



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

For Everybody by Everybody

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on Monday 30 June 2025

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 – especially the vulnerable.
- 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 for everyone
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors / people with lived experience 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 appropriately to those situations / people 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
- 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 monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children or 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 at least annually

Next Full Review June 2026

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

Chair of Trustees: S Scott

Date: 29 July 2025

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.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Pat Hudson

safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk

07787 120045

Church Safeguarding Officers:

St. Helen's

Mr Emmanuel Chukwuma

safeguarding@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

07586 802485

St. Michael's

Mr Douglas Aitken

safeguarding@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

07717 387892

St. Nicolas'

Jenny Fishpool

safeguarding@stnicolasabingdon.org.uk

07707 079851

Area Safeguarding Advisor:

Erica Hegg

erica.hegg@oxford.anglican.org

07341 866832

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer:

Louise Whitehead

louise.whitehead@oxford.anglican.org

07391 868 478

safeguarding@oxford.anglican.org



Abingdon-on-Thames Parish Safeguarding Procedure

If you receive a direct or indirect disclosure of abuse please

- Respond appropriately – reassure the reporter that they have done the right thing and are not to blame, keep calm, try not to show emotion. If asked to keep this secret explain that you cannot but you can promise that you will only tell the people who need to know to make things better
- Record accurately what you have been told – exact words, date, situation, people present, no acronyms, your actions and the reason for them, sign and print your name
- Within 24 hours refer to PSO Pat Hudson 07787120045 Safeguarding@Abingdonparish.org.uk or one of the DSOs:
 - St Helen: Emmanuel Chukwuma or
 - St Michael's: Douglas Aitken
 - St Nicolas: Jenny Fishpool
- If none are available please contact our area adviser Erica Hegg 01865 208284 or the diocese office 01865 208295 or safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org.uk
- The diocese office is open 9-5pm Monday to Friday. In case of emergency outside those hours please phone our partner agency "31.8" at 03030031111. You can speak to them as if they were the diocese and they will pass that information on.
- In the very unlikely case of an emergency that you feel must be reported directly to external agencies, please inform diocese and PSO after you have done that
- You can decide with PSO whether it is appropriate to inform any clergy

If you observe any behaviour, play, art etc that causes you concern please contact PSO as above.

There are sometimes other concerns which prove to be more pastoral than safeguarding but please contact PSO anyway.

If you have a concern about PSO or DSO please contact Erica Hegg

Any concerns re clergy contact PSO

PSO will keep you informed if the case escalates

Adopted June 2025



Protocol re challenging visitors

Any visitor to church who needs pastoral/spiritual care can be referred to clergy and there is a list of useful contacts on display, e.g. debt, addiction etc

In case of illness ring 111

If anyone who presents with threatening behaviour comes in, avoid them and leave the building. Do not confront. Prioritise your safety over protecting property

The police advice is to ring 999. As soon as is reasonably practical, please inform PSO

June 2025

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

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.

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

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 to the Annual District Church Meeting
- 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.