

## Parishes of the Meon Bridge Benefice

### Policy Statement for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults 2019

<http://www.bridgechurches.org.uk/contact-us>

The following policy statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 4 December 2018.

The Parishes of **The Meon Bridge Benefice** (Corhampton and St Andrew, Meonstoke, St Mary and All Saints, Droxford and St Peter and St Paul, Exton) are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of the children within our church community, and to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety.

We are also committed to the implementation of the Diocese of Portsmouth Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, and the relevant statutory legislation and guidance for the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. (<https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/safeguarding> and <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding>).

We see this policy as a positive way of protecting all parties in our work.

As members of the PCCs we commit our church community to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of all, especially the young and vulnerable. We recognise that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church community and as well as being fully committed to acting within current legislation, guidance, national frameworks and the Diocesan Safeguarding procedures, we will also endeavour to act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers, Children and Adult Social Care Services, the Police, Probation Services and other agencies to safeguard children and vulnerable adults and assist in bringing to justice anyone who has committed an offence against them.

1. We will ensure that all the necessary checks are made to promote the safe selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers, paid workers and volunteers with children, young people and vulnerable adults, and provide the necessary supervision, support and training to them in order that they can undertake their roles effectively.
2. We will respond without delay to every concern raised that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm, or about the behaviour of an adult or child.
3. We will fully co-operate with the Diocese and appropriate statutory agencies during any investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.
4. We will ensure that pastoral care is made available to children and vulnerable adults and their families and to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made.
5. We will ensure, in partnership with the Diocese and other agencies, that care and supervision is provided for any member of our church community known to have offended against a child or vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.
6. We are committed to reviewing our policy annually, and as part of this, check that our Benefice safeguarding procedures are up-to-date and relevant.

Our Benefice Safeguarding Representative for Children, Benefice Safeguarding Representative for Vulnerable Adults, and DBS Identity Validator is **available from the Rector**.

Benefice Safeguarding Representative for Children and Vulnerable Adults Benefice DBS Identity Validator	Please contact the Rector or the Diocesan Team
E-mail	.
Phone Number	Telephone the Rector (01489 877422) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer Ian Berry on 07544 566850
Address	c/o The Rectory, Rectory Lane, Meonstoke, Southampton, Hants. SO32 3NF or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team at First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth PO2 8HB

#### SIGNED AND AGREED:

Incumbent:	_____	The Rev'd A W Forrest
Churchwarden/s:	_____	Corhampton and Meonstoke
	Mrs A Peagram	
	_____	
	Mrs S Matthissen	- Droxford
	_____	
	Mr H Parry	Exton
Safeguarding Representative/s:	_____	JB
Approved:	4 December 2018	By 3 December 2019
	Review Date:	