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## Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults' Policy Statement

**This statement was agreed at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. This statement will be read annually at the A.P.C.M. where progress in carrying out the policy will be reported.**

- This church aims to create a culture of informed vigilance at all levels and is committed to the welfare, nurturing and safekeeping of children and vulnerable adults.
- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and vulnerable adults, and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We recognise that our work with children and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the whole church, as is the support of those who work with them.
- The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with children and vulnerable adults and will provide regular Safeguarding Children Training.
- No one will be expected to work with children and vulnerable adults unsupervised or unsupported.
- The church will follow the House of Bishops' policy on Safeguarding Children 'Protecting All God's Children 4<sup>th</sup> Edition to promote best practice and minimise the risk to children and vulnerable adults from unsafe practice. The church has adopted and will work to the good practice guidelines as issued by the Lichfield Diocesan Manual 'Safeguarding Children and Young People'.
- Protection: The church will ensure that those who work with children and vulnerable adults, and those in whom children and vulnerable adults place their trust, know how to handle a situation where a child or young person is considered to be at risk through abuse or neglect.
- Children and vulnerable adults are part of the church today. They have much to give as well as receive, and will be listened to. In worship, learning, teaching and evangelism we will respect the wishes and feelings of children and vulnerable adults.
- The church is committed to providing a safe, warm and friendly environment for all.
- All those working with or in direct and regular contact with the children and vulnerable adults will be carefully recruited and their backgrounds checked at the appropriate level through DBS. These checks will include those supervising those working with children and vulnerable adults and on those whose representational ministry, office or status gives them the opportunity or the expectation for regular or unsupervised contact with children and vulnerable adults. Christ Church has chosen to insist on a separate DBS check for each person involved with its children and young people. A previous DBS check will not be viewed as transferable, unless the update service has been applied.
- As part of our commitment to children and vulnerable adults, the church has appointed Judie Ellis to be the Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator. Her role will be regularly explained to the children and vulnerable adults and the church community, and her name, address and phone number publicly displayed.

Judie Ellis, Moorcroft House, Pontesford, Pontesbury, SY5 0UA

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