and ensure all those who work or volunteer in this Church in positions of trust are up to date with mandatory safeguarding training.
- We will use the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to check the background of certain key employees and volunteers where such checks are deemed appropriate.
- We will respond without delay to every concern made that a person for whom we are responsible may have been harmed.
- We will co-operate fully with statutory agencies during any investigation concerning a member of the Church community.
- We will seek to ensure that anyone for whom we have a pastoral responsibility who has suffered abuse is offered the support that meets their needs.
- Following House of Bishop's guidance and the advice of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, we will respond appropriately to those who have committed sexual offences who wish to join our fellowship.
- We will review this policy annually and as part of this process will ensure that all our procedures, particularly in relation to mandatory safeguarding training of all who work or volunteer in this Church, are up to date.
- In those few cases where those who work or volunteer in this Church require Disclosure and Barring Service checks, we will ensure these are kept up to date.

If you are worried about the safety of a child or young person

- If you think a child or young person is at IMMEDIATE risk, you should treat this as an emergency and call 999 to report your concerns to the Police.
- If you think a child is being abused or neglected please contact the West Sussex Integrated Front Door for Families (IDF).
 - Office hours Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm: 01403 229900.
 - Or for out of hours 5.00pm – 8 am, weekends and Bank Holidays contact the out of hours Emergency Duty Team on 033 022 26664.
 - If you experience difficulty contacting this number phone: 07711 769657. (Does not accept text messages). This will connect you to the Duty Social worker.
- When you contact the IDF Team please give as much information as possible about the child you are concerned about. This will help the team decide the best way to respond to your concern.

¹ From Promoting a Safer Church, the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy Statement

The information you give will be kept confidential. You can remain anonymous but it is helpful if you can give your name and details.

If you are worried about the safety of a vulnerable adult

- If you think a vulnerable adult is at IMMEDIATE risk, you should treat this as an emergency and call 999 to report your concerns to the Police.
- If you're being harmed, abused or neglected, or you're concerned that someone else is at risk of harm, your concerns should be reported on the West Sussex County Council website safeguardingadultsboard@westsussex.gov.uk or call 01243 642121 (including out of hours).
- Information and advice on all safeguarding matters can also be found on the Chichester Diocese Safeguarding Website safeguarding@chichester.anglican.org This website is checked during normal office hours only. Safeguarding concerns will be triaged to one of the diocesan safeguarding advisers who will then contact you directly.
- The joint Parish Safeguarding Officers are Martin Taylor and Geoff Taylor. Both can be contacted at safeguarding.smdh@gmail.com



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Other useful contacts:

- The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Colin Perkins: 01273 425792 / 07500 771210
- Turning Tides (supporting single adults facing homelessness throughout West Sussex) on 01903 680740
- The Church's Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS), now known as thirtyone:eight on 0303 003 1111
- Childline: 0800 1111
- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
- Samaritans: 116 123