



POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Parochial Church Council affirms the individuality, dignity and importance of every person, whether or not he or she is a Christian or a church goer. Any person with whom the Parochial Church Council comes into contact, whether collectively or by any of its individual members or by any of its agents or by the incumbent or the Priest in Charge shall have the right and expectation to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness. To ensure that this commitment is implemented, the Arle Valley Benefice Parochial Church Councils are committed to the following:

1. To the safeguarding of vulnerable adults in the churches of the Arle Valley Benefice and to their well-being whenever they are engaged in any activity connected with the work of the churches of the Arle Valley Benefice and / or are in contact with the Parochial Church Councils, whether collectively or with any of its individual members or with any of its agents or with the incumbent or the Priest in Charge;
2. To the promotion and the empowerment of vulnerable adults and to the support for their right to independent lives based on self-determination and personal choice.
3. To seek to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and / or spiritual abuse of any vulnerable adult in the parishes of the Arle Valley Benefice whenever that abuse may occur in the context of any activity connected with the work of the churches of the Arle Valley Benefice and / or in consequence of any contact with the Parochial Church Councils, whether collectively or with any of its individual members or with any of its agents or with the incumbent or the Priest in Charge and to take any necessary and / or appropriate steps to report to the appropriate authority any such abuse that is discovered or suspected.
4. To exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who work with vulnerable adults on its behalf and / or on behalf of the churches of the Arle Valley Benefice.
5. To adopt the guidelines issued from time to time by the Diocese of Winchester in respect of the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.
6. To undertake to draw this policy to the attention of each person who works with vulnerable adults on its behalf and to secure his / her agreement to abide by this policy and by the said guidelines.
7. Undertake to keep this Vulnerable Adult Policy under annual review.

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years of over who may be unable to take care of him / herself or to protect him / herself from harm or being exploited. This may be because he / she has a mental health problem, a disability, a sensory impairment or because he / she is old and frail and / or has some form of illness.

Sarah Wilding (safeguarding@arlevalleychurches.org.uk) is appointed by the Parochial Church Councils of the Arle Valley Benefice to act as its officer to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable adults at its meetings and to third parties and to prepare the report to the Parochial Church Council Meeting set out above.

This Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy has been approved by the Rev'd Heather Brearey and PCCs and will be adopted by each Benefice Parochial Church Council by 31st May 2025.