

SAFEGUARDING POLICY – Promoting a Safer Church

The Parish of St Nicholas, Chislehurst in the Diocese of Rochester agreed the following Policy at the meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 22 June 2026



1. In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, our church is committed to:
 - implementing safeguarding children and vulnerable adults' policies and procedures, accepting as a minimum the House of Bishop's 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement'. This complete policy and guidance is available online via the [Diocesan website](#).
 - following the diocesan procedures and recommended good practice and ensuring there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
 - promoting an environment and culture which is a safe and caring place for all.
 - safely recruiting, training and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people, and vulnerable adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
 - responding promptly (within 24 hours) to every safeguarding concern or allegation, taking seriously all who disclose abuse.
 - caring pastorally for victims / survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
 - Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegation of abuse and other affected persons.
 - Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.
2. We will review and endorse the Safeguarding Policy annually, at the first meeting of the new PCC, so that new members are aware of their responsibilities.
3. The highest standards will be maintained in all the Church's contacts with children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Adult volunteers will be given appropriate support and opportunities for training in the protection of all these groups.
4. If a specific incident and/or allegation of child abuse or abuse of a vulnerable adult arises on Church premises or during activities organised by the Church irrespective of location, The Parish Safeguarding Officer or Deputy should be immediately informed, within a maximum of 24 hours. The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (Greg Barry: 01634 560000, mobile: 07585 952174) should also be informed. At all times the House of Bishops Guidance must be followed
5. We will display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there is a safeguarding concern.
6. The Incumbent or PSO, will speak with the Child/Adult Protection teams of the Police and/or Social Services, and co-operate fully with them fully.
7. The person to whom the information is divulged should make clear that such information must be passed on to the appropriate authority. They should not attempt to investigate further or interview the victim.
8. We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person, or vulnerable adult who has suffered abuse.
9. We will care for and monitor any member of our church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst also maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all concerned.
10. We will ensure that Health and Safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community (whether as volunteer or paid staff) will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

We have appointed the following Officers:



PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER (PSO)
Susie Hemming-Clark
safeguarding1@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk



DEPUTY PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Claire Palmer
safeguarding@stnicholas-chislehurst.org.uk

