

Safeguarding Policy Statement – Diocese of Canterbury
The Parish of St. Martin’s Church with St. Hilary’s, Maidstone

This parochial church council is committed to the following (Church of England) **Principles** of the House of Bishops’ Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults:

- *The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults.*
- *The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.*
- *The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of ‘informed vigilance’ as to the dangers of abuse.*
- *We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.*
- *We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.*
- *We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with him or her an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.*
- *We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.*
- *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.*
- *In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.*

(HOB Safeguarding Children Policy p.vii)

This parochial church council has adopted the **safeguarding policies and procedures** of the Church of England. In particular we are committed to:

- the safeguarding of all children, young people and vulnerable adults
- carefully selecting and training paid and voluntary staff who might come into contact with children or vulnerable adults, using the Disclosure and Barring Service amongst other tools, to check their suitability
- responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed
- cooperating fully with the police, local authority and any other appropriate statutory body in any investigation
- ministering appropriately to anyone, child or adult, who has experienced abuse
- extending pastoral care to those known to have offended against children or vulnerable adults whilst ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are protected from them.

This parochial church council has appointed a **Parish Safeguarding Coordinator** (Caroline Brewster) for children and vulnerable adults.

This Parochial Church Council approved the above on 23 July 2015.

Parish Priest: Rev Joyce Addison
Wardens: Ron Green and Esther Barford