

<b>Safeguarding Policy</b>	
Policy last reviewed:	<b>June 2025</b>
Next review due:	<b>May 2026</b>
Person responsible:	<b>PCC Safeguarding Officer</b>

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, 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.
- Adhering to the key messages as set out in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook which are as follows:

**Key messages**

- The welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adults is at all times paramount, and takes precedence over all other considerations.
- The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) must be consulted whenever a safeguarding concern of any kind arises in your parish.
- Safeguarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life in our parish churches

The Parish of Horsham 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.
- The PSO &/or Team Rector to notify the Charity Commission via the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer of any Serious Safeguarding Incidents
- Ensure that all PCC members hold a current DBS clearance certificate
- 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.

- Refer to the new Safeguarding Training Requirements as agreed at the PCC Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023
- 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 Adviser (DSA) 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.
- The Health & Safety Officer &/or the Team Rector to notify the Charity Commission of Serious Incidents (Non-Safeguarding)
- 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.

The PCC will utilise the Parish Dashboard to monitor & quality assure the church community's effectiveness in terms of Safeguarding

As a Parish we have adopted the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>

This Policy is based on The Church of England's Model Parish Safeguarding Policy 1.8.18 v1

The Parish of Horsham appoints Liz Lobb as our Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent: **Rev. Lisa Barnett**

Churchwardens: **Peter Fruin, Cath Hatton, Sue Keegan**

Date: **June 2025**

This policy will be reviewed annually.