

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

### THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Parish Churches of St. Bartholomew Great Gransden and St Peter & St Paul Little Gransden acknowledge their duty of care to vulnerable people under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

It is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Councils and those to whom they delegate responsibility for this work to protect children (under 18 years of age) and vulnerable adults from physical, emotional, or sexual harm. Using information and guidance provided by the Diocese of Ely we have agreed that the following principles will be observed.

1. In fulfilling our responsibilities in safeguarding, we will seek to create a culture of "informed vigilance" where the welfare of vulnerable people is paramount.
2. We will report any obvious or suspected cases of abuse to the relevant statutory authorities. In the case of this occurring we will act in a way which we believe to be in the person's best interest.
3. We will follow recommended safeguarding practice in the appointment of leaders and workers to whom responsibility is delegated for working with children and / or vulnerable adults.
4. All groups will have appropriate levels of leadership and supervision.
5. All leaders and workers in positions of responsibility working regularly or substantially with children and / or vulnerable adults on behalf of the parishes will be recruited using recommended safeguarding procedures. They will be given:
  - A copy of this policy
  - Written advice about what to do if abuse is discovered, disclosed or suspected.
6. This policy is reviewed at least annually.

#### Contacts

Phillip George -	Safeguarding co-ordinator	01767 677553
Teresa Miller -	Sunday School Leader	01767 677860
Sheila George -	Authorised Lay Minister (Music)	01767 677553
Sheila George -	Tower Captain, Bell Ringers	01767 677553

Signed

Rev'd Catharine Furlong  
Priest in Charge  
November 2015

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**CHILDLINE TELEPHONE: 0800 1111**

<http://www.childline.org.uk/>

How to react if a child talks to you about abuse

- It is important to reassure a child or adult that it is right to talk about it, and that you will take everything they say seriously.

The following are suggestions, which may be helpful in such circumstances.

General points

- Reassure the child that you are taking what is being said to you very seriously.
- Keep calm.
- Look at the child directly.
- Do not prejudge anything.
- Tell the child you will need to tell someone else - do not promise confidentiality.
- Whatever a child may have done, it is not to blame for the abuse.
- Be aware the child may have been threatened, intimidated or made to promise secrecy.
- Never push for more information than is immediately given.
- Hear the allegation clearly, make a written note of it afterwards,

Helpful things to say

- "Thank you for telling me this."
- "I will have to share this with someone else who can help."
- "You needn't tell me any more about it. I have understood what you are telling me."
- "I am glad you have told me."

Avoid saying

- "Why didn't you tell anyone before?"
- "I can't believe it."
- "Are you sure this is true?"
- "Why, how, when, who, where?"
- "Don't tell anyone else."
- "This is dreadful."

Concluding the conversation

- Reassure the child that it has done the right thing to tell you.
- You are taking what has been said very seriously.
- You will tell someone who can help, straight away.
- They are not to worry or feel they have done anything wrong.

It is helpful to note if the child has told anyone else. The point of the conversation is to establish a basic account of the allegation. You do not have to believe it or disbelieve it, just note it accurately, and then refer the case onward correctly.

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### **What to do if abuse is discovered suspected or disclosed.**

- Immediately contact:  
The Safeguarding co-ordinator - Phillip George - 01767 677553 or  
The Revd Catharine Furlong - 01767 677227 or  
The Safeguarding Officer – Diocese of Ely Sarah King - 01353 652735
- Make a written log of everything that has happened
- If a person is in danger – call the police