



# Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy for Tickhill Methodist Church

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## Safeguarding Policy

### Introduction

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

A child is anyone under the age of 18. Vulnerable Adults are any adult aged 18 or over who, by reason of mental or other disability, age, illness or other situation is permanently or for the time being unable to take care of her or himself, or to protect her or himself from significant harm or exploitation.

Tickhill Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable are paramount.

Tickhill Methodist Church recognises that none of us is invulnerable but that there is a particular care for those whose vulnerability is increased by situations, by disabilities or by reduction in capacities. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

Tickhill Methodist Church fully agrees with the Connexional statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space* 2007:

*As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.*

Tickhill Methodist Church recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual or institutional abuse or neglect. It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

Tickhill Methodist Church commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

Tickhill Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

Tickhill Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Tickhill Methodist Church affirms and gives thanks for the work of those who are workers with children and vulnerable adults and acknowledges the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

### **Appointment**

Tickhill Methodist Church appoints **Mrs Mandy Bird** as Church Safeguarding Coordinator (Adults & Children) and supports her in her role which is to:

- i) support and advise the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles
- ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii) liaise with Circuit and District Safeguarding Coordinators
- iv) promote safeguarding best practice within the local church with the support of circuit ministers.

**a) Purpose**

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Safeguarding Handbook (2010). A copy of which is kept in the church vestry.

**b) Good Practice**

We believe good practice means that:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons. In which case a written record of this will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.

Best practice is to have two church members present. Pastoral visitors in particular should keep a log of visits made and who was present.

- iii) The church premises will be assessed for safety for children and vulnerable adults and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council in written form, by the church Health & Safety Officer. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.

- iv) The driver and or escort of any church-organised transport of children or vulnerable adults must be on the approved list – see Appendix for current approved list. They must check to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured for the purpose. This includes transport to church services, but not where arrangements are made directly between individuals.

- (v) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

These requirements are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

**c) Appointment and training of workers**

TMC does not currently appoint workers. If this were to change then workers will be appointed after a satisfactory CRB disclosure. Each worker will be expected to undergo basic safeguarding training, within the first year of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (e.g. food hygiene, first aid, lifting and handling, etc.) and each worker will have an annual review conducted by a named member of the Church Council and another worker within the organisation.

**d) Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults**

All church members on the approved list – see Appendix, will be provided with a copy of the Methodist Church leaflet on Safeguarding with an additional list of local contacts.

**e) Ecumenical events**

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

**f) Events with church groups off the premises**

Any such events, and their organisation, must be approved in advance at a Stewards and Finance Team meeting.

**g) Other groups on church premises**

Where Tickhill Methodist Church buildings are hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement will be given a copy of this policy.

The Lettings Secretary will ensure that any organisation regularly hiring church premises, and specifically supporting young people and vulnerable adults, will have their own effective Safeguarding Policy and practice in place. A copy of the organisations Safeguarding Policy or its equivalent should be kept on file by the Lettings Secretary. Specifically the contact details of that organisations Safeguarding Officer, or equivalent, should be included in the lettings contract. Such details should be included on the churches Safeguarding Notice Board.

A single event for an activity such as parents running a children's birthday party are permitted provided parents from more than one family are present at the event.

**h) Reporting procedure**

Tickhill Methodist Church Safeguarding Officer and the Minister/ Lay Pastor will respond to any Safeguarding concern or complaint made without delay. If not easily resolved locally the concern or complaint will be communicated, as appropriate, to: the Methodist Church Circuit Safeguarding Coordinator, Local Authority Children's or Adult Services, the Police.

- i) Review**  
This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council.

Policy dated **February 2015** reviewed and approved by the Church Council

signed copy may be viewed at the church

25 February 2015

25 February 2015

## Appendix: Methodist Church Statement of Safeguarding Principles



### Statement of Safeguarding Principles

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

#### Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with<sup>1</sup> the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

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.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

### Appendix - Approved List

An up to date copy of the approved list is maintained by the as Church Safeguarding Coordinator. A copy of the list is available, upon request, from the Safeguarding Coordinator.

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<sup>1</sup> Or membership of (PVG scheme Scotland).