**1. Purpose**

This policy sets out the approach of St John’s Church to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. It applies to all aspects of our work and to everyone working for St John’s Church, including Trustees, volunteers, session workers, visitors and contractors.

This Safeguarding policy is underpinned by the belief that we all have a duty to promote the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to take steps to keep them safe and protected from abuse.

**2. Definitions**

St John’s Church uses statutory guidance in its definitions of the term ‘Safeguarding’.

Safeguarding ***Children*** is defined in statutory guidance as:

* Protecting children from maltreatment
* Preventing impairment of children’s health or development
* Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
* Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

[Working together to safeguard children](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2) :(HMG 2018)

Safeguarding ***Vulnerable Adults*** is defined in statutory guidance as:

* Protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect
* People and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect
* Recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risks to their safety or well-being.

[Care and support statutory guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance):(The Care Act 2014)

**Acting on safeguarding concerns**

We all have a responsibility to make sure that concerns about children and vulnerable adults are passed to the agency that can help them without delay. If anyone is concerned that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk of being abused or neglected, they should not ignore their suspicions and should not assume that someone else will take action to protect that person.

Concerns about children should be referred to the children’s social care department of the local authority. Similarly, concerns about vulnerable adults should be referred to local authority adult services. Arrangements for reporting concerns to St John’s Church are set out below.

Safeguarding Adults Referrals:

**Derbyshire County Council** · from 8am to 8pm on Monday to Friday and from 9:30am to 4pm on Saturdays tel: 01629 533190 · outside office hours tel: 01629 532600

Safeguarding Children Referrals: If you believe that any child is in danger ring Call **Derbyshire** tel: 01629 533190 choosing the option for urgent **child protection** calls at any time.