

SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR ST MARY'S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AGM

24 NOVEMBER 2024.

GENERAL SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION.

The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Co-ordinator is appointed to take responsibility on behalf of the vestry to ensure that the work of the Church is carried out in accordance with the law and the SEC's policies Code of Good Practice for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Vulnerable adults mean an adult who by reason of intellectual disability, mental illness or other impairment, age or other circumstances, has reduced capacity, whether permanently or temporarily, to protect themselves from abuse.

This requires that anyone volunteering or appointed to 'regulated work' with children and/or vulnerable adults within St Mary's have their details submitted to Disclosure Scotland for relevant criminal conviction checks. Regulated work is when as part of an individual's duties they carry out regular welfare support to others with particular needs. Those who carry out regulated work are clergy members, lay readers and pastoral visiting team, all who have completed PVG registration.

At St Mary's we adhere to the SEC Code of good practice which requires that: -

1. The following are displayed in our church. (These can be found on the notice board at the back of the church.)

- The SEC policies for the protection of children and vulnerable adults.
- The name and contact details for St Mary's PVG Coordinator, the Diocesan Protection Officer presently Denise Herbert, the Provincial Safeguarding Officer for children and vulnerable adults, presently John Wylie and Assistant Provincial Safeguarding Officer Daphne Audsley.
- A Childline Poster.
- A Silverline Poster.

2. Safeguarding is included on the agenda of all vestry meetings where any safeguarding issues are discussed. Vestry members are kept informed of any updates relating to safeguarding advice and protocol.

3. The annual safeguarding report and annual safeguarding return checklist is submitted to the Provincial Safeguarding Officer via our Diocesan Protection Officer.

4. A list of all who carry our regulated work or are in a position of trust within St Mary 's is kept (those with positions of trust are presently Eucharist Assistants, worship leaders, organist and key holders.)

2024 UPDATE.

Safeguarding Training Event on Saturday 24th February 2024.

On Saturday 24th February 2024, St Mary's hosted a Safeguarding Training Event. This was an opportunity for the PVG Coordinators to meet with John Wylie the new Provincial Safeguarding Officer and of course each other. John Wylie delivered an interesting and interactive session enabling us to update our knowledge on Safeguarding issues. From the feedback this was an enjoyable and worthwhile event.

Other activities requiring regulated work throughout the year have included: -

- Cosy Space initiative: In order to support vulnerable people during the 'Cost of Living Crisis' St Mary's along with other churches in Broughty Ferry has opened its doors to provide a 'Cosy Space' with company and refreshments one day per week over the winter months. This has been very successful and as a result of this in St Mary's a knitting group evolved (Knit and Natter) which continued to meet over the summer months. Amongst many items a large number of poppies were knitted which were displayed outside the church during remembrance week and hats for the neonatal unit in Ninewells.
- Pastoral Visiting: As mentioned previously all current members of the Pastoral Visiting Team are happy to be available to carry out pastoral visits if required though demand at present has been low.

We all have an individual duty of care to provide a safe and protected environment for those who worship here and to report any concerns we have about the vulnerable amongst us. Good safeguarding is part of how we value and include people and treat them with respect. It is integral to the whole mission of the Church.

Any concerns should be reported to the PVG Coordinator or clergy but if neither is available or the issue is more serious nature then the police or social work department should be contacted. The Diocesan Protection Officer and Provincial Safeguarding Officers can be contacted for support and advice also.

Further guidance and support on safeguarding can be found on the SEC website including various information resources. These are also available through the PVG Coordinator.

Derek Ritchie

PVG Coordinator

St Mary's Church