

## Parishes of the Meon Bridge Benefice

### Policy Statement for the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults 2020

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

The following policy statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019

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 recognise that our work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church community. As such, we will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all, especially the young and vulnerable.
- 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.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse and respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Act in an open, transparent and accountable way in working with the Diocese and fully cooperate with them and other statutory agencies during any investigation into abuse, in order to assist in bringing to justice anyone who has committed an offence.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse and their families, regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Ensure that pastoral care is made available to any members of our church community against whom an allegation is made
- In partnership with the diocese, ensure that care and supervision is provided for any member of the church community known to have committed an offence or pose a risk to children/vulnerable adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Benefice Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Parish Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter	Mrs Alison Pepper
Validator	
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#### SIGNED AND AGREED:

Incumbent: _____	The Rev'd A W Forrest	
Churchwarden/s: _____	Mrs A Peagram	Corhampton and _____
_____	_____	Meonstoke _____
_____	Mrs S Matthissen	Droxford _____
_____	Mrs J Edmunds	Droxford _____
_____	Mr H Parry	Exton _____
_____	Mr R Pepys	Exton _____
Safeguarding Representative/s: _____	Mrs Ali Pepper	
Approved: <u>3 December 2019</u>	Review Date: _____	By <u>3 December 2020</u>