



# TELFORD MINSTER SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

This statement was adopted by the Vision Team of Telford Minster April 2023 and will be reviewed annually.

Telford Minster is working under a Bishops' Mission Order (BMO), awarded by the Bishop of Lichfield. At Telford Minster, we are committed to work under the national Church of England Safeguarding Policy and the Diocesan Safeguarding Policies, which ensures the protection of children and vulnerable adults in all we do.

Our Safeguarding Coordinator is **Rev'd Matt Beer** and can be contacted on **07950 268426**.

The National Church Institutions Safeguarding Privacy Notice is available [here](#).

We are committed to caring and respectful pastoral care of all people, the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults. We also look to promote a caring and safe community within our local area.

All people, including children and vulnerable adults, have the right to be protected from harm and to have their welfare promoted. We recognise that anyone who is working within our ministry and who comes into contact with children and vulnerable adults has a responsibility to keep them safe and to promote their welfare.

## **1. This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved. We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.**

- *We recognise that a position of power in relation to another creates a risk of vulnerability. As a consequence, we strive to ensure that we consider power when working and leading with people.*
- *We recognise that children, by virtue of legal status and dependency on adults for their emotional and physical needs, will always be vulnerable and at a disadvantage. We commit to considering this in our children's activities – undertaking supervision of staff and team working with them and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.*
- *We understand that illness, disability, race, mental health and other issues can put adults in a position of vulnerability. We accept that these can be long term (ongoing), or temporary.*
- *We commit to considering this in our adults' activities and events - undertaking supervision of staff and team and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance in our work.*
- *We commit to transparency in our actions and accountability for our work.*

## **2. As active members of this BMO, we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults and children to whom we minister.**

- *We will consider issues relating to spiritual care in prayer activity, ensuring that members of our prayer team consider power, control and spiritual abuse issues in their ministry.*
- *We will ensure that leaders who are involved with working with vulnerable persons have appropriate enhanced DBS checks.*
- *We will ensure that appropriate safeguarding training will be offered to all our staff and team members.*
- *We commit to discuss safeguarding and support of safeguarding as a Vision Team.*

## **3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church. This will include:**

- *Sunday meetings*
- *Outreach work, like alpha, children's and school work, youth clubs, etc.*
- *Community events*
- *House groups and prayer meetings*

#### **4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.**

- We will ensure that those with remits or leadership of groups involving vulnerable children have appropriate enhanced DBS checks and that these are updated every 3 years.
- We will engage with appropriate training and seek to develop relationships with other agencies and the diocese on safeguarding.
- Revision of the Safeguarding policy will be a regular point of discussion for the Telford Minster Vision Team and we agree that, whilst we have named co-ordinators, we will accept collective ownership for this important issue.

#### **5. Telford Minster commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.**

- We will ensure no one is disadvantaged due to gender, disability, age and race on how we provide and plan our ministry.
- We will actively but appropriately challenge each other in our work in order to ensure we consider a wide range of perspectives and views – ensuring that we do not oppressively impose our own values or views to another's detriment.
- Where a person struggles with activities due to disadvantage, disability or illness, we will go the extra mile to assist them, so they can participate and contribute as a full part of the church.

#### **6. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.**

- We will not collude, keep secrets or make decisions when we have suspicion of abuse. We will seek advice from the Diocesan safeguarding team who will instruct the use of external agencies.
- We will report without bias to our personal view. We will report and not investigate.
- We will record concerns factually in diocese suggested formats (as per 'Recording with Care Policy' 2017).
- We are open to scrutiny and encourage this in others.
- We have zero tolerance of abuse and put the welfare of vulnerable children and adults first.
- We take training and activities relating to the safeguarding of children seriously and seek to ingrain this at Telford Minster.
- Safeguarding co-ordination to maintain a relationship with the safeguarding team on diocesan level is important to us and will ensure that the latest policies and guidelines are followed.
- Telford Minster is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.

#### **7. Telford Minster adopts the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church. Safeguarding policy statement' and Lichfield Diocese guidance on safeguarding:**

- Telford Minster will report and record in line with diocesan policies and comply with local guidance for implementing national policies as defined in diocese policies. These include the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy, Recording with Care Policy, Social Media Policy and Safer Recruitment Policy.
- Link to all resources can be obtained here. [www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf](http://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf)

#### **8. Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.**

- Those working with vulnerable adults or children will sign a declaration to state that they have read and agreed to abide by the points outlined in this policy.
- Our appointed safeguarding officers are:
  1. **Rev'd Matt Beer**, Vicar, email: [matt.beer@telfordminster.org.uk](mailto:matt.beer@telfordminster.org.uk), phone: 07950 268426
  2. **Tam Sheen**, Safeguarding Officer, email: [safeguarding@telfordminster.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@telfordminster.org.uk)

## 9. Useful Phone Numbers

	<b>Office Hours</b>	<i>Out of Hours Tel (before 9am, after 5pm and at weekends)</i>	<i>Emergency (Immediate Risk)</i>
<b>General Numbers</b>			
Police	101	101	999
Healthcare	111	111	999
Diocese Safeguarding number	01543 306030	0303 003 1111 (Option 2)	N/A
<b>Children's Safeguarding Phone numbers</b>			
Shropshire	0345 678 9021	0345 6789040	999
Telford and Wrekin	01952 385385	01952 676500	999
<b>Safeguarding Adults numbers</b>			
Shropshire Adults	0345 678 9021	0345 6789040	999
Telford & Wrekin Adults	0345 678 9021	01952 676500	999