

(Lantern Arts Centre, Lantern Methodist Church and Lantern Hub)

Statement of safeguarding principles

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of humans in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Principles

Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will:

- **Promote** the welfare of children, young people and adults
- Work to **prevent** abuse from happening
- Seek to **protect** and respond well to those that have been abused.

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

We will respond without delay to every safeguarding concern, which suggests that any child, young person or adult may have been harmed, working in partnership with the police and social services in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Working with the Church Safeguarding Officer, we will support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure appropriate pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks, including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

The Lantern Centre:

Inclusive of the Lantern Arts Centre, Lantern Methodist Church and Lantern Hub

This policy was agreed at a Church Council and Lantern Arts Centre Trustee's meeting held on:

- 11th September 2022 and reviewed without amendments on 17th May 2023.
- Annual review 21st April 2024 with minor amendments.

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

The Lantern Centre is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

The Lantern Centre recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether by disabilities or by reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

The Lantern Centre recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children, young people, and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, domestic, or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media, child sexual exploitation or human trafficking (slavery). It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

The Lantern Centre commits itself to:

1. **RESPOND** without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed or may suffer harm, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.
2. **IMPLEMENT** the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.
3. **PROVIDE** support, advice and training for lay and ordained people, LAC and Hub staff that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.
4. **AFFIRM** and give thanks for those who work with children and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

Church Council and Lantern Arts Centre

It is the responsibility of each Church Council to appoint a Church Safeguarding Officer, it is the responsibility of the Lantern Arts Centre Trustees to appoint a Safeguarding Officer and there should be no gaps in this crucial provision. It is not appropriate for the minister to fill any gap, nor the LAC Chair of Trustees, because of the potential conflict of roles. The role will usually be undertaken on a voluntary basis although expenses should be met.

The Lantern Methodist Church

Appoints [Angela Linton-Smith](#)

as church Safeguarding Officer (Adults)

and [Angela Linton-Smith](#)

as church Safeguarding Officer (Children)

The Lantern Arts Centre

Appoints Michael Fuller

as Safeguarding Officer for children and vulnerable adults and supports them /their role, which is to:

- i) support and advise the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles within the Lantern Centre or Lantern Arts Centre with regard to safeguarding
- ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues
- iii) liaise with circuit and district safeguarding officers; in the case of Lantern Arts Centre the local authority
- iv) promote safeguarding best practice within the Lantern Centre with the support of circuit ministers; in the case of the Lantern Arts Centre the local authority
- v) ensure proper records are kept of all incidents/concerns according to Methodist policy and practice (see *Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church* - Updated Jan 2015) and according to Local Authority guidance in the case of Lantern Arts Centre
- vi) ensure that all safeguarding training which is required is undertaken by those in post and appropriate records kept and made available
- vii) attend training and meetings organised to support the role
- viii) oversee safeguarding throughout the whole life of the church (e.g. lettings, groups, property etc.) in the case of Lantern Arts Centre groups and activities
- ix) report to the Church Council annually; in the case of LAC to trustees board annually
- x) ensure the Lantern Centre/LAC completes a yearly audit/monitoring on safeguarding confirming that policies are in place for the Lantern Methodist Church/Lantern Arts Centre and all groups and lettings in the church and Lantern Arts Centre, that these have been annually reviewed

- xi) ensure the Lantern Methodist Church/Lantern Arts Centre completes a risk assessment on each area of activity in the church; that this is stored and reviewed at least annually, and that it is readily available on request
- xii) ensure that the Lantern Centre and Lantern Arts Centre recruits safely for all posts
- xiii) ensure that the Lantern Centre/Lantern Arts Centre has a safeguarding noticeboard with a copy of the current, signed safeguarding policy, contact numbers for local and national helplines and other suitable information. This must be reviewed and renewed annually.

a) Purpose

The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the *Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church (2023)*.

b) Good practice

We believe that good practice means:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Lantern Centre/Lantern Arts Centre should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written note of this will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed by the church safeguarding officer with the property steward and/or their representatives/LAC Operations Manager at least annually for safety for children, young people and vulnerable adults and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council/LAC Trustee Board in written form. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any church-organised/LAC organised transport of children, young people or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate. An agreed record to be kept in the church/LAC file for each driver/car.
- v) Activity risk assessments will be undertaken before any activity takes place to minimise the risk of harm to those involved. Approval will be obtained from the event leader/minister. A written record of the assessment will be retained securely.
- vi) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council/LAC Trustee Board will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

c) Appointment and training of workers

Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory DBS enhanced disclosure and following safer recruitment procedures of the Lantern Centre. Each worker will have an identified supervisor who will meet at regular (at least annual) intervals with the worker. A record of these meetings will be agreed and signed and the record kept. Each worker will be expected to undergo basic safeguarding training, within the first 6 months (agreed by Methodist Conference in 2011 -*Creating Safer Space Report*) of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (e.g. food hygiene, first aid, lifting and handling, etc.).

d) Pastoral visitors

In terms of safeguarding, pastoral visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of basic safeguarding training upon appointment. If they are undertaking tasks for which a criminal records check would be required, this will be undertaken prior to appointment,

e) Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults

A leaflet outlining good practice and systems will be produced and given to everyone who works with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This leaflet will be reviewed annually. Church Councils may produce their own material or use appropriate Connexional leaflets (e.g. the *Quick Reference Guide* or *Code of Safer Working Practice*).

f) Ecumenical events

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council/LAC Trustees where appropriate.

g) Events with church groups off the premises

Adequate staffing, a risk assessment and notification of the event to be given to the Lantern Centre/Lantern Methodist Church/LAC safeguarding officer PRIOR to the agreement for any event or off-site activity. Notification of the event will be given to the church council secretary/Lantern Arts Centre Safeguarding Officer.

Name: Wendy Siemaszko

Name: Michael Fuller

If the activity is unusual or considered to be high risk the Lantern Methodist Church/Lantern Centre/LAC safeguarding officer will contact the circuit safeguarding officer/ in the case of LAC in order that it can be ratified or any queries raised.

h) Other groups on church premises

Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement (www.tmcp.org.uk/property/letting-property-and-third-party-use) will be given a copy of the Lantern Centre/

Lantern Methodist Church/LAC safeguarding policy and the appropriate leaflet¹. The lettings secretary/LAC Operations Manager will consider the various users of the building in making lettings. All lettings will be notified to the Lantern Centre/Lantern Methodist Church/ LAC safeguarding officer who will keep the records and take advice as appropriate from both the District Safeguarding Officer and Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

i) Complaints procedure

It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the organisation. However, if the complaint is of a safeguarding nature, relating to possible abuse of children, young people, or vulnerable adults, then it is very important that your DSO is consulted as statutory services may need to be informed. A complaint may be made to a person who will be appointed by the Church Council/LAC Trustees and who is currently Deacon Dawn Canham and Angela Linton-Smith. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to Deacon Dawn Canham or Angela Linton-Smith who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint is regarding this person or a member of their family it will be referred to the minister.

If the complaint relates to the minister it will be referred to the superintendent minister. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to invoking the complaints system of the Methodist Church/LAC Trustees which will involve initially speaking with the local complaints officer, who is Rev Paul Timmis *who is the superintendent minister*.

Martin Welsh who is the Chair of Trustees

j) Review This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council and LAC Trustees. The date of the next review is: **April 2025**

k) Key concepts and definitions

- i) A child is anyone who has not yet reached their eighteenth birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, a member of the armed forces, in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.
- ii) Vulnerable Adults: Any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.
- iii) Safeguarding: protecting children, young people, or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iv) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children, young people and/or adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- v) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child, young person, or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a

child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

- vi) Worker: anyone working with children or vulnerable adults in the name of the Lantern Methodist Church, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.

Reviewed 21st April 2024

Signed  Chair of Church Council

Signed  Chair of Trustees (Lantern Arts Centre)