



## **Safeguarding adults who may be vulnerable**

### **We are committed to promoting and supporting environments that:**

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- encourage adults who may be vulnerable 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 adults who may be vulnerable 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 adults who may be vulnerable (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 adults who may be vulnerable can occur in all communities and is most likely to occur within families and by people known to them
- working in partnership with adults who may be vulnerable, their carers and other agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

### **In all our activities we will endeavour to safeguard adults who may be vulnerable by:**

- valuing, listening to and respecting adults who may be vulnerable
- fostering and encouraging best practice by setting standards for working with adults who may be vulnerable, 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 adults who may be vulnerable
- providing supervision, support and training.



**In all our publicity we will:**

- share information about good safeguarding practice with adults who may be vulnerable, 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 an adult who may be vulnerable 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: 20 March 2023

Review date: March 2024