

## Parishes of the Meon Bridge Benefice Safeguarding Training Policy 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>) and remaining up-to-date in the best practice by following the Diocese's Training Policy: ([https://cofeportsmouth.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2017/03/Safeguarding\\_Training\\_Policy\\_2017.pdf](https://cofeportsmouth.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2017/03/Safeguarding_Training_Policy_2017.pdf))

### Policy

The Benefice is committed to the Diocese's Policy of ensuring that all church officers working with vulnerable groups, including children, are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and have the core skills and knowledge to protect them from harm.

This policy sets out our shared expectations and requirements for safeguarding training for all ordained or lay church officers and leaders, whether they are paid or unpaid.

This policy is based upon the Church of England Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Training and Development 2017. We see this policy as a positive way of protecting all parties in our work.

### Principles

Portsmouth Diocese provides a safeguarding training programme to all those church personnel outlined above. The purpose of the training on offer is to promote, inform and ensure that anyone appointed/elected by or on behalf of the church to a post or role is aware of the National and Diocesan safeguarding procedures, practice and expectations.

The safeguarding training programme is developed and delivered by the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers and a team of locally based trainers. The team also works closely with statutory agencies and other organisations who can contribute to the effective development of the programme.

All face-to-face safeguarding training modules are delivered by experienced and skilled trainers. Single trainers will also be supported by a suitable co-worker who can offer the appropriate guidance to participants if needed. It is the responsibility of the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser to ensure that the co-worker has the capability and qualities required to act in this role.

Portsmouth Diocese offers a training pathway for church officers in aspects of safeguarding relevant to and commensurate with their role, and it is expected that all clergy and church officers pay due regard to the minimum requirements for safeguarding training outlined in this policy, unless there are cogent reasons for not doing so.

The Diocese has its own codes of practice and reporting procedures and it is important that church officers have an understanding of safeguarding with the unique context of the church, regardless of their occupation.

Therefore, no accreditation is given against the core safeguarding training modules for prior learning that has not been provided by the Church of England framework.

Anyone undertaking ministry training through the Diocese must have completed the appropriate safeguarding training before they can be licensed by the Bishop.

All safeguarding training events are evaluated after delivery to ensure the training programme on offer continues to meet the varying levels of expertise and responsibilities of church officers across the Diocese.

Records of attendance are kept by the Diocesan safeguarding team, and the take up of safeguarding training is regularly monitored with reminders sent to those who have not attended the relevant training. The reminder process may be escalated if individuals continue not to take up the appropriate training course for their role.

**Procedure**

Portsmouth Diocese provides a range of on-line and taught safeguarding courses within a modular programme. Each training module aims to equip all church officers, both volunteer and paid, with a better understanding of good safeguarding practice within the church. All new appointees to roles should attend/complete training in line with the modules specified in this document. Thereafter, attendance at refresher training is required every three years to keep knowledge and skills up to date.

Details of safeguarding training events are promoted through the Diocesan website and in safeguarding newsletters. Attendance must be booked in advance.

**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	Mr R Pepys
	_____	_____
Safeguarding Representative/s:	_____	Exton
		JB
Approved:	<u>4 December 2018</u>	Review Date: <u>By 3 December 2019</u>