

We do not have to spend much time behind a newspaper or in front of a television to become aware of repeated episodes of abuse to people at all stages of their lives. Those affected can be children, the elderly or anyone unable to care for themselves or assert their rights.

Abuse and exploitation can take many forms: physical, emotional, financial or sexual.

Religious organizations have an additional potential for spiritual abuse in terms of the possible forcing, or imposition to others of unwanted values and ideas.



Why is Safeguarding important?

At different times in our lives any of us can become vulnerable. In such circumstances, whether permanent or temporary, we need to be confident that our Church is a safe place to be, where there is no risk of exploitation of any kind. We all have a responsibility for making it so.

As followers of Jesus Christ, acts of caring are at the heart of how we respond to the community around us.

Our vocation to love God is embodied in our caring for each other, and in this we need to be aware of those who are vulnerable and to consider their particular needs.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is being aware of others and their needs. This means challenging situations where needs are not being met or where individuals of any age are being, or appear to be being, abused in any way.

As an Inclusive Church we welcome all people, some of whom will have differing needs and vulnerabilities at different times. We have to recognize this and act appropriately.

What we are doing?

St. Thomas's PCC is responsible for Safeguarding and aims to achieve best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.

We have established good safeguarding policies as recommended by the Church of England and Salisbury Diocese, including safe recruitment for all roles, paid and voluntary.

We ensure that all staff and volunteers receive appropriate safeguarding training.

We are committed to:

- The care and nurture within respectful pastoral ministry for all people, children, young people and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of our children, young people and adults.
- The establishment of a caring community, which provides a safe environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose, concerns and find support.

**Safeguarding
Children
&
Vulnerable Adults**

About this Leaflet.

This leaflet is intended for all members of the congregation as an overview of the Safeguarding process. Staff, volunteers and Group Leaders in particular, have access to the Parish Safeguarding Handbook that provides more detailed information. This explains the responsibilities of the various roles. A copy of the handbook is available at the back of the church, along with other helpful documents.

Available from the Parish Office:

- Consent forms
- Safety Plans (Risk Assessments)
- Other appropriate documentation

If you would like further information about the Safeguarding process, including the confidentiality of personal and sensitive information, please ask Rosie Norman or Michael Humphreys.

Keep them safe



The PCC has recently updated its Safeguarding procedures. However, we are all, jointly and individually, responsible for the safeguarding of others. It is always better to raise a concern, even if this proves to be groundless, rather than do nothing.

If you have any concerns on Safeguarding, either for yourself or others, please contact Rosie Norman, the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or Michael Humphreys, Deputy PSO.

Email:

safeguarding@stthomassalisbury.co.uk

or phone (Parish Office): 01722 322527

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CONTACT DETAILS

The Parish Office
St Thomas's House
St. Thomas's Square,
Salisbury, SP1 1BA
Tel: 01722 322537



SAFEGUARDING



in St. Thomas's