

Parish Safeguarding Policy

St. Mary's Church, Purley on Thames, RG8 8BJ

Management of Policy

This policy is implemented and managed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, in accordance with the agreed cycle of review or whenever there is a need to comply with new legislation or codes of practice.

Review Cycle: Annually

Review Date: November 2025

Next Review Date: November 2026

As a church we understand that we owe a duty of care to ensure the safety of those who visit or use our church, hall or churchyard.

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 18th November 2025.

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

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting volunteers into church roles.
- 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 any affected persons in any safeguarding situations or allegations.
- Responding appropriately to those that may pose a risk to others.

The Parish will achieve this by:

- Having a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)
- Having a safeguarding team to work with the incumbent and the PCC to review and implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruiting into church roles by ensuring DBS check is carried out.
- Ensuring all staff and volunteers are trained in line with the Essential Safeguarding Learning Pathway published by the House of Bishops.
- Ensuring that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Displaying within the church premises and on the front page of the parish website the contact details of the PSO and safeguarding team for safeguarding concerns or support needs. Also, to give a basic outline of what these concerns may entail.
- Listening to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Taking 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.

- Offering support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Caring for and monitoring 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.
- Ensuring that policies, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Informing the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if we use an alternative DBS Umbrella Body to APCS (or the current Diocesan approver) and if we receive any DBS Disclosures that are not clear.
- Reviewing the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

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

This church appoints **Rebekah Head** as the (PSO) Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent **David Archer**

Churchwardens **Jon Saverton**

David Davies

Date: 18th November 2025