

# Safeguarding Policy: St Benet's, Paul's Wharf

**KEY CONTACTS:**

## Ministry Leader:

Revd Aneirin Glyn, 07780 007552, aneirin@stbenetwelshchurch.org.uk

## Church Safeguarding Officer:

Jonathan Curry, 07811 464858, jpacurry@mac.com

## Children's Champion:

Rachel Hunt

## The Diocese of London Safeguarding Team:

020 7932 1224, safeguarding@london.anglican.org

## CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service)

0845 120 4550 (24-hour helpline for any query), www.ccpas.co.uk

## City of London Corporation Children and Families Team

020 7332 1215, lado@cityoflondon.gov.uk

## City of London Social Care Services

020 7332 1224 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm)

020 8356 2300 (all other times, including weekends and Bank Holidays)

## Childline

Freepost 1111, London N1 0BR

0800 1111 (full number is just these eight digits)

## NSPCC

Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000

## Family Lives (previously Parentline)

0808 800 222

## Domestic Violence Helpline (for females)

0808 200 247

## Mankind (for males)

01823 334244

If a safeguarding concern is reported to, or identified by, someone at St Benet's and the person is at immediate risk, then dial 999 and follow the advice given.

**NOTE: St Benet's does not provide any crèche, Sunday School, or other formal children's activities. Children are expected to remain in the care of their parents at all times whilst on the premises.**

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## RISK MANAGEMENT/ILLNESS/ACCIDENTS

Wherever there is a concern for any child or adult, St Benet's will follow the 'Diocese of London Flow Diagram'. The steps are outlined below:

**If the child/adult is not at immediate risk:**

- » Inform the parish priest and Church Safeguarding Officer who can seek advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

**Record the concern within 24 hours.**

- » Who, what, when, where, why, how?
- » File it securely in the parish and send a copy of the report to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

**If the child/adult is at immediate risk of harm:**

- » **Contact the emergency services.**

A basic first aid kit is available for use. The safeguarding officer as well as members of the GCC will be familiar with its location, contents and use. In the event of a life-threatening illness or injury, emergency medical services will be called first and the parents will be located and informed immediately. Any caregivers will record all injuries, whether major or minor, in the Accident Report Book kept with the First Aid kit.

## 1. Introduction

St Benet's has one main service at 11am every Sunday. This is an all-age service where children and vulnerable adults could be present. All children for the duration of the service remain in the care of their parents/guardians including when participating in activities related to the service. This duty of care is assumed and expected from the time the child enters the building with their parent or guardian. At no point before, during or after the service are any children in the formal care of St Benet's. However the church recognises that children do attend and section two of this report will address the activities of the church and safeguarding policies that will be put in place and considered under specific circumstances outlined below. In light of the attendance of children, a Children's Champion has been appointed.

At present (June 2019) six children attend St Benet's regularly.

## 2. Church Activities

### 2.1 Before the service

St Benet's has one main entrance/exit point. As stated above, when a child enters the church building the duty of care remains with the parent/guardian who brought them. No person of the church will have any physical contact with the child, unless permission is granted from the parent/guardian.

### 2.2 During the service

The service is an all-age service where the parent/guardian will have duty of care for children brought with them. At present, St Benet's does not have any children-specific ministry or activities and it is assumed that any child who attends will be seated with their parent/guardian for the duration of the service.

St Benet's has a back room (the vestry) where a parent/guardian can take their child if they are uncomfortable or distressed. Again it is assumed and expected that any child would be with their parent/guardian in the event of the use of this room.

### 2.3 Communion

The church holds a monthly communion service at the 11am service, during which members of the congregation come forward to receive the bread and wine. Again, the duty of care for any child remains throughout with their parent/guardian.

### 2.4 After the Service

Refreshments are served after the 11am service. No child in attendance will be offered food without permission from the parent/guardian who brought them. Children are not allowed in the area where hot drinks are prepared.

## 3. Future Considerations

There is no current provision for a formalised crèche. Should the number of children in regular attendance increase, plans for a crèche staffed by DBS-checked supervisors will be considered. In the event of such changes, this document will be updated with appropriate safeguarding procedures.

## 4. Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

The church recognises that everyone has strengths and weaknesses, capacities and restrictions, yet, at some times, may become vulnerable due to pressures, dangers or overwhelming circumstances. Some people by reason of their physical or social circumstances have higher levels of vulnerability than others. This may be because they have disability, mental health concerns or dementia. It is the Christian duty of everyone to recognise and support those who are identified as being more vulnerable. In supporting a vulnerable person we must do so with compassion and in a way that maintains dignity.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Policy sets out principles for the care and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. The full policy can be accessed at:

[www.london.anglican.org/support/safeguarding/safeguarding-policy](http://www.london.anglican.org/support/safeguarding/safeguarding-policy)