

The Parish of St Paul's Harlow and St Mary's Little Parndon

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN POLICY - PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 7th December 2020 and reviewed and updated as appropriate on the date shown below. This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved.

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 and young people 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 adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese, including the House of Bishops' [*Promoting a Safer Church Safeguarding Policy Statement*](#), and the guidelines contained in the [National Safeguarding Team Policy and Practice Guidance](#).

The Parish will:

1. Create a safe and caring place for all.
2. Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
3. Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children and young people to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
4. Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and young people undertaken in the name of the parish.
5. Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
6. Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
7. Take steps to protect children and young people when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
8. Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
9. Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and young people whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
10. Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
11. Review 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 Austin Sobanam Parish Safeguarding Officer 0790975475 psa@stpaulsandstmarysharlow.co.uk and Vanessa Phinehas 07812948677, as his assistant, to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable people at our meetings and to outside bodies.

Incumbent Jokey Poynz

Churchwardens Carol Squires, Sarah Baker

Date approved 6th August 2026

Next review due February 2027

In the event of concerns as to any matter relating to safeguarding, please contact Austin Sobanam or Vanessa Phinehas above.

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