



Religious Community Safeguarding Policy Statement

For The Anglican Community of St Mary at the Cross, Edgware Abbey, Order of St Benedict

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. This implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

- We accept and endorse the principles set out in 'Safeguarding in the Diocese of London', and follow the guidance issued by the House of Bishops for Religious Communities. We will adhere to the following policies and practice guidance from the Diocese of London and the National Safeguarding team.

<https://www.london.anglican.org/support/safeguarding/safeguarding-policy/>

- [Responding to Safeguarding Concerns or Allegations that relate to Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults practice guidance \(2018\)](#)
 - [Responding to, assessing and managing concerns or allegations against church officers practice guidance \(2017\)](#)
 - [Responding well to domestic abuse practice guidance \(2017\)](#)
 - [Responding well to those who have been sexually abused practice guidance \(2011\)](#)
 - [Promoting a Safer Church; House of Bishops policy statement \(2017\)](#)
 - [Protecting All God's Children \(safeguarding policy for children and young people, 4th edition, 2010\)](#)
 - [Promoting a Safe Church \(safeguarding policy for adults, 2006\)](#)
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- We commit ourselves to nurture, protect and safeguard all our members, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults.
 - We recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church community.
 - We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection, appointment, training and support of those working in both paid and voluntary positions with children or vulnerable adults, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) disclosures and making appropriate referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service. This also takes place for our care home with nursing Henry Nihill House, which has its own safeguarding policy in line with Local Authority and National Guidance.
 - We will respond without delay to concerns or allegations that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and social care services in any investigation.
 - We will challenge any abuse of power by anyone in a position of trust.
 - We will seek to offer pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them appropriate pastoral support.
 - We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

- As a Registered Charity we follow the Guidance for Reporting Safeguarding Serious Incidents (if a person is injured) and non-safeguarding Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission; and follow updates of procedures as notified by the CC.
- We attend Training Days when possible.

The Community of St Mary at the Cross agreed and adopted the above Policy at its meeting on 28th May 2021

We have appointed the Revd Jonathan Kester as our Dedicated Safeguarding Lead.

Copies of "Safeguarding in the Diocese of London" and Guidelines and Procedures issued for Religious Communities are held by Mother Abbess.

The Community shall review this policy annually. The next review will take place by 31st May 2022.

Signed:

Revd Mother Abbess

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+ Mary Thérèse O.S.B.

Revd Sister

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Barbara O.S.B.