



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

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Dear Colleague,

New Safeguarding Policy

Abuse in our society does terrible damage, especially to children and vulnerable adults. No community is immune to abuse, so in our churches we must be resolute in our determination to protect all children and adults from harm.

I am delighted therefore to present the new Safeguarding Policy to each and every parish to help you and your colleagues locally benefit from having the best possible resources available to protect everyone from harm in the church setting. This new policy replaces all existing Child Protection and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policies issued previously in the Diocese of Chelmsford and should be adopted as the Safeguarding Policy in every parish, as endorsed by the Diocesan Synod in June 2014.

With this guidance you can change peoples' lives for the better: The Gospel demands nothing less. I commend to you the expertise and broad experience we have gathered within the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to help support us all in our mission to safeguard everyone connected with the Church from abuse. I am both enormously grateful for all that this team, and their predecessors, have helped us to achieve so far and fascinated about how our safeguarding journey will unfold as we continue to develop the best possible practice in the future.

If you are in any doubt at all about what to do in a safeguarding situation, the most important advice you can take from this policy is that you should contact the Safeguarding Team for advice, guidance or support as soon as possible. Tel: 01245 294444 or e-mail: safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org Not only will you be complying with the new policy anyway, but you will also be rewarded with the best and most knowledgeable advice available to support and guide you through what is always a sensitive and often highly emotive issue.

We must all work together to ensure that the Church is a safe place where everyone is welcome, everyone is protected and everyone can flourish. This policy and the resources that we now have in place to support it, will help us all to ensure that we do.

+ Stephen Cottrell



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