



## Safeguarding Policy: Junior Choristers

- 1 The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Less, Cambridge (LSM) is committed to safeguarding all those who attend worship and the other activities that are offered by the church. LSM follows the House of Bishops' 2017 safeguarding policy statement, Promoting a Safer Church (<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf>) and the Diocese of Ely's policy and procedures 2017 (<https://www.elydiocese.org/safeguarding/policy-and-practice-guidance>). All participants agree to follow the good practice guide with children and young people.
- 2 The participation of children in the LSM services and musical activities is greatly welcomed and LSM has responsibility to ensure that they can participate in choir activities and public worship safely.
- 3 Babies and children may participate in the Junior Choir to play singing games and learn simple songs and sing music appropriate to the church's year, for example, Harvest, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.
- 4 The children are invited to sing at the Summer Festival and to sing at some of the services through the year.
- 5 The Junior Choir meets in the LSM Parish Centre on Friday evenings to sing between 17:00 and 17:40 during Cambridgeshire Education Authority School Term. After the music session the children can play in the Parish Centre and, when the weather allows, in the enclosed garden. The play session ends at 18:00.
- 6 The Leader of the Junior Choir is responsible for all its musical activities.
- 7 An assistant may take over the duties of the Leader during her occasional absences.
- 8 The Leader and her assistant are to go through the Diocesan child-protection procedures which include DBS checks and attendance on the appropriated Safeguarding Training Courses ministered by the Diocese.
- 9 All officers, staff, and volunteers in the church who, either supervised or unsupervised, on a frequent or infrequent basis, teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children or provide advice/guidance on physical, emotional or educational well-being to children, including all those ordained and ordinands, will also go through the child-protection procedures mentioned in Item 8 above.
- 10 Parents or carers are to remain with the children throughout the singing sessions and are solely and fully responsible for their own safety and the safety of their children.

- 11 Refreshments are served at the end of every session. Hot drinks are only served and consumed on a large table (with no table cloth) which children cannot access.
- 12 Children will have access to the enclosed garden before and after the singing sessions and their parents or carers are exclusively and fully responsible for their safety in the garden.
- 13 Children are not allowed to climb trees or other structures or buildings in the garden, and are required to use the space with consideration to others and especially to younger children.
- 14 Written consent from parents or carers will be sought for the use and storage of photographs, the use of mobile phones.
- 15 The Leader will keep the register, contact details for the children, and consent forms in accordance to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- 16 This policy is to be given to all parents/supervisors of members of the Junior Choir. If they have any queries they may direct them, in the first instance, to Fr Robert Mackley (vicar@ism.org.uk), to the Leader of the Junior Choirs, Mary Ward (maryjward@btinternet.com), or to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Patricia Boulhosa (safeguarding@ism.org.uk).
- 17 This policy will be reviewed in January 2023.