The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 20th March 2017

# Church of England Child Protection Policy

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community. It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principles enshrined in The Children Act 1989 that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children. It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well being of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory body when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

Children and Young People Safeguarding:
1995 – House of Bishops produced first child protection policy document
(in response to the Home Office’s 1993 document Safe from Harm)
1999 and 2004 – policy revised
2010 – Latest policy [**Protecting All God’s Children**](http://www.churchofengland.org/media/37378/protectingallgodschildren.pdf)

The policy is in place to protect not only children and young people, but also those adults who are committed to working with and for them.

The Diocese of St Albans has adopted and fully supports this policy statement.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy St James 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 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.
* 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.
* 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 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 this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints **Mrs Jenny Robinson** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: **Rev Laura Hewitt**

Churchwardens: **Mr Simon Vincent and Mrs Carol**

Date: 01/01/2019