

Statement to go onto website [garden-church.org](http://garden-church.org)

## **Garden Church**

### **Statement on Safeguarding**

#### **Introduction**

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of the whole church. Everyone who participates in the life of the church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

We follow the six overarching policy commitments of the Church of England

- Promote a safe environment and culture;
- Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility relating those groups who are at increased risk of harm or abuse within the church;
- Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons;
- Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons;
- Respond to those who may pose a present risk to others.

All church officers whether paid or not, ordained or lay accept their duty to at all times have 'due regard' to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops.

Garden Church has adopted the Church of England's House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults, with more details to be found in the [Parish Safeguarding Handbook](#) ("the Handbook")

## **Safeguarding Policy**

The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults is published in the document "[Promoting a Safer Church](#)"

This national policy is supplemented by local policies. The Garden Church is grateful that their network of churches/missional communities has been included within the [safeguarding policy](#) of the "resource church" of the Mitre Benefice in the Diocese of Norwich.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer for the Mitre Benefice will be the Safeguarding Officer for the Garden Church. Where appropriate he/she will liaise with safeguarding officers from other parishes where a garden church/missional community is located.

## **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checking**

All Garden Church pastors and any others who are working with children and/or vulnerable adults are required to be DBS checked. All DBS checks carried out through the Mitre Benefice DBS checking officer at the Enhanced level.

## **Training**

The [Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework](#) published by the House of Bishops of the Church of England will guide the assessment of training needs for staff, volunteers and members. Specifically, all pastors of Garden churches/missional communities will be trained at Basic Awareness (level1), Foundation (level2) and Leadership (level3)

## **Reporting**

**If you have information about a safeguarding situation where a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention call the emergency services on 999. Do not delay.**

If you have a safeguarding issue or query that you wish to raise relating to a Garden church you may contact the Safeguarding Officer for the Mitre benefice by emailing [safeguarding@stn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stn.org.uk), or by calling 01603 624390

Alternatively, if you have a safeguarding concern, allegation or suspicions of abuse about a child or vulnerable adult please immediately contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser by emailing [safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org) or by calling 01603 882345

If you prefer you may also contact the police at Norfolk Constabulary or children's services at Norfolk County Council or Adult social care at Norfolk County Council

This Statement was published November, 2021 and will be reviewed and updated annually or as Church of England Guidance is updated or revised.