

CHERWELL VALLEY BENEFICE SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the meeting of Churchwardens and church leaders held on 3 June 2025.....

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our benefice is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults 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.

Cherwell Valley Benefice will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Benefice Safeguarding Officer (BSO) to work with the incumbent and PCCs to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and 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 any parish.
- Display in church premises and on the front page of the benefice 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.
- Care for and monitor 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 health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if we use an alternative DBS Umbrella Body to APCS and if we receive any DBS Disclosures that contain information.
- 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 benefice.

This benefice appoints JANE WHITE..... as the Benefice Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent p.p. Bath Cooke.....

On behalf of the Churchwardens, and others present at the meeting.

Date: 3/6/2025.....

Once you have a Parish Safeguarding Policy please detail this on your [Parish Safeguarding Dashboard](#). You do not need to submit a copy of your Parish Safeguarding Policy to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.