

Safeguarding Presentation

Yulian Margaretha and Fiona Robb (Barge Safeguarding Officers); and Lidia Jung (Children's Champion)

We are the Barge's Safeguarding Officers and we are here to introduce ourselves to you and let you know why we exist and what it's got to do with you!

I'm Yulian Margaretha and I'm Fiona Robb, and the Barge has appointed us as Safeguarding Officers. This means that we are the first point of contact for any Safeguarding issues in the church.

What is Safeguarding?

It's about ensuring that this is a church in which children and vulnerable adults are safe from harm.

You'll be aware of abuse scandals that have come to light in churches in the UK and around the world, in recent years. And we want you to know that we are very concerned for vulnerable people of all ages to be safe among us as a church.

A lot of it is to do with how we appoint volunteers to work with children in the Crèche and Sunday School, and how those ministries are run.

But it is also wider as we seek to ensure that in all aspects of church life vulnerable people of all ages are kept safe from harm.

How do we know what to do?

We operate within the Diocese of London Safeguarding Guidelines ("the Diocese" is the group of churches of which we're a part) and we have help and training from their Safeguarding Team.

How do you fit in?

We want you to be reassured that we take Safeguarding seriously at this church.

We also want you to know that we are available to explain anything you may have questions about.

And we also want you to know that if you have any concerns about the safety of children or vulnerable adults at the Barge then we are available to listen to your concerns. You can either come and speak to one of us or email the Safeguarding email address on your sheet. Your concern will be dealt with appropriately. And if your concern were about one of us or one of the Staff members, please be assured we would deal with that in the appropriate way.

There is a Safeguarding poster on the wall by the Bookstall, beside the information about our Mission Partners, which has contact details and our names should you mislay the sheet! Copies of this poster should also be displayed on the doors of the Sunday School and Crèche rooms when you are dropping your children off or picking them up.

Children's Champion

Finally there is one more person to introduce to you. Lidia Jung is our church's Children's Champion. This means that she is responsible for "championing" our children – making sure that they are served and included in church life. She has been a Sunday School teacher since the Barge started its Sunday School, so she is very experienced in children's ministry. So if you have anything you would like to feed in about that, please do contact her. Her contact details are on the poster too.