

The Parish of Chelmsford St Andrew Safeguarding Policy



The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Andrew's, Chelmsford takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

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

- 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.
- 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) to work with the incumbent and the PCC 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.
- 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 Parish website the details of who 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 Adviser (DSA) 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 and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.

Safeguarding policy

- This policy will be approved annually at the first full meeting of the PCC following the APCM and is to be read in conjunction with the Church of England [Promoting a Safer Church; House of Bishops policy statement \(2017\)](#). A hard copy of this statement is kept with this policy in the Choir Vestry.

Each person who ‘works’¹ within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

Contacts and further information

If in doubt about any safeguarding matter contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (DST) whose job it is to offer advice, guidance and support in all situations in which a child or adult may be at risk. For this purpose, the DST can be contacted at any time on **01245 294444**.

Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO)

Linda Robinson & Sandra Way email: safeguarding@st-andrewschurch.co.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Contact Details: 01245 294444 (24/7) or email: safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

Safeguarding contact details for Essex County Council

24 hour telephone line for Safeguarding issues (both children and adults): 0845 606 1212.

General switchboard for Essex County Council: 01245 430430

Children’s Services: 0845 603 7627

Adult Services: 0845 603 7630

National Helplines

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC: 0808 500 8000

Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 200 0247

MACSAS (Ministers and clergy sexual abuse survivors): www.macsas.org.uk

Mencap Learning Disability Helpline: 0808 808 1111

¹ This includes, but is not limited to, all clergy, holders of Bishop’s license or permission, those commissioned or authorised by the Bishop, those, paid or unpaid, who hold positions of responsibility in a parish and work with children or vulnerable adults, and those with representational parish ministry, for example; PCC members, churchwardens, organists, servers, choir members etc.

Safeguarding policy

This policy was adopted by the PCC on 20th June 2023.

Annual Policy Review

This is to confirm that the PCC of the Parish of Chelmsford St Andrew has reviewed this policy and found no amendments are needed.

Date reviewed and agreed by PCC