



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on Thursday 13 June 2024

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our Parish is committed to:

- The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- The establishment of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is a culture of 'informed vigilance' as to the dangers of abuse.
- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church* A role description for each role is still to be undertaken.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), and individual church Safeguarding Officers (DSOs), to work with the Incumbent, Team Clergy and lay ministers, and the PCC / DCCs to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults, to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.¹

¹ To include safer recruitment procedures, role descriptions, and regular reviews, and the use of Disclosure and Barring Service criminal records checks, and covering both employees and volunteers.

- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the front page of the parish website the details of whom to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitoring of any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- Challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- Ensure that the health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if we use an alternative DBS Umbrella Body to APCS and if we receive any DBS Disclosures that are not clear.
- Have Safeguarding as a standing item on PCC & DCC Agendas
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices regularly

Next Full Review June 2025

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by the Parish.

Revd Dr C Miller, Team Rector

Date

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Pat Hudson
safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk
07787 120045

Church Safeguarding Officers:

St. Helen's Mr Emmanuel Chukwuma
chukwumae@icloud.com
07586802485

St. Michael's Revd Paul Smith
paul315smith@btinternet.com
01235 534654

St. Nicolas' Jenny Fishpool
safeguarding@stnicolasabingdon.org.uk
07707079851

Area Safeguarding Officer:

Erica Hegg
erica.hegg@oxford.anglican.org
07341 866832

A copy of this Safeguarding Policy has been sent to: safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org

SAFEGUARDING in the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames

Safeguarding in the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is handled at a Parish (PSO) and District (DSO) level

Most of the time the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) exercises oversight over those who together with the PSO, & DSOs form the parish's Safe-guarding team. That oversight involves the calling and chairing of meetings as well as partnering, when asked, with District Church Safe-guarding Officers DSOs to support them in their own duties.

Occasions may arise when a specific safe-guarding matter requires not just consideration and noting but actual intervention. In these situations the PSO must assume the chief role among the SOs since the PSO is the legally responsible 'officer' in the parish. On such occasions the PSO is supported by the Team Rector and/or Team Vicar as well as by members of the Diocesan Safeguarding team.

Most of the time the District Church Safeguarding Officers (DSO) see that parish protocols for safeguarding are adhered to in their respective churches. The DSO is the voice of Safeguarding to the District Church Council and should report to them regularly. They will work with the PSO, other DSOs, clergy and others with a safeguarding interest in the Parish / Church

Much of the liaison can be done electronically or by telephone and meetings could potentially be on Zoom or Teams at least from time to time.

Post duties are reviewed regularly, and post holders appointed / reappointed annually by the relevant overseeing body (PCC /DCC)

Safeguarding is a standing item on PCC & DCC Agendas

The responsibilities of and relationships between the Parish and the District Church SOs and other roles

a. The Parish SO:

- i. Liaise with Team Rector quarterly re status
- ii. Convene a quarterly meeting with DSOs and other relevant personnel.
- iii. Report to PCC at each meeting and at the APCM and in the Annual Report. Reports can be in writing.
- iv. Receive diocesan changes/protocols and inform the PCC in a timely way for integration into parish policy.
- v. Participate as required in safe-guarding issues with DSOs and Team clergy and others.

b. The DSO:

- i. Liaises with local clergy re: safe recruiting and all safeguarding concerns or actual cases
- ii. Works with local clergy and leaders to communicate with the congregation about safe-guarding protocols and issues
- iii. Partners with clergy, those 'involved', and diocesan team regarding issues and/or cases
- iv. Keeps Dashboard Manager up to date vis-a-vis District Church status
- v. Prepares reports for the DCC as required
- vi. Reports in the Annual District Church Meeting report
- vii. Liaises with congregational group leaders (e.g. choir, Junior Church, stewards) as required to evaluate status of participants, safe-recruiting, etc.

c. The Dashboard Manager

- i. Manages the dashboard on behalf of the Parish SGO and the District Church SGOs, receiving and conveying dashboard-relevant information as needed

d. Verifier

- i. Is up-to-date in 'Safe-recruiting' protocols
- ii. Is registered with APCS (Access Personal Checking Services, Ltd.) to manage DBS checks locally
- iii. Oversees DBS checking of all volunteers and informs the DCSGOs and Dashboard Manager of volunteer and staff status.