

# Parish Safeguarding Statement

## Safeguarding Statement: Parish of St Andrew, Marks Tey

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Andrew Marks Tey takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

This Safeguarding Statement applies to all who make up the church 'workforce' which includes all clergy, holders of Bishop's licence or permission, those commissioned or authorised by the Bishop, those, paid or unpaid, who hold positions of responsibility in a parish and work with children or vulnerable adults, and those with representational parish ministry, for example; churchwarden, organist, server & choir members

For the purposes of this document the term 'Parish' is used to denote the PCC and Incumbent who are together responsible for ensuring that diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented.

For the purposes of this document a child is anyone under the age of eighteen years.

### **Policy**

1. The PCC of St Andrew's Marks Tey has adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policy.

A copy of the full relevant policy and practice guidance is obtainable on the Church of England's website [www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding](http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding) and a hard copy of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook is kept accessible in the lobby between St Andrew's Church and Hall.

2. The Parish Safeguarding Officer, appointed by the PCC at St Andrew Marks Tey, is Mrs Elizabeth Dance.

### **Statement of Commitment**

The PCC will develop a safeguarding culture that:

- Creates an environment where there is awareness and vigilance about the signs, symptoms and impacts of abuse.
- Enables and encourages all concerns or allegations to be raised in order to protect children and adults from harm.
- Ensures all those who work or volunteer on behalf of the church with children and adults achieve the standards required by this policy.
- Holds to account those in the church community who disregard the safety and well-being of children and adults.

To bring this about we will:

- ☑ Formally adopt the Church of England Safeguarding Policy.
- ☑ Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy annually
- ☑ Invite our PSO(s) to attend at least one PCC meeting each year. (At this meeting the PSO will provide a report on Safeguarding for the parish).
- ☑ Ensure that all those authorised to work with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately **recruited** according to safer recruitment practice and are adequately supported.
- ☑ Ensure that all those authorised to work with children and vulnerable adults are **trained** appropriately for their roles, including Diocesan Safeguarding Training.
- ☑ Provide appropriate insurance cover for all activities undertaken in the name of the church, which involve children or vulnerable adults.
- ☑ Ensure that an **Activity Plan** and **Risk Assessment** is completed and reviewed (at least once a year) for each activity, which is associated with either children or vulnerable adults and run in the name of the church.
- ☑ Comply with Data Protection Principles<sup>1</sup> – specifically with reference to storing information about the ‘church workforce’, including volunteers, who have completed a confidential declaration and/or undergone DBS checks and for Safeguarding Agreements of offenders and others who may pose a risk.

The most important point to bear in mind is, if in doubt about any safeguarding matter contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) whose job it is to offer advice, guidance and support in all situations in which a child or adult may be at risk. For this purpose the DST can be contacted at any time on;

**01245 294444**

#### **Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)**

Mrs Elizabeth Dance

07729 097670 psr@marksteychurch.org.uk

#### **Diocesan Safeguarding Team**

Contact Details: 01245 294444 (24/7) or email: [safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org)

#### **Safeguarding contact details for Essex**

**Children’s Services:** Essex Social Care 0845 606 1212 (Out of hours) or 0845 603 7634 (daytime)

**Adult Services:** AskSAL 08452 606 1212 (out of hours) or 0845 603 7634 (daytime)

#### **National Helplines**

**Childline:** 0800 1111

**NSPCC:** 0808 500 8000

**Domestic Violence Helpline:** 0808 200 0247

**MACSAS (Ministers and clergy sexual abuse survivors):** [www.macsas.org.uk](http://www.macsas.org.uk)

**Mencap Learning Disability Helpline:** 0808 808 1111

**VOICE UK** (For people with learning disabilities who have experienced crime or abuse): 0808 802 8686

**StopItNow!** (For anyone who may need help preventing abuse, even in themselves): 0808 100 0900

**Women’s Aid** (Seeking to end domestic violence against women and girls): [www.womesaid.org.uk](http://www.womesaid.org.uk)

**Samaritans:** 08457 909090

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<sup>1</sup> See ICO for [http://ico.org.uk/for\\_organisations/data\\_protection](http://ico.org.uk/for_organisations/data_protection)