

Policy Statement on the Safeguarding of Adults in the Church of St Cross, Clayton

This statement was amended and agreed at the Parochial Church Council meeting held on 28 September 2023

As a church community the Parish Church of St Cross, Clayton is committed to:

- i) The care and nurture of all children and adults.
- ii) The safeguarding and protection of all children and adults including vulnerable adults.
- iii) Ensuring that all people feel welcome, respected and safe from abuse.
- iv) Encouraging all to be active contributors to the church community.
- v) Protecting those adults who may be vulnerable from actual or potential harm.

We adopt in full the model statement on the safeguarding of adults in a parish taken from *Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk*, Manchester Diocese Handbook of Policy and Procedures (updated May 2017) which is as follows:

- 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.
- As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister.
- We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
- We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust.
- The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
- It is the responsibility of each of us 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 undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.

- The parish is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable.
- The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.
- Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.
- This church appoints Claire Schofield and Mark Robinson to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

Note – Definition of Vulnerable Adult

Section 6 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 defines a 'vulnerable adult' as 'a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect himself or herself from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability or illness, old age, emotional fragility or distress, or otherwise; and for that purpose, the reference to being impaired is to being temporarily or indefinitely impaired'.

This policy can be reviewed and amended at any time. Any amendment must be agreed by the PCC.