

## **Parish of St Mary's, Ambleside**

### **Parish Policy for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults:**

The Parish of St Mary's, Ambleside approved this policy at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The parish of St Mary's, Ambleside has adopted the Safeguarding Policies & Guidance of the Church of England and the Carlisle Diocesan Safeguarding Policy.

### **Ethos Statement**

The teaching of Christ establishes the special significance of every human being and especially the central place of children in the sight of God. Our church is committed to fulfil His law of love and to provide for the safety, wellbeing and proper development of all children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care.

We will also properly equip and support those adults who work with and relate to them.

### **Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)**

The PCC has appointed a PSO who will ensure the implementation of this policy and the diocesan policy for Safeguarding, and make regular reports to the PCC and to the APCM.

The person appointed is –

Name Judith Dixon

Address The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Hawkshead LA22 0PD

Tel. No 015394 34512

e-mail stmarysamblesidepcc@gmail.com

### **Health and Safety Assessment**

The PCC will ensure that an annual assessment takes place to ensure that every activity which it organises for children or vulnerable adults, on or off the premises, will provide proper safeguards to protect them from harm. The assessment will consider the premises, activities, procedures, equipment, staffing and all other issues which may affect the

potential safety of staff and users. The PCC will require all workers to re-fresh their understanding of the diocesan Code of Conduct and Practice.

The PCC requires that every other organisation which uses its premises will regularly conduct a similar assessment.

### **Insurance**

The PCC will ensure that appropriate insurance (and third party liability) cover exists for all participants in the activities that it organises.

The current policy is Employers liability (compulsory insurance) from Ecclesiastical Insurance

Details of the policy and the cover it provides is held by Tony Sunnucks

The PCC requires that any individual or organisation using its premises will also provide adequate insurance cover.

### **Appointment of voluntary and paid staff who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults**

In accordance with the diocesan policy for Safer Recruitment, the PCC will ensure that all those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults will be properly appointed, trained and supervised. This will include:

#### **When appointing new staff – before they begin their role**

- Appropriate Job Descriptions will be drawn up in advance;
- Interviews will be held;
- At least two References will be sought and taken up;
- A Confidential declaration will be completed;
- All new personnel will be required to undergo a DBS check before they are appointed

### **Existing staff –**

- Will be given a written Job Description. If this was not done at the time of their original appointment then any references which were obtained but not taken up will now be pursued;
- Renew their DBS check every three years

### **All staff –**

- Will receive regular in-service training
- Will be properly supervised

### **Activities/Organisations**

The following activities/organisations have been approved by the PCC:

Name of organisation      Monday Meet-up  
Name of Leader              Rev. Jane Natrass  
Contact                      reverendjanemarylou@gmail.com  
Name of authorised helper.   Judith Shingler

Name of organisation      Rushbearing  
Name of Leader              Helen Todd  
Contact Tel. No.  
Address  
Name of authorised helper.

### **Allegations of Abuse**

Allegations against anyone who attends any church activity will be fully and honestly dealt with. The Diocesan procedures will be followed and all allegations will be taken seriously and recorded. The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (and in an emergency, Children's Social Care, Adult Social Services or Police) will be contacted without delay, and all information will be shared.

### **Disclosures**

Any person who makes a disclosure or allegation of abuse will be sensitively and appropriately listened to and accompanied through the necessary stages of enquiry, following the Diocese procedure and guidelines. Any adult to whom a disclosure is made will contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and will follow his/her advice.

### **Suspicious**

Any member of the Church who suspects that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused in any way whatsoever will immediately contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and follow his/her advice.

### **Confidentiality**

Confidential information concerning any adult or child will be fully protected.

### **Complaints**

Any complaint against any member of the Church will be dealt with in accordance to the Diocese's current complaints procedure. If a complaint relates to the treatment of children or vulnerable adults, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser will be informed immediately.

### **Monitoring & Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the PSO's preparation for the annual report to the PCC. Archdeacons will discuss it every three years with parishes at their Visitations.

Incumbent: Rev Andy Smith

Churchwarden: David Stothard

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024