

## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY**

The policy and procedures detailed were first agreed by the PCC on 9 September 2015 and are reviewed annually. They take account of the *Church of England – Birmingham: Safeguarding Policies* (1<sup>st</sup> November 2005, Fourth Revision November 2011):  
<http://www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/safeguarding/policies/>

### **I. STATEMENTS OF INTENT**

1. The PCC of the Parish of St Alban and St Patrick, Highgate, gives paramount importance to the nurture and care of young people. For the purpose of this document a child is understood to be any person under the age of 18.
2. We recognise our responsibility to guard against the possibility of physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children and young people by persons who may be acting in the name of our parish.
3. We want to ensure that we can offer a safe environment in which children and young people are valued and feel confident to ask for help.
4. We establish workable procedures to enable all aspects of the policy to be followed.
5. We know that the Incumbent and the PCC are legally responsible for the implementation of child protection policies in each parish, as stated in the *Church of England – Birmingham: Safeguarding Policies. 2011, p. 107-108.*
6. All those who work with children or who have significant contact with them and their families on behalf of the Church are in positions of trust. However, anyone in church who wears robes and/or has a public position or other position of responsibility may be regarded by children, depending on their age and understanding, as someone to trust. These people have a responsibility to work together with the whole congregation to promote the welfare of children in church and in the community.
7. With the Diocese, this church accepts the evidence published by the relevant authorities in the West Midlands, including the Police, that substance misuse amongst children and young people is widespread. It is sensible, therefore, to take precautions and remain vigilant.