The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin East Barnet

Safeguarding Policy

The following safeguarding policy was adopted by the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, East Barnet, at the meeting of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on 18 May 2026. It will be reviewed by the PCC annually. The next review will be at the first meeting of the next PCC year.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safe environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people or vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for the victims or 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 appropriately to those who may pose a present risk to others.

The church will:

- Promote a safe and caring environment for all, including the vulnerable. We recognise that all of our community will be vulnerable, at least at some points in our lives.
- Foster a culture which clearly shows that all forms of abuse are unacceptable, through our teaching and worship.
- Share in the responsibility to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional, financial or spiritual abuse of any children, young people or vulnerable adults.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer to work with the Rector and PCC to implement safeguarding procedures generated in accordance with this policy. They will
    - review any changes necessary to this policy and recommend those to the PCC
    - take a lead role in the recruitment of those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults in accordance with the PCC safer recruitment policy
    - keep a record of recruitment documents and the Disclosure and Barring Service check status of all those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults
    - report on safeguarding needs and training opportunities to the Rector as they arise
    - ensure an annual review of this policy and the procedures it generates is undertaken
    - offer an annual report to the PCC on the implementation of this policy, any incidents and needs.
- Safely recruit, check, train and support PCC members and those with any responsibility for children, young people or vulnerable adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children, young people or vulnerable adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs at all church activities, on all church premises and on the church website.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take appropriate steps to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims or survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse disclosed, or when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children, young people or vulnerable adults, whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that registration documents, health and safety procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Observe guidelines on the safe use of images, as detailed in the PCC General Data Protection Regulation policy.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding policy, procedures and practices at least annually.
- Make this policy available to all who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults within this church community, and those who share in the leadership of the church through their membership of the PCC.

Each person who works with children, young people or vulnerable adults within this church community and those who share in the leadership of the church through their membership of the PCC agree to abide by this policy and the procedures established by this church.

This church appoints Helen Ball as the Parish Safeguarding Officer in 2026-7 and Margaret Cranfield as its PCC Safeguarding Advocate in 2026-7.

Rector .....

An Assistant Churchwarden .....