

➤ **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WHOLE CHURCH FAMILY**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Every member of the congregation needs to acknowledge their individual responsibility to bring matters of concern to the Vicar or Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

Concerns, suspicions or uneasiness should be voiced as soon as possible. The earlier a concern is expressed the easier and sooner action can be taken.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

Clarify in your own mind what practice is concerning you; what has been heard or what has been observed.

Put concerns in writing, outlining the background and history. Include dates and times where possible. Use facts/be objective do not rely on rumour or opinion.

Approach the Vicar or Safeguarding Coordinator

Make sure a satisfactory response is received- don't let matters rest

Remember the whistle blower is not expected to prove the truth of an allegation or investigate it.

If you are concerned, please contact:

Safeguarding Coordinator St Mary's, Westham: Sue Davies

Tel: 01323 767193

Email: davies_ronald1@sky.com



**LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE
ADULTS AT ST MARY'S, WESTHAM**



April 2018

Full policy available on the church website

<http://stmaryswestham.org.uk/>

➤ INTRODUCTION

Throughout the Bible, God reveals his special concern for those who are vulnerable in society. As God's people, at St Mary's, we share his concerns. To this end we take the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults seriously seeking to encourage good practice amongst the whole congregation, staff and volunteer workers.

➤ SAFEGUARDING AT ST MARY'S

The PCC is committed to the Diocese of Chichester Parish Child Protection Policy statement - a copy of which is at the back of the church.

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR at ST MARY'S:

Sue Davies

01323 767193

davies_ronald1@sky.com

VICAR AT ST MARY'S

Revd. Chris Clark

01323 762294

chrisc@austinclark.co.uk

➤ DEFINITIONS

Child: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday

Vulnerable Adult: A person who is over 18 years of age, who is, or maybe, in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness; and who is unable to take care of her or himself against significant harm or exploitation.

TYPES OF ABUSE:

Physical: such as hitting, pushing, locking someone in a room

Verbal: such as shouting and swearing

Emotional: such as bullying, taunting or humiliating someone.

Neglect: such as not providing necessary food, care or medicine.

Sexual: such as inappropriate touching, forcing someone to take part in any sexual act against their will.

Discrimination: such as ill treatment due to the person's age, gender, disability, religious beliefs or race that may include harassment

Institutional: such as lack of individual care, no flexibility of bedtimes or waking, deprived environment or lack of stimulation.

Spiritual: such as attempts to force religious views or values onto other people against their will

Financial: such as misusing, withholding or taking someone's money; abuse of a position to make people offer gifts, leave legacies or change a will.