

Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Mitre Benefice

The whole church membership of The Mitre Benefice commit themselves to the nurturing, protection and safeguarding of the children, young people and vulnerable adults in its care.

1. It is the responsibility of The Mitre Benefice staff, volunteers and members of the congregation to prevent any kind of abuse including physical, sexual, emotional, financial or spiritual abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to report any abuse, alleged or suspected to Mr Tim Stone, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, or nominated deputy. (Information and referrals can also be made to the Police, Social Services and other statutory bodies). The Mitre Benefice will promote safeguarding awareness amongst the congregation, groups and management structures. Safeguarding will be a standing item to be reported on and minuted at all PCC and Standing Committee meetings. A safeguarding report will also be included in the MB's annual report.

2. The Mitre Benefice is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is expected that all staff and volunteers will undertake the Church of England Safeguarding training as set out in Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Training and Development (July 2019).

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/Safeguarding%20Training%20%20Development%202019%20Final%20version.pdf> (accessed Feb 2021)

3. All Staff and Volunteers working with Children, young people and vulnerable adults will be required to complete a Confidential Declaration Form

4. The Mitre Benefice will require those leading activities or with a responsibility for Children, young people and vulnerable adults to undergo an enhanced disclosure with the Disclosure & Barring Service and to seek references upon appointment. Along with Norwich Diocese policy a renewal of the DBS will be done every three years.

5. The Mitre Benefice adopts the House of Bishop's Safeguarding Policies and Practice. Details of all the most up to date policies and practice guidance are available on the Church of England website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding>. The overarching policy statement relating to both children and vulnerable adults which should be read and used by all is: Promoting a Safer Church (2017) available at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/PromotingSaferChurchWeb.pdf>

and the 2019 Parish Safeguarding Handbook

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>

These policies can also be viewed upon request at STN Central office, 131 Earlham Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 3RF

6. The Mitre Benefice Parish Safeguarding Officer, will ensure that each person directly responsible for leading activities that include children, young people and vulnerable adults receives a copy of the Church of England guidance (as specified in 5 above) and these individuals will refer to the guidelines and observe them where necessary.

7. The Mitre Benefice will display a copy of this policy. Any suspicion or disclosure of abuse should in the first instance be reported to The Mitre Benefice Parish Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan safeguarding team. The details of the Parish Safeguarding Officer (or nominated deputy) and Norwich Diocesan safeguarding team will be available at all MB sites (including camps and residential courses). See list below of contacts

8. It will be the responsibility of the identified Section leads to inform new volunteers of the safeguarding policy and that the process for DBS checking and safeguarding training is undertaken prior to the individual working with children, young people or vulnerable adults.

9. That all relevant policies of the MB will be compliant with this policy and include a safeguarding element.

10. A data base will be maintained and held securely, only accessible by the Parish Safeguarding Officer, DBS organiser (or nominated deputies) and the

Incumbent, which will record the names, roles, DBS check undertaken and safeguarding training of those staff and volunteers leading activities or with a responsibility for Children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Policy amended and accepted by The Mitre Benefice PCCs on the 14th and 27th November 2023. For annual review, or earlier if new guidance is published by Dioceses or House of Bishop's central safeguarding team.

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Mr Tim Stone
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DBS requests
Mr David Wormald
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