

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and 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 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 with¹ 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, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them 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.

¹ Or membership of (PVG scheme Scotland).

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for East Molesey Methodist Church

This policy was reviewed and agreed at a Church Council held on October 22nd 2014.

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

East Molesey Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

East Molesey Methodist Church recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

East Molesey Methodist Church fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space* 2007:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

We recognise the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

We commit ourselves to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

We commit ourselves to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

We commit ourselves to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

We affirm and give thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

East Molesey Methodist Church appoints Grahame Snelling as Church Safeguarding Adults Representative and as Church Safeguarding Children Coordinator and supports him/her/them in his/her/their role which is to:

- i) support and advise the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles
- ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii) liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Coordinators
- iv) promote safeguarding best practice within the local church with the support of circuit ministers.

a) Purpose

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010).

b) Good Practice

We believe good practice means that:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written note of this will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed for safety for children and vulnerable adults and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council in written form. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any church-organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate.
- v) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.
- vi) to prevent online abuse or the misuse of e-communication systems the church requires all groups or organisations in the church that communicate electronically to work to a protocol of best practice as recommended by the Methodist Church which can be accessed here:
<http://childrenandyouth.org.uk/worker/resources-worker/social-media-guidelines/new-social-media-guidelines/>

These things are put in place to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

c) **Appointment and training of workers**

Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory DBS disclosure. Each worker will be required to undergo basic Foundation Module safeguarding training, within the first year of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (e.g. food hygiene, first aid, lifting and handling, etc.) and each worker will have an annual review conducted by a named member of the Church Council and another worker within the organisation. Designated leaders will be required to attend the Creating Safer Sapace Leadership Module Training course

d) **Pastoral visitors**

In terms of safeguarding, Pastoral Visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of basic safeguarding training upon appointment.

e) **Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults**

A leaflet will be produced and reviewed annually to be given to each worker with vulnerable adults outlining good practice and systems. A guide for working with vulnerable adults was distributed to pastoral visitors in June 2014. A leaflet in respect of children will be prepared in 2014/15 will be reviewed annually with this policy ²

f) **Ecumenical events**

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

g) **Events with church groups off the premises**

Adequate staffing will be ensured for such events. Notification of the event will be given to Grahame Snelling, Church Safeguarding Officer

h) **Other groups on church premises**

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement [which should include Safeguarding Form E],³ will be given a copy of this policy and the leaflet. The lettings secretary will consider the various users of the building in making lettings⁴. By the end of 2014 the operation of the Model Railway Club that meets on the premises will be reviewed and as necessary a safeguarding policy specific to its functioning will be produced.

In respect of events organised in partnership with the onsite Children's Worksop and messy church/holiday club type events it is expected that parents/carers will remain with their children at all times and take responsibility for their supervision.

i) **Complaints procedure**

It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the organisations. However, a complaint may be made to a person who will be appointed by the Church Council and who is currently

² These have yet to be produced nationally for vulnerable adults.

³ To be found in Recruiting Safely in the Methodist Church 2010.

⁴ Such as the code of practice or the pocket guide.

Grahame Snelling, Safeguarding Officer. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to Grahame who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to invoking the complaints system of the Methodist Church which will involve initially speaking with the Local Complaints Officer who is Rev Peter Clark or in his absence Rev Michaela Youngson, Methodist London District Chair. Their contact details are on the church's website.

j) **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council. The date of the next review is October 2015

k) **Key concepts and definitions**

- i) **Vulnerable Adults:** any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.
- ii) **Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment;** preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iii) **Adult/child protection** is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- iv) **Abuse and neglect** may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Dated October 22nd 2014.....

Signed .Rev Peter Clark..... Chair of Church Council

