

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION VULNERABLE ADULTS PROTECTION POLICY  
(CHURCHES OF ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY AND ST GILES)**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is committed to respectful pastoral ministry to all adults within our community and to the safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people.

- We will carefully
  - select and train all those with any pastoral responsibility, including the use of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) disclosures where legal or appropriate
  - respond without delay to any complaint made that an adult for whom we were responsible has been harmed, co-operating with police and the local authority in any investigation
  - seek to offer informed pastoral care to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate support system
  - challenge any abuse of power by anyone in a position of trust
  - care for and supervise any member of our community known to have offended against a vulnerable person
- We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
- We commit ourselves
  - to respectful pastoral care for all adults to whom we minister
  - to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable who visit the church building in any capacity
  - to promoting safe practice by those in positions of trust
  - to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable
- It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any abuse that we discover or suspect
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work in any capacity with people who may be vulnerable
- The PCC is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and regularly reviewing those who undertake work amongst people who may be vulnerable
- Each person who works with vulnerable people will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by the PCC
- The PCC appoints The Revd Ank Rigelsford to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people

This policy is reviewed annually. Policy adopted: ----. Next review date: ----.