

The Parish of All Saints, South Cave
SAFEGUARDING POLICY
SUPPORTING A CONGREGANT WHO MAY PRESENT A RISK TO
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE OR VULNERABLE ADULTS

Introduction

Based on the gospel, the Church opens its doors to all. Therefore, there will be occasions when a person with criminal convictions for sexual offences and/or other forms of abuse will seek to worship at and participate in the church life at All Saints. There may also be a person who does not have convictions or cautions but where there are sound reasons for considering that they might pose a risk to others. They will need to be carefully and sensitively assessed to decide what risk they pose to others and what arrangements need to be put in place to mitigate those risks. This will allow for both monitoring of the individual and support to be offered, so that they can lead as fulfilled a life as possible within the church.

Policy Statement

The Parish will:

- Notify the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) as soon as practicable, but within 24 hours, if it becomes known that a current or new member of the congregation:
 - Is on the Sex Offenders Register, with a violent offence or conviction and/or is barred from working with children or adults by the DBS
 - Admits to being an abuser including non-recent abuse
 - Is subject to an investigation for suspected abuse, including possession of indecent images of children, and/or is suspended from their usual role
 - Poses a risk to other church members due to their behavior, irrespective of their criminal status. This would include an allegation of abuse against a child or adult which has been investigated, but the matter has not proceeded to court OR the person has been acquitted OR the matter is currently the subject of proceedings in the criminal or civil courts
 - Has a complaint or grievance against them alleging inappropriate behaviour, which is not criminal
 - Has had concerns raised before about their alleged abusive behavior to a previous or current partner.
- Involve the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and the Incumbent (Church Wardens) in discussions with the DSA to determine the appropriate action to be taken to safeguard the parish and its congregation
- Undertake a Risk Assessment and develop a risk management plan known as a Safeguarding Agreement (SA). The individual will be involved in the development of the SA with the DSA, the Incumbent (Church Wardens), PSO and representatives from statutory agencies (e.g. Probation Service), depending on circumstances.
- Work with the DSA and any other statutory agencies, if an individual is assessed as posing a risk to children or adults by:
 - Forming a small group of people to offer pastoral support, friendship and to monitor the individual

- Maintaining the highest levels of confidentiality unless there is a breach of the SA and it is necessary to protect a child or a vulnerable adult
- Agreeing with the individual that they worship elsewhere, if their victim or the victim's family also worship at All Saints
- Ensuring the individual is never offered an official role, voluntary or paid, within All Saints
- Considering in exceptional circumstances whether the wider congregation needs to be informed
- With the advice of the DSA determine what elements may be included in a SA. These may be:
 - Attending designated services or meetings only
 - Sitting apart from children
 - Staying away from areas where children or vulnerable adults meet
 - Attending a Home Group where there are no children or vulnerable adults
 - Declining hospitality where there are children or vulnerable adults
 - Never being alone with children or vulnerable adults
- Monitor and review the SA at least annually.
- Report any breaches of the SA to the DSA immediately.

Policy approved on 13th July 2023

To be reviewed in July 2026 (or before if necessary)

Incumbent (vacant)

Church Warden

A. Durlworth

Church Warden

M. Burns