

St Michael's Church Axmouth Safeguarding Policy Statement

Axmouth Parochial Church Council fully recognises and accepts the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy Statement "Promoting a Safer Church 2017" and will comply with the current Church of England and Diocesan safeguarding policies and practice guidance. In so doing we will comply with secular multi-agency safeguarding procedures relating to children and young people and adults experiencing, or at risk of, harm, abuse or neglect.

We are committed to:

* Promoting a safe environment and culture within our Parish and its activities by adhering to safe working practices, based on the principle that safeguarding is everyone's business.

We will also ensure that any individual organisation using our premises for activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults is aware of our Safeguarding Policy, and aware of their own individual responsibilities to have appropriate safeguarding policies and processes in place.

* Safely recruiting and supporting all volunteers with any responsibilities related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church in accordance with the House of Bishops' Safer Recruitment: Practice Guidance 2016

We will ensure those chosen are aware of the Diocesan and Parish Safeguarding Policies and are aware of their roles and responsibilities. We will support them by ensuring they receive Diocesan safeguarding training commensurate with their role and that they are fully aware of and have access our safeguarding guidelines.

* Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation in accordance with the statutory child and adult safeguarding procedures and the House of Bishops' safeguarding practice guidance.

We will ensure that any complaint made regarding a vulnerable person, who may have been harmed or is in significant danger, will be reported immediately and we will fully cooperate with statutory agencies during any investigation into allegations concerning a member of the church community or any other person.

* Caring pastorally for victims of abuse and other affected persons.

We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation or isolation and give them details of local and national support agencies.

* Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.

We will work with others to ensure the appropriate support for them and those affected. Where that person is considered to pose a risk to others, we will work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor to mitigate any identified risk.

* Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

We will endeavour to offer pastoral care and support whilst ensuring any risk has been assessed and is being managed in accordance with House of Bishops' policy and guidance and in collaboration with the statutory agencies and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.

Safeguarding Representative

Where possible we will ensure that there is an identified person to be the Parish Safeguarding Representative who will be suitably recruited and trained, is aware of the role and responsibilities, and who will be the point of contact for any concerns.

In the absence of such a representative, the responsibility rests with the Vicar, **Rev Nicky Davies**.

Guidance

Copies of Diocesan and parish guidelines and procedures are held in the church vestry.