



Safeguarding vulnerable adults

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments that:

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- encourage vulnerable adults to lead as independent a life as possible, to choose how to lead their life, and to be active contributors to the church community
- protect vulnerable adults from actual or potential harm
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

We recognise that:

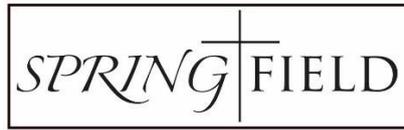
- everyone has different levels of vulnerability, and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives
- all vulnerable adults (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse
- abuse of vulnerable adults can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to them
- working in partnership with vulnerable adults, their carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

In all our activities we will endeavour to safeguard vulnerable adults by:

- valuing, listening to and respecting vulnerable adults
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with vulnerable adults, and boundaries for acceptable behaviour, in co-operation with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities.

In our recruitment of paid staff and volunteers, we will follow Diocesan procedures by:

- ensuring all necessary checks are made to promote the safe selection and recruitment of ordained and lay ministers, voluntary workers and paid workers with vulnerable adults
- providing supervision, support and training.



In all our publicity we will:

- share information about good safeguarding practice with vulnerable adults, their carers, and all those working with them.

When concerns are raised we will follow Diocesan procedures by:

- responding without delay to every concern raised that a vulnerable adult may have been harmed, or be at risk from harm, through abuse, harassment or bullying; or about the behaviour of an adult or child
- working with the diocese and the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

In our care:

- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any vulnerable adult who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired
- ensuring that appropriate pastoral care is offered to any member of our church community against whom an allegation is made.

In our supervision, we will follow Diocesan procedures by:

- ensuring, in partnership with the diocese and other agencies, that care and supervision is provided for any member of our church community known to have offended against a vulnerable adult, or to pose a risk to them.

Agreed at Springfield Church Council: 22 March 2021

Review date: March 2022