



ST PETER'S CHURCH, CHORLEY
HARPERS LANE, CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE PR6 0HP

The Parish of St Peter Chorley
in the Church of England Diocese of Blackburn

Safeguarding Policy

Promoting a Safer Church

Issue: 30 April 2026

1. Introduction

Purpose

This policy provides clear safeguarding guidance for all clergy, staff, volunteers, and external hirers of St Peter’s Church premises. It aligns with:

- The Church of England’s *Promoting a Safer Church* policy (2023).
- The Diocese of Blackburn’s safeguarding procedures.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and Care Act 2014 (vulnerable adults).

All church activities must prioritise the welfare of children, young people (under 18), and vulnerable adults.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Clergy, paid staff, and volunteers working with children or vulnerable adults.
- Contractors and external organisations hiring church premises.
- All visitors, including congregation members participating in church-led activities.

All individuals engaging with St Peter’s Church must adhere to these safeguarding principles.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Overall Responsibility

The **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** holds ultimate accountability for safeguarding compliance.

Day-to-Day Implementation

The **Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)** ensures policy adherence, reporting concerns, and maintaining safeguarding records.

Role	Responsibility
PCC	Approves and reviews policy annually.
Priest-in-Charge	Ensures safeguarding is prioritised in church activities.
Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)	Acts as the first point of contact for concerns, maintains records, and liaises with statutory authorities. Also <i>and reports to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA)</i>
All Staff & Volunteers	Must complete safeguarding training, report concerns, and follow safer recruitment practices.

4. Policy Statement

St Peter’s Church affirms:

“Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God’s own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God’s re-creation of us in Christ. This implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.”

- We accept and endorse the principles set out in ‘Safeguarding in the Diocese of Blackburn’ and adhere to the Church of England’s *Promoting a Safer Church* policies.
- We commit to nurturing, protecting, and safeguarding all our members, particularly children, young people (under 18), and vulnerable adults, ensuring their well-being is paramount in all activities.

- We recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church community, including clergy, staff, volunteers, and congregation members.
 - We undertake to exercise proper care in:
 - The selection, recruitment, and training of all paid and voluntary workers with children or vulnerable adults.
 - The use of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks at the appropriate level for all eligible roles.
 - Making timely referrals to the DBS or Enhanced DBS checks where required.
 - We will respond without delay to any concerns or allegations of harm, cooperating fully with police, social services, and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in any investigation.
 - We will challenge any abuse of power, inappropriate behaviour, or safeguarding failures by those in positions of trust.
 - We will provide compassionate pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, working with specialist agencies to ensure their needs are met.
 - We will offer supervision, support, and accountability measures for any church member known to have "*posed a risk to*" or "*been convicted of harm*" against a child, young person, or vulnerable adult, including referrals to statutory authorities.
 - We will ensure all safeguarding policies are regularly reviewed, updated, and communicated to the congregation, with clear reporting procedures displayed prominently.
 - We will promote a culture of vigilance, where concerns are raised confidently and addressed appropriately.
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5. Policy Guidance

5.1 Policy Development & Implementation

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Peter's has a fundamental role in ensuring a safe environment for all members of our worshipping community. The PCC will:

- Formally adopt and implement the *Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults* ('Safeguarding in the Diocese of Blackburn'), alongside all associated procedures and guidance.
- Review and discuss the implementation of this policy at least once annually, with records filed in PCC minutes. The policy will be:
 - Updated on the church website (with a clear homepage link).
 - Displayed prominently in church premises and areas where work with vulnerable groups occurs (including the *Diocesan Safeguarding Poster*).
- **Appoint** at least one Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) who:
 - Works with the Priest-in-Charge and PCC to enforce safeguarding measures.
 - Attends PCC meetings once annually and is not a member of the clergy.
- **Display contact details** (in all church premises and on the church website for):
 - Parish Safeguarding Officer
 - Childline (0800 1111)
 - Family Lives (0808 800 2222)
 - CCPAS Helpline (0303 003 1111)
 - Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (07711 485170)
- **Ensure safer recruitment** (for all paid/voluntary workers with children/vulnerable adults, including):
 - **DBS checks** (renewed annually/ as required).
 - **Safeguarding training** (see Section 5.2).

- **Maintain appropriate insurance** (for all activities involving vulnerable groups, with risk assessments conducted). Require external hirers to comply with the PCC's safeguarding policy (see *Section 5.3*).

5.2 Mandatory Safeguarding Training in the Church of England

The Church of England requires all clergy, staff, PPC members, Church Wardens and volunteers to complete safeguarding training appropriate to their role. The training levels are:

➤ **Basic Awareness**

- **Who should do it?** - All volunteers, congregation members, and anyone involved in church activities.
- **What?** Online course (1 hour) covering safeguarding principles, recognizing abuse, and reporting concerns.
- **How often?** Refreshed every **3 years**.

➤ **Foundation**

- **Who should do it?** - Clergy, PCC members, worship leaders, children/youth workers, pastoral visitors, bell ringers, etc. or anyone with regular or unsupervised contact with vulnerable groups.
- **What?** More detailed training on safeguarding policies, responding to disclosures, and Church of England procedures.
- **How often?** Renewed every **3 years**.

➤ **Leadership**

- **Who should do it?** Incumbents/ Associate Priests/ Curate/ Lay Ministers), churchwardens, safeguarding officers, youth ministers, etc. or Those in leadership or with significant responsibility for vulnerable people.
- **What?** Advanced training (often face-to-face or virtual) on complex cases, legal duties, and managing allegations.
- **How often?** Renewed every **3 years**.

5.3 Hire of Church Premises

- Hirers must adhere to the PCC's safeguarding policy as part of the hire agreement.
- A signed copy of the policy must be returned, acknowledging:
 - Compliance with safeguarding requirements.
 - Duty to report concerns to statutory authorities.
- Organisations with their own safeguarding policy must submit a copy before booking approval.

5.4 Policy Implementation

St Peter's Church commits to the Church of England's Safeguarding Standards, including:

- Promoting a safer culture and environment.
- Safe recruitment, training, and support for all workers.
- Prompt response to safeguarding concerns/allegations.
- Pastoral care for victims/survivors, alleged perpetrators, and affected persons.
- Managing risks posed by individuals with confidentiality and safety.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe space for worship and activities.
- Appoint a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to lead policy implementation.
- Ensure all workers are trained to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Maintain insurance and annual risk assessments for all activities.
- Display safeguarding contacts in church and online.

- Listen seriously to disclosures and report concerns immediately to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) and statutory agencies.
- Support victims/survivors of any abuse, regardless of when/where it occurred.
- Monitor individuals who may pose risks, balancing confidentiality and safety.
- Review health and safety policies annually.

Additional Measures (Aligned with Diocesan/Church of England Guidelines):

- Regular safeguarding training refreshers (every 3 years).
- Clear reporting pathways for whistleblowing and complaints.
- Annual audit of safeguarding compliance.

6. Review & Monitoring

- This policy will be **reviewed annually**, (12 months or sooner if legislation changes).
- Updates require **PCC approval**.

7. Further Information

For safeguarding concerns, contact:

Role	Name	Contact
Priest-in-Charge	Canon Neil Kelley	01257 266037 rector@stlaurencechorley.co.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Lynsey Belham	07553 622810 safeguarding.stpeterchorley@gmail.com
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor	Catherine Smith	07711 485170 safeguarding@blackburn.anglican.org

8. Authorisation

Signed: *Neil Kelly*
Name: Canon Neil Kelley
Position: Priest-in-Charge
Date: 30.4.2026

Signed: *Lynsey Belham*
Name: Lynsey Belham
Position: Parish Safeguarding Officer
Date: 30.4.2026

On behalf of the PCC

Signed: *Ronnie Hunter*
Name: Ronnie Hunter
Position: Church Warden
Date: 30.4.2026

Signed: *Eric Crompton*
Name: Eric Crompton
Position: Church Warden
Date: 30.4.2026

Version History

Version	Date	Detail	Author	Approved Date
1.0	21.05.2024	New policy	J Laidlaw PCC	29.05.2024
2.0	05.06.2025	Reviewed Policy	Fr. Cornelius Asghar	11.06.2025
3.0	29.4.2026	Reviewed policy	Fr Cornelius Asghar	30.4.2026

Next Review Date: 29 April 2027

Safeguarding Provision

Please sign below to confirm your agreement to comply with this policy for the duration of your work at St Peter's Church, Chorley.

I have read the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Parish Church, Chorley, Policy for Safeguarding and I agree to be bound by this policy for the duration of my work at St Peter's Parish Church, Chorley.

Signed:

Name:

Date:

Position:

On behalf of (company name):

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Safeguarding Concern Form

Used to log incidents (see template for structure).

Appendix 2 – Reporting a Concern

1. **Record details** on the concern form.
2. **Immediate risk?** Call **999** or social services.
3. **Inform the PSO** within **24 hours**.

Appendix 1 – Safeguarding Concern Form



Logging a Concern about a Child, Young Person or Adult at risk

Please can you ensure a concern form is completed and emailed to safeguarding@stlaurencechorley.co.uk with 24 hours of the concern being raised.

St Peter’s Church, Harpers Lane, Chorley. PR6 0HP	Date of this Log:	dd/mm/yy
	Time of this log:	00:00
Child/Vulnerable Adult’s Full Name:		
Address:	Phone no:	
	DoB:	
	Gender	
Date of Concern/Incident: dd/mm/yy	Time of Concern/Incident: 00:00	
Your Name:	Your role:	
<p>Describe the incident as factually as possible. Include who was involved, exactly what happened, where it happened, when it happened, and the source of the information (e.g. witnesses). Remember to describe clearly any behavioural or physical signs you have observed, using the body map overleaf as necessary.</p> <p>Check to make sure your report is clear now – and will also be clear to anyone reading it in the future. Use a continuation sheet as necessary.</p>		
Action taken:		
Signature of reporting person:		
Form received by:	(Safeguarding Officer)	
Date:	Time:	
Proposed action by the Safeguarding Officer:		

Appendix 2 – Reporting a concern

All activities taking place will have a dedicated leader and everyone should be aware of who this is.

1. If you have a concern about a vulnerable adult or child at St Peter’s Church, Chorley then record your concerns as accurately as possibly on the form and then pass onto Lynsey Belham (Parish Safeguarding Officer)
2. If you have immediate concerns for their safety, then ring through to the appropriate service e.g. Police/ambulance.
3. If you require any further advice, then please speak to the senior member of staff on the day and phone Lynsey Belham (PSO).