

# **THE SOCIETY OF ALL SAINTS SISTERS OF THE POOR**

**All Saints, 15A Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RW**

## ***SAFEGUARDING POLICY – February 2023***

The Society of All Saints Sisters of the Poor (Charity Registration Number 228383) is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of children and adults with whom we work, who share our grounds and our worship. This applies to Sisters, Trustees of the Society, employees and volunteers.

We support, and are in full agreement with, the Safeguarding Policy of the Church of England in that every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. This implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God, and therefore a duty to protect them from harm.

### ***Principles***

We are committed to establishing a safe, caring community which provides a loving environment where victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse, and where they can find support and best practice that contribute to the prevention of abuse.

To this end:

- We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Society, in line with the principles of safer recruitment.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made, relating to any adult, child or young person who may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry that recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation.
- We will seek to protect survivors of abuse from the possibility of further harm or abuse.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of respect and responsibility.
- We will seek to offer appropriate pastoral care and support, including supervision, and referral to the appropriate authorities, to any member of our community known to have offended against a child, young person or adult.

In respect of the above aims, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice in the latest publication of 'Practice Guidance: Safeguarding in Religious Communities', the Church of England's 'Promoting a Safer Church', and the Diocese of Oxford's 'Dignity and Respect in Ministry and at Work'.

Registered Charity number 228383

Sisters may work with children and vulnerable adults through ministry and it is recognised that they themselves may also be vulnerable at times. Sisters should expect to be treated with dignity and respect, and they should treat others in the same way.

If a Sister is approached by any organisation to become a Trustee:

- a) the appointment must be discussed and agreed by the Chapter
- b) the Sister must complete any appropriate training as agreed with the Designated Safeguarding Person for the Society.

### **Procedures**

All Sisters, Trustees and employees will have been checked through the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) and instructed on the Society's policy for Safeguarding.

The Community Leader and the DSP (Designated Safeguarding Person) appointed by her have particular responsibility for Safeguarding, and any allegation, suspicion or admission of abuse should be reported promptly to the DSP or, in his/her absence, to the Trustee with responsibility for Safeguarding.

In responding to a person alleging abuse, the child or adult must be allowed to speak without interruption but he/she should be advised that, although we will offer support, other people must be informed and consulted.

Under no circumstances should anyone becoming aware of any allegation, suspicion or admission of abuse carry out his/her own investigation and, other than reporting the matter to the DSP/Safeguarding Trustee, should take no further action him/herself.

It is imperative that those dealing with an allegation maintain an open mind and that the investigation is thorough and not subject to delay.

Written records should be kept at all stages in the process, by the person initiating the process as well as by the DSP/Safeguarding Trustee, recording what has been said and what has been done in responding to a complaint. Records should be kept in a safe place.

Any allegation, suspicion or admission of abuse must then be reported by the DSP (or in his/her absence, by the Safeguarding Trustee) to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, who will advise if the matter should be reported to the Police and/or the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board or the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board.

If an allegation of abuse is made against a member of our community or someone living and/or working with us, the person against whom the allegation has been made will be withdrawn from all contact with the adult or child concerned, or any other adult or child as appropriate, and the matter will be referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor as outlined above.

The Society of All Saints DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING PERSON is:

**PHILIPPA BURNE** 01865 255791 (Work) or 07887 984415 (Emergency Only)

Email: [safeguarding@socallss.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@socallss.co.uk)

In her absence, the SAFEGUARDING TRUSTEE is:

**ANDREW ALLEN** 0044 7742 913035

Email: [andrew.allen@exeter.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.allen@exeter.ox.ac.uk)

This Safeguarding Policy has been adopted by The Society of All Saints Sisters of the Poor.  
It is reviewed annually.

Signed:



Date:

5/iv/23

Name (Print):

ANDREW ALLEN

On behalf of the Trustees

