



Solihull Parish Safeguarding Policy

Promoting a Safer Church

In Solihull Parish, we are committed to safeguarding children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

We want our church to be a safe, caring, and welcoming place for everyone.

1. Definition

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture.

This Policy applies to:

- the **Church Bodies of Solihull Parish** - the PCCs and DCCs.
- the **Church Officers of Solihull Parish** - anyone appointed/elected by or on behalf of the Parish to a post or role, whether they are ordained or lay, paid or unpaid.

2. Our Commitment

In accordance with the **Church of England Safeguarding Policy Statement**, Solihull Parish is fully committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture for all.
- Safely recruiting, training, and supporting all those entrusted with responsibilities relating to children, young people, and vulnerable adults.
- Responding promptly, sensitively, and appropriately to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims and survivors of abuse, as well as those affected by safeguarding issues.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse.
- Responding effectively and responsibly to those who may pose a risk to others.

3. Our Parish Responsibilities

To implement this commitment, the Parish will:

- **Create a safe and caring environment** for all who worship, work, and take part in parish life.
- **Appoint a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), and a District Safeguarding Officer in each church centre**, to work alongside the incumbent and PCC to implement safeguarding policy and procedures.
- **Recruit, train, and support** all those with responsibilities for children, young people, and adults, ensuring they have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to concerns.
- **Maintain appropriate insurance cover** for all parish activities involving children and adults.
- **Display safeguarding information** prominently in church premises and on the Parish website, including contact details for:
 - The Parish Safeguarding Officer
 - The Incumbent
 - The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA)
 - Relevant statutory agencies (e.g., local authority, police, helplines).
- **Listen to and take seriously all disclosures of abuse**, ensuring responses are compassionate, timely, and appropriate.
- **Act immediately to protect children and adults** when safeguarding concerns arise, in line with the House of Bishops' guidance. This includes:
 - Contacting the DSA without delay.
 - Notifying statutory agencies where required.
- **Offer ongoing support** to survivors of abuse, regardless of the type of abuse or when/where it occurred.
- **Carefully monitor and support those in the church community** who may pose a risk to others, balancing confidentiality with the safety of all parties.
- **Maintain robust health and safety policies, risk assessments, and procedures**, reviewed annually.
- **Review the implementation of this Safeguarding Policy** and associated practices at least once a year.

4. Implementation and Accountability

All Church Officers within Solihull Parish are required to:

- Read, understand, and agree to abide by this policy.
- Follow the guidelines and safeguarding procedures established by the Parish and the wider Church of England.
- The **PCC** bears ultimate responsibility for safeguarding within the Parish.
- The **Incumbent, Parish Wardens** and **Churchwardens** are jointly responsible for ensuring that safeguarding is embedded in the life of the church.

- The **Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)** is the main point of contact for safeguarding concerns within the Parish.

5. Reporting Concerns Process

If you are worried that someone is at risk of harm, or you receive a disclosure of abuse, you must **act immediately**. Do not delay.

Step 1 – Immediate safety

- If a child, young person, or adult is in immediate danger, **call 999** and request emergency services.

Step 2 – Report to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

- Contact the **Parish Safeguarding Officer** as soon as possible.
- If the PSO is unavailable, contact the **Incumbent** or the **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA)** directly.

Step 3 – Recording

- Make a written record of the concern, disclosure, or incident as soon as possible, using the **Parish Incident Report Form** if possible.
- Record the date, time, people involved, what was said, and what action was taken.

Pass this record securely to the PSO. Do not keep personal copies.

Step 4 – Refer to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA)

- Where appropriate, the PSO or Incumbent must inform the DSA within **24 hours** of becoming aware of a concern or allegation.
- The DSA will advise on next steps, including referrals to statutory agencies (police, children's services, adult social care).

Step 5 – Confidentiality

- Do not promise confidentiality to anyone disclosing abuse.
- Share information only with those who need to know in order to protect others.

Key Principles

- Always **act in the best interests of the child or vulnerable adult**.
- **Do not investigate** or question the person making a disclosure beyond clarifying facts.
- **Follow up** to ensure the concern has been acted upon.

6. Policy Review

This policy will be:

- Reviewed annually by the PCC.
- Updated whenever national or diocesan safeguarding guidance changes.
- Communicated clearly to all staff, volunteers, and church members.

6. Key Contacts

- **Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO): Position Vacant**
Interim PSO: Pam Price 07913 260868 songmeister20@gmail.com
- **District safeguarding Officers (DSOs):**
St Alphege: Position Vacant
Interim DSO: Sheila Sayers 07507 683639 sheilasayers@hotmail.co.uk
St Helen: Jenny Carrington 07722 710007 carringtons.church@gmail.com
St Michael: Nick Evans 0121 705 0417 nickevans73@gmail.com
- **Incumbent:** Revd Nick Parker 07890 720240 rector@solihullparish.org.uk
- **Parish Wardens:**
Pam Price 07913 260868 songmeister20@gmail.com
Andrew Williams 07714 750210 arwilliams399@gmail.com
- **District Churchwardens**
St Alphege: Sheila Sayers 07507 683639 sheilasayers@hotmail.co.uk
St Helen: Chris Carrington 07703 316807 carringtons.church@gmail.com
St Michael: Keith Wilson 0121 778 2295 akeithwilson@hotmail.co.uk
- **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA)**
Steph Haynes 07342 993844 stephh@cofebirmingham.com
- **Emergency Services:** 999 (for immediate danger)
- **Local Authority Children's Services:**
Solihull Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 0121 788 4300
- **Local Authority Adult Social Care:**
Solihull Adult Social Care 0121 704 8007 ccadults@solihull.gov.uk
- **National Helplines:**
 - NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
 - Childline: 0800 1111
 - Stop It Now: 0808 1000 900
 - Thirtyone:eight (Christian Safeguarding Helpline): 0303 003 1111

7. Adoption of Policy

This Safeguarding Policy was adopted by the PCC of Solihull Parish on 26th November 2025.

Signed:

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Incumbent	Revd Nick Parker		23/11/25
Parish Warden	Pam Price	P.A. Price	23/11/25
Parish Warden	Andrew Williams		23/11/25
PSO	Pam Price (Interim)	P.A. Price	23/11/25

Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Church of England:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-05/PromotingSaferChurchWeb.pdf>

