ST BRANDON'S, BRANCEPETH

PARISH SAFEGUARDING POLICY

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- ☐ Promoting a safer environment and culture. This includes the online environment.
- ☐ Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- ☐ 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 Parish will:

- ☐ Create a safe and caring place for all. This includes the online environment.
- ☐ Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC 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, in accordance with Safer Recruitment and People Management.
- ☐ Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- ☐ Display in 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 immediately.
- ☐ 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 including for online activities are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- ☐ Follow the practical guidelines listed in the Appendix to this document.
- ☐ Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Geoff Moore as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: Rev. Anna Brooker

Church wardens: David Eltringham, Carol Beeby

APPENDIX: PRACTICALITIES

The parish will

- ☐ maintain a register of children / youth leaders authorised by the Church Council;

- ☐ maintain Confidential Declaration and Reference records of all leaders and occasional helpers with access to children and young people;

- ☐ ensure that all regular children / youth leaders satisfactorily complete a Disclosure and Barring Service check in accordance with national safer recruiting and management policy;

- ☐ ensure that First Aid equipment is available and maintain a procedure for what to do in the event of an accident;

- ☐ ensure that there are designated people responsible for Fire Equipment and procedures and that an annual fire drill is undertaken;

- ☐ ensure Annual Parent / Guardian Consent forms including online consent forms where appropriate for all regular attendees are obtained and that Parent / Guardian Consent forms for Special Activities, Overnight Stays or Hazardous Activities are completed for all attendees;

- ☐ ensure that occasional attendees either have a parent / guardian in the same building or that information of the child's name, emergency contact details and any medical conditions are provided;

- ☐ ensure, taking into account that there should be a minimum of one leader and one other adult in each group and that it is best practice, but not essential, to have leaders of both sexes, including for online activities, that the following age ratios are observed:

Age	No. of Leaders	No. of Children
0-2 year olds	1	3
2-3 year olds	1	4
3-5 year olds	1	8
5-8 year olds	1	8

Over 8 year olds 1 for the first 8, then 1 for each additional 10