

# The Hertford County Association of Change-Ringers

Established 29<sup>th</sup> October 1884  
Registered Charity No. 1037400

## Safeguarding Policy

### 1. Adoption

- 1.1. This Safeguarding Statement has been agreed and adopted by the Committee of Management of the Hertford County Association of Change Ringers from the date of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026; to be reviewed and updated as required to remain up-to-date and in accordance with all relevant laws and regulations.

### 2. Definitions

- 2.1. **A Vulnerable Adult** is any person aged 18 years or above whose ability to protect themselves from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired (through physical or mental disability or illness, old age, emotional fragility or distress, or otherwise) whether temporarily or indefinitely.
- 2.2. **A Child** is any person under the age of 18
- 2.3. **Abuse** is any action that hurts or injures another person either through deliberate action or inaction or through neglect. This can be intentional or unintentional, if the behaviour hurts or harms another, then abuse has occurred. Abuse may manifest in a variety of ways, including;
  - 2.3.a. Physical or sexual abuse
  - 2.3.b. Emotional abuse (eg. humiliation, isolation either in person or online)
  - 2.3.c. Bullying
  - 2.3.d. Financial abuse (eg. theft of money/assets, extortion, predatory marriage)
  - 2.3.e. Domestic abuse
  - 2.3.f. Discriminatory abuse
- 2.4. **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet basic physical and/or emotional needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the individual's health, wellbeing or development. This may include
  - 2.4.a. Ignoring medical, physical or emotional care needs
  - 2.4.b. Failure to provide access to health, care and support or educational services
  - 2.4.c. Withholding necessities of life, such as food, water, medication and heating
  - 2.4.d. Self-neglect (such as neglecting your personal hygiene, health or surroundings including hoarding.)
- 2.5. **Safeguarding** involves keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults safe from abuse or neglect regardless of their personal characteristics.
- 2.6. **A Safeguarding Officer** is a member of the association appointed by the Committee of Management to fulfil the following roles
  - 2.6.a. Maintain oversight of safeguarding matters across the Association.
  - 2.6.b. After the Parish or Church Safeguarding Officer, act as the main point of contact for concerns raised by members.
  - 2.6.c. Liaise with Diocesan Safeguarding Teams and statutory bodies where appropriate.
  - 2.6.d. Ensure that safeguarding policies, practices and advice reflect current legal and Church of England requirements.

### **3. Principles**

- 3.1. The Association recognises the seriousness of all issues caused by the abuse of children and vulnerable adults in any form as outlined in points 2.3 and 2.4
- 3.2. The Association aims that all its activities:
  - 3.2.a. Should offer all participants, regardless of their personal characteristics, a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and welcoming environment; and
  - 3.2.b. Should take place in a culture where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse

### **4. Policy**

- 4.1. The Association acknowledges its duty to promote safeguarding of all Children and Vulnerable Adults with whom it comes into contact. It will take measures to ensure that both it and its members fulfil this duty in accordance with the law and best practice.
- 4.2. The Association will;
  - 4.2.a. Appoint a Safeguarding Officer, who shall have been cleared to the level of a DBS Enhanced Check, to fulfil the role as set out in point 2.6
  - 4.2.b. Through its Committee of Management, review, implement and uphold policy with regards to safeguarding
- 4.3. The Association's members will;
  - 4.3.a. Abide by the Code of Conduct as published by the Association
  - 4.3.b. Undertake safeguarding training appropriate to their role in society as laid out in point 5
  - 4.3.c. Know how to recognise any safeguarding concerns and respond promptly by referring firstly to the Parish or Church Safeguarding Officer and then to the Association Safeguarding Officer.

### **5. Training**

- 5.1. The Association recognises the importance of all its members having awareness of safeguarding, abuse and neglect and knowing how to respond accordingly through appropriate training.
- 5.2. It is the responsibility of every member of the Association to complete the Basic Awareness course as provided by the Church of England through their safeguarding portal.  
(<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/mod/page/view.php?id=2282>)
- 5.3. It is the responsibility of all tower captains, regular trainers and regular helpers that may engage with Children or Vulnerable Adults to complete both the Basic Awareness course as above and the Foundation course as provided by the Church of England through their safeguarding portal.  
(<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/mod/page/view.php?id=2599>)
- 5.4. It is the responsibility of the Church or Parish Safeguarding Officer to maintain an accurate and contemporaneous record of safeguarding training completed by the members of each tower. This may be achieved through liaison with the Tower Captain or Secretary.

## 6. Contacts & Resources

Role	Name	Contact
Parish Safeguarding Officer <i>(Please complete for your tower)</i>		
Association Safeguarding Officer	Carolyn Crawley	07763 408395
Diocesan Safeguarding Office	Jeremy Hirst	07867 350886
Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser	Dave Adams	07469 351357
Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser	Warren Lucan	07311 310545
NSPCC	<a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/">https://www.nspcc.org.uk/</a>	0808 800 5000
Refuge National Domestic Abuse Helpline	<a href="https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/">https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/</a>	0808 200 0247
Galop LGBTQ+ Domestic Abuse Helpline	<a href="https://www.galop.org.uk/">https://www.galop.org.uk/</a>	0800 999 5428

**Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal** - <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

**Diocese of St Albans Safeguarding information** - <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/safeguarding/>

**CCCBR (Central Council of Church Bell Ringers) Safeguarding information** - <https://ccbr.org.uk/safeguarding/>

**IF YOU WITNESS** unacceptable behaviour and are not sure how to respond, contact your parish or association safeguarding officer.

**WHERE SOMEONE IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER OR REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION  
CALL THE POLICE ON 999**