

## **St John's, Hartford Safeguarding Policy Statement**

### **Promoting a Safer Church**

*This policy was agreed by the PCC on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024*

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy we are committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture;
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church;
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation;
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons;
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons;
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all;
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent, the Safeguarding Coordinator 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;
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish;
- Display in our church premises and on our church websites the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs;
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse;
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately;
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred;
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties;
- Ensure that health and safety policies, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed as stated within the individual church policies;
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works or volunteers within our church community will agree to abide by both this statement and the detailed Safeguarding Policy established by this church.

The PCC has appointed Mrs Helen Barber to be the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

