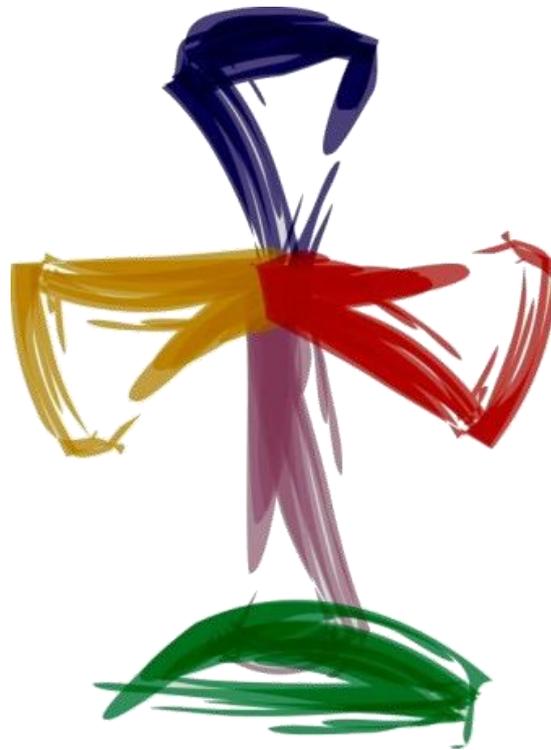


# Christ Church Mount Pellon



## Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

January 2016

Based on the Diocesan Policy of Nov. 2011

# Policy

Christ Church Mount Pellon recognises the right of all people to live their lives in freedom and dignity, free from any type of abuse or coercion. The Church is required by God to foster relationships of the highest integrity, truthfulness and trustworthiness. The Church accepts that it has a responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all adults with whom it has contact, including those who may be vulnerable, and as a Church we must recognise that even those who consider themselves strong may become vulnerable when circumstances change.

The statutory organisations, and this is reflected in 'Promoting a Safe Church' [PASC] have described a vulnerable adult as a person aged 18 or over who has a condition of the following type:

- A substantial learning or physical disability.
- A physical or mental illness or disorder including an addiction to alcohol or drugs.
- A significant reduction in physical or mental capacity resulting in the need for the involvement of a secular agency.

There is now, however, a growing recognition, which is also reflected in PASC, that in some situations there is a continuum of vulnerability and that a better understanding is based around the concept of 'safeguarding adults when they may be vulnerable'. This therefore means that all members of our church have the potential to become vulnerable at some time or another and therefore this guidance applies to everyone.

This Church affirms that people have the right:

- To live in a safe, secure, stable and loving environment
- To be protected from all forms of harm, including neglect, abuse and exploitation.
- To be listened to and heard.
- To have their religion, cultural and racial background and experience valued and respected.
- To be considered as individuals with particular needs.
- To be given opportunity to function at their full potential.

This Church affirms that clergy, staff and volunteers who have contact with adults have the responsibility:

- To ensure that their actions do not violate the individual's human and civil rights and do not put themselves at risk of allegations of misconduct
- To work in a way which will help to prevent abuse.
- To ensure that appropriate action is taken to safeguard those where abuse is suspected.

This Church will:

- Encourage the careful selection, monitoring and regular review of all staff and volunteers, particularly those who may be working with vulnerable adults.
- Ensure rigorous recruitment practices to deter those who actively seek vulnerable people to exploit or abuse including taking up references and using /DSB checks
- Actively promote an organisational culture within which all those who express concern will be treated seriously and will receive a positive response
- Advise all staff and volunteers to be familiar with the guidance in 'Promoting a Safe Church' the nation Church of England guidance for those working with adults, and in particular Good Practice recommendations 2
- Report any allegations of abuse against vulnerable adults, whether or not involving clergy, staff or volunteers, immediately to the Statutory Authorities.
- Work in cooperation with the local adult services and the police when they are investigating an allegation of abuse
- Require organisations that use church premises to agree to these practices.
- Provide training to support those working with vulnerable adults
- Ensure that confidentiality and information sharing related to the protection of adults, including those who may be vulnerable, and the perpetrators of abuse in a multi-agency context are maintained through agreed protocols
- Appoint a lead officer to take responsibility for this work.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. O.', written over a white background.

14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Review Date: January 2017