



Christ Church
Headington

CHRIST CHURCH HEADINGTON

Safeguarding Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with...

- Our Domestic Abuse Policy
- Our Policy on the Recruitment of ex-offenders
- Our safer recruitment procedure
- Our reporting concerns procedure
- Our code of conduct for volunteers working with children

1. About CHRIST CHURCH HEADINGTON

a. Basic information

Name of organisation: CHRIST CHURCH HEADINGTON

Postal Address: 33 WHARTON ROAD, OXFORD OX3 8AL

Telephone: 07952 652427

email: info@christchurchheadington.org

b. Activities of CHRIST CHURCH HEADINGTON

Christ Church Headington is a Christian church which holds services in Headington, Oxford. We do not own our own premises but hire local buildings for Sunday service and midweek activities.

We are a Presbyterian church which holds to the Ecumenical Creeds of historic Christianity, and the Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger and Shorter Catechisms. We are part of the International Presbyterian Church.

Charity Number: 1207795

Insurance Company: Kingdom Bank Insurance

As a Christian church, our most important regular event is meeting for worship on a Sunday. Our services are meetings for the whole church family and so include all ages

from birth to old age and all abilities and states of mental and physical health. We encourage the growth of warm, healthy family relationships in the church.

We also organise children's groups to provide age-appropriate teaching, on Sundays and during the week.

c. Definitions

A *child* is a person below the age of 18.

A *vulnerable adult* is a person over the age of 18 who for reasons of physical or mental illness or disability is unable fully to protect him or herself and is therefore in need of protection from abuse.

Abuse is the maltreatment of a child or vulnerable adult by inflicting harm or failing to prevent harm where there is a duty to do so, including cases of neglect. Abuse may be physical, sexual, emotional or psychological; it may be perpetrated by a peer or someone older and/or more capable than them; it may be perpetrated by an individual or a group.

Harm means the damaging of a person's wellbeing according to the standards of human flourishing set out in the laws and wisdom of the Bible; and therefore inflicting harm means acting in ways opposed to the self-sacrificial love and gospel call of Christ to repent and believe in him.

2. Policy Statement

The Trustees and Elders of Christ Church Headington recognise the need to provide a safe and caring environment for children and vulnerable adults. The church is intended by God to be a place where all people can find themselves part of a family where people have been transformed by God's Holy Spirit such that they are able to have a quality of relationships which only God makes possible through his Son Jesus Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Christians have a duty to love one another in a manner modelled upon Christ's self-sacrificial love for them on the cross. Abuse is always a case of inflicting harm on another for the sake of personal pleasure or gain, and so is the very opposite of what Christ requires of his people.

Nevertheless, the realities of human sinfulness mean that all members of the church are still sinful, and it is essential that steps are taken to minimise the effects of sin within all the relationships of the church, so that the gospel may have its full effect in bringing repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation. In particular those who are most vulnerable must be protected from being harmed by the sins of others. We are committed as a church to protecting children and vulnerable adults in this way. This is the purpose of this Safeguarding Policy.

As a church, we are committed to...

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- Promoting a safe, caring community which provides a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Church will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO) to work with the Minister, elders and Trustees to implement policy and procedures.
- Display at church activities and on the front page of the church website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Safely recruit, train, and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and vulnerable adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, including notifying the statutory authorities where further action or investigation is needed.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Ensure that a health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.

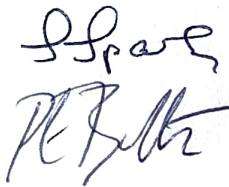
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

Approved by Trustees

Date - 9.9.2025

Signed -

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is written above the second signature.