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St Nicholas' and St Mary's - Anglican and Methodist: Together in Halewood

Halewood Ecumenical Team SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Halewood Church Council meeting held on 26th November 2024.

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

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

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and 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 and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and 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.

Anglican and Methodist Together in Halewood

The Halewood Local Ecumenical Partnership is a registered charity, number 1151632

- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

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.

The Church of England and the Methodist Church work jointly together on many aspects of safeguarding policy on a covenant basis. Together we are jointly committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and all adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and all adults
- The establishment of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and where they can find support and best practice that contributes to the prevention of abuse.

As a Church of England and Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership we recognize and acknowledge the safeguarding best practice and experience from both denominations, particularly where that practice has been jointly developed. In keeping with best practice for Local Ecumenical Partnerships, we have opted to follow one set of denominational safeguarding policies. The Halewood Ecumenical Team follow the Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Procedures but fully recognize the Methodist Procedures and requirements as it relates to Methodist staff and Circuit and District personnel.

Halewood Ecumenical Team appoints: **Mark Harrison** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: **Rev. Gareth Morgan**

Churchwardens: **Graham Elliot, Lesley Webb, Jennifer Hargreaves**

Methodist Steward: **Gillian Dover**

Date: 26/11/2024

Matthew Hargreaves (PCC Lay Chair)