

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

If you have an concern about somebody's immediate safety, at any time, day or night, you should call 999 straight away.

If you have a safeguarding concern or query within the church, then you can speak to any one of the ministers, or a member of the Safeguarding team who are trained to deal with enquiries:

Lloyd Davis Vicar of St Thomas' Church
Email: tomsvicar@beaconsfieldteam.church Telephone: 07832 282 387

Ann-Marie Davis Safeguarding Officer for the CofE in Beaconsfield
Email: annmaried@btinternet.com

Tsungai Muchegwa Safeguarding Advisor for the CofE in Buckinghamshire
Email: tsungai.muchegwa@oxford.anglican.org Telephone: 01865 208 220

MORE INFORMATION

Our Safeguarding Policy can be viewed online at
www.beaconsfieldteam.church

If you require any additional information on the Church of England's safeguarding procedures and safe recruitment, you can send questions tomsvicar@beaconsfieldteam.church; we will endeavor to respond with the appropriate information as soon as possible.

We want to thank all of our church members and team who are working hard to ensure that our church community is as safe as we can possibly make it for the children and vulnerable adults whom we want to serve.

Safeguarding

as an everyday part of our faith, mission & ministry

St
Thomas'
Church

the
DOVE
cafe

ST THOMAS' CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING & GOOD PRACTICE

At St Thomas' Church and The Dove Café we want to be a part of building a society that is free from abuse. This is a central Christian issue for us because we believe in the God who loves and values every person and so we want to share in God's will for the people whom we serve, and who surround us.

Implementing good safeguarding practices, including a Safe Recruitment process is essential work that we must do to help make society a safer place. Spending time and resources on safeguarding is as important as any other part of our church life and ministry.

As a church we commit to creating our own safe spaces by implementing our agreed safeguarding policy and risk assessments, by ensuring that staff and volunteers are properly trained to recognise and deal with abuse, allegations and disclosure of abuse wherever it may occur, whether in the church or elsewhere, and by being bold in wanting to build a better church culture.

Therefore, our safeguarding training, procedures and safe recruitment are for everyone. It is not accusatory, but rather inclusive of all who do, or want to fulfil roles and offices within our church. This umbrella approach means that we can be sure that, to the best of our ability, we have worked to make our spaces safe for the vulnerable.

It is important that on top of the administrative procedures, that all of us within the church commit to treating all people with respect, and always to follow the Safeguarding Policy as agreed by the Parochial Church Councils (trustees.)

SAFE RECRUITMENT: WHAT IS IT, AND HOW DOES ST THOMAS' CHURCH DO IT?

Safe recruitment is the process by which we as a church confirm or introduce people into their voluntary role(s). It is a standardised, comprehensive system to help make sure that anyone who's personal history might make them inappropriate candidates for voluntary work with vulnerable individuals cannot join in with that work through our church and our outreach.

The safe recruitment process includes the following steps:

- The completion of a self-declaration form
- The provision of two character referees
- An appropriate level of DBS check for the voluntary work that the candidate will engage with
- Completing a basic awareness safeguarding course (and further courses depending on the role)
- Signing a Volunteer Agreement which defines the role description and working practice
- For work with vulnerable people, an interview or review meeting

Safer Recruitment is required for all roles within our church because across the board there is potential to come into contact with children and/or vulnerable adults due to our café ministry.

It is important that this process, with its commitment to completion of some work: forms and courses, is seen in a positive light – not as accusatory, or a personal attack. The recent history of abuse in the church proves that this work is essential.

As a church we must commit to engaging in best practice where the apparatus is made available to us. Such practices sadly do not completely eradicate abuse in our society, but they do reduce risk.