



# PARISHES BY THE WALL

*Living Faith on the Frontier*

## **Benefice of Haydon Bridge and Beltingham with Henshaw Safeguarding Policy**

The Parochial Church Council of Beltingham with Henshaw adopted the following policy statement at its meeting held on 28 March 2019

### **Statement of commitment**

As members of this parish (Benefice?) we commit ourselves to provide a safe, caring and welcoming space for everyone and to ensuring that safeguarding is at the heart of all we do.

We commit ourselves to:

- Safeguarding all people who are vulnerable to harm, abuse or exploitation and to promoting their wellbeing within the life of this church
- Providing a safe environment and promoting safe practices by those in positions of trust
- Promoting the inclusion of people who are at risk
- Following safe recruitment practices following recognised procedures
- Supporting, resourcing, training and ensuring appropriate oversight of those who undertake work with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

We recognise that it is the responsibility of each of us to prevent physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse. We will report any abuse we discover or suspect following Diocesan and Local Safeguarding Board Procedures.

### **Arrangements**

In fulfilling this commitment, we will:

1. Appoint a Safeguarding Group to oversee safeguarding matters and maintain necessary good practice in the parish on behalf of the PCC
2. Ensure that all those who work with or for the Church or who hold relevant office within it are properly selected, trained and supported according to Safer Recruitment procedures.
3. Designate the the Safeguarding Group to act as the Appointments Panel for the PCC and including at least one current member of, the Parochial Church Council. This Panel to include members of both gender.
4. Establish and implement a Parish Policy on the use of DBS checks to complement other parish selection procedures and risk assessments
5. Maintain appropriate records, including voluntary and paid workers' confidential declaration forms, references, DBS information, children's contact and health information and permission forms.
6. Encourage those with any responsibility in the parish to undertake training, particularly in Safeguarding.
7. Ensure full compliance with Health and Safety guidelines.
8. Support, resource, and monitor the work of leaders and to acknowledge this publicly, including services of commissioning.
9. Maintain a record of all those authorized to do work on behalf of the parish which involves aspects of safeguarding and to review this list annually.
10. Authorise activities carried out on behalf of the Parish Church Council which relate to safeguarding matters on a regular basis.
11. Ensure that name and contact details are available of a member of the Safeguarding Group should anyone wish to raise a Safeguarding concern in the Parish or Benefice.
12. Acknowledge that being convicted cautioned or bound over for a criminal offence does not automatically debar an individual from working in the Parish. However, due care must be exercised where the victim has been a child, vulnerable adult or where the act involved the abuse of power and control.

**This policy and arrangements will be reviewed annually**