

## **Safeguarding Policy**

**The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 7th January 2026.**

**This policy statement actively underpins all safeguarding work within the church.**

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our community, and will ensure that we will

1. Adopt and implement the House of Bishops' safeguarding policy and practice guidance.
2. Promote and publicise the 'Promoting a Safer Church' policy statement, and ensure all church officers have access to it.
3. Have a plan in place that sets out, in line with national and local priorities, how the policy will be put into action.
4. Ensure that any person who works with vulnerable groups is aware of and abides by national and local safeguarding guidance.
5. Review the policy regularly to ensure best practice.

Promoting a Safer Church sets out the Church of England's commitment to making the church a safer place for all. The Policies and Practice Guidance apply to all Church bodies and officers. All authorised clergy, bishops, archdeacons, licensed readers and lay workers, church wardens and PCCs are required by section 5 Clergy Disciplinary Measure to have a "duty to comply" to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops. The Policy Statement, Policies, Practice Guidance and Protocols are available to view on the diocesan website at <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/safeguarding#SafeguardingPolicy> together with the Parish Handbook

**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 vulnerable 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 Team and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Following advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team support and manage the safe involvement of 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 procedures and risk assessments are in place for all activities and that these are reviewed annually.
- 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.

#### **Our Parish Safeguarding Officer/s:**

1. Rev. Judith Mitchell

E-mail [safeguarding@stmartinsepsom.org](mailto:safeguarding@stmartinsepsom.org) Phone Number 01372 722567

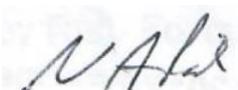
2. Dr Peter Christie

E-mail [safeguarding@stmartinsepsom.org](mailto:safeguarding@stmartinsepsom.org) Phone Number 01372 722567

#### **Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (if PSO not on PCC)**

Reverend Nick Parish

[vicar@stmartinsepsom.org](mailto:vicar@stmartinsepsom.org) Phone Number 01372 743336

Signed  Rev. Nick Parish - Incumbent.

Date 7 January 2026

#### **Diocesan Safeguarding Team Contact Details**

01483 790379 or [safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk)