



# Safeguarding in the Benefice of St Mary's, Harrington & Church of the Holy Spirit, Distington



## Our Policy

**The Benefice of St Mary's Harrington & Church of the Holy Spirit Distington have adopted the Church's policy (Promoting a Safer Church) that puts children, young people & vulnerable adults at the centre of our concerns, and we have adopted the safeguarding policy and guidance agreed by the House of Bishops.**

The following policy was agreed by the Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) in March 2023.

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 churches.
- 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 two parishes of the benefice will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCCs 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 the 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 without delay.
- 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 the church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by the churches.

This benefice appoints Julie Topping as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: Rev Dom de Mattos

Churchwardens: Charles Murray & Pamela Douglas for Harrington and Mary Ann Lancaster & Julia Hogarth for Distington

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Churchwarden/other for PCC**

## **Who's Who in our Benefice**

### **Our Rector**

*Rev Dom de Mattos 01946 830215*

### **Our Churchwardens**

*Harrington: Charles Murray 01946 832507*

*Harrington: Pam Douglas 07511 731560*

*Distington: Julia Hogarth 07747 581390*

*Distington: Mary Ann Lancaster 07714 149351*

### **Our Parish Safeguarding Officer (for safeguarding concerns in respect of children or vulnerable adults)**

*Julie Topping 01946 833523*

### **Other members of the Benefice Ministry Team**

*Richard Wilkinson*

*Alison Riley*

*Ruth Illman*

*Ken Wright*

### **Hall manager at Harrington**

*Ellen Spedding*

### **Employed staff**

*None*

### **Others who work with children or vulnerable adults**

### **Organists and choir leaders**

*Christopher Lamb*

*James Mossop*

*Graham Mudie*

### **Who else can be contacted in an emergency?**

Our Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (DSO) is Joanna Van Lacherop  
[safeguarding.adviser@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.adviser@carlisle-diocese.org.uk) (07458 016884)

Children – Children's Services on 0333 240 1727

Vulnerable Adults – our local Adult Social Services Office on 01946 505505