

Parishes of the Meon Bridge Benefice Safeguarding Policy Document 2019

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

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>).

Benefice Safeguarding Policy Statement

Every year the PCCs will review and agree the Benefice Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy Statement, displaying each copy in the Church and forwarding one copy of each to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office for their records.

Benefice Safeguarding Representatives

The PCCs will appoint a minimum of one Safeguarding Representative who will be responsible on behalf of the incumbent and PCC for implementing the Diocesan policy in respect of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Benefice Safeguarding Representative agrees to undertake the key responsibilities of the role as outlined in the Diocesan Safeguarding Guide.

Our Children's Safeguarding Representative is } **Please contact: The Rector or**
Our Vulnerable Adults' Safeguarding Representative is } **the Diocesan Safeguarding team**
Our DBS Validating Officer is } **Details Below.**

Paid Workers and/or Volunteers

The Meon Bridge Benefice is committed to ensuring that all church officers are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and have the core skills and knowledge to protect children and/or adults from harm. The Diocesan Safeguarding Training and Development Policy and Pathways sets out the expectations and requirements for safeguarding training for all ordained and lay church officers, whether they are paid or unpaid (<https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/safeguarding/training>).

All those who undertake work in a regulated activity with children and/or vulnerable adults in the parishes on a voluntary or paid basis will be required to:

- Complete a Confidential Self Declaration Form
- To complete the necessary vetting application (DBS)

The Parishes of The Meon Bridge Benefice will seek to ensure that a DBS check is only requested after a risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position (paid or voluntary) concerned. Using the appropriate risk assessment procedures, the following parish posts have been identified as requiring a DBS check:

- The Safeguarding Officer(s)
- Church wardens
- Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and other Lay Leaders
- Regular helpers at Messy Church (3 or more sessions per academic year)
- All Age Service volunteer helpers
- Organists, when there are children or young children in the choir
- *Leader / Conductor of the choir, when there are children or young children in the choir*

All Confidential Self Declarations Forms, references and results of DBS checks will be held securely by the Incumbent. Declarations and DBS checks must be undertaken every five years, or sooner if the individual moves to a new post, (unless the application was obtained in the previous six months and the nature of the work is similar).

Any person refusing such checks will not be allowed to work with or have unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable adults in the Benefice.

All those who work with children and/or vulnerable adults on a regular basis will be made aware of and should familiarise themselves with the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

Children's Activities, Groups and Events

The following children's, young person's and mixed age activities have been identified as PCC endorsed events and activities that fall under the Diocesan Safeguarding Procedures:

- Messy Church (Generally, first Thursday in the Month at Meonstoke School)
- All Age Informal Worship (Droxford, 3rd Sunday)
- All Age Informal Worship (Meonstoke, 4th Sunday)
- Confirmation and Older Children's Group)

Currently (January 2019), there are no other events where children are left without their parents or carers. Meonstoke School and Droxford School visits are supervised by teachers/staff from the school. The Benefice is, however, aware of the position of trust that its leaders hold even at these times.

All children and young people wishing to attend any activity supervised by Benefice staff or nominees will be provided with a Registration Form, which must be completed and signed by their parents/carers before they take part.

Children who wish to take part in additional events such as church outings, holidays or sleepovers will not be allowed to participate in such activities unless the leaders of such event(s) receive a completed consent form from the parents or guardians of the child concerned, even if the parent or guardian accompanies the child on any such trip or activity. A new form must be completed for each separate activity.

Consideration will be given at all times for the health, safety and welfare of each child and young person, including supervision ratios, transport, first aid, premises and children with special needs.

Vulnerable Adults Activities, Groups and Events

The following have been identified as PCC endorsed groups, events and activities that fall under the Diocesan Safeguarding Procedures:

- Pastoral Care Visiting
- Parish morning coffee
- Home Communion

Consideration will be given at all times for the health, safety and welfare of the vulnerable adult, including transport, first aid, premises and adults with special needs.

Hire of Church Premises

All those who book or use the church premises on a regular basis shall be required to sign a copy of the parish booking agreement and a declaration that they have read and understand the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, or that they agree to abide by their own organisation's safeguarding procedures.

SIGNED AND AGREED:

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

The Rector: The Rectory, Rectory Lane, Meonstoke, Southampton, Hants. SO32 3NF (01489 877422)
The Diocesan Safeguarding Officer Ian Berry on 07544 566850
or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team at First Floor, Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth PO2 8HB