

## 5St Matthew's Church Donnington Wood Parochial Church Council (PCC)

### Safeguarding Policy Statement

St Matthew's is committed to Safeguarding and has adopted the National and Diocesan Safeguarding Policies. Our Safeguarding Coordinator is Louise Inwood and can be contacted on 07983566509. Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of all in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ.

This implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

- We accept and endorse the principles set out in '[Safeguarding in the Diocese of Lichfield](#)'
- We accept and fully endorse also the Lichfield Diocesan principles most recently set out in the [full policy document](#)
- We follow the guidelines set out in the [Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Promoting a Safer Church](#).
- \* *click on the links to access the documents*
- In particular, we commit ourselves to nurture, protect and safeguard all our members, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- We recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church community.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection, appointment, training and support of those working in both paid and voluntary positions with children or vulnerable adults, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) disclosures and making appropriate referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- We will respond without delay to concerns or allegations that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and social care services in any investigation.
- We will challenge any abuse of power by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them appropriate pastoral support.
- 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.

*The PCC of this Church agreed and adopted the above Policy at its meeting on 18th April 2024 and will review it prior to the 17th April 2025.*

#### Important telephone numbers:

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers - Neil Spiring:	01543 306147	Out of hours:	03030031111 (option 2)
Local Authority Children's Safeguarding:	01952 385385	Childline:	0800 1111
Local Authority Adults Safeguarding:	01952 676500	NSPCC:	0808 800 5000
National Domestic Violence Helpline:	0808 2000 247	Family Lives:	0808 800 2222
Stop It Now:	0808 1000 900	NAPAC:	0808 801 0331
Action On Elder Abuse:	080 8808 8141	Samaritans:	116 123



Louise Inwood Parish Safeguarding Coordinator 07983566509