

Twyford Church Partnership

St Mary's, Twyford URC and St James' Ruscombe



Safeguarding Policy Promoting a Safer Church

The following policy was agreed at the LEP Steering Group held on 2nd March 2026.

We are 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 and 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.

We will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Church Partnership Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the Vicar, the URC minister, the PCC and URC Elders 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 our churches.
- Display in church premises and on the front page of 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 and 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 Verifile 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 church.

If you believe a child is in immediate danger call the Police on 999.

/continued overleaf

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is:

Name: Claire Lawrence
Mobile: 07974 650871
Email: safeguarding@thru-christ.org.uk

Our Children's Advocate is:

Name: Phillippa Middleton
Mobile: 07786 256366
Email: phillippa@thru-christ.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser:

Name: Charlotte Wilmshurst
Mobile: 01865 208284
Email: safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org

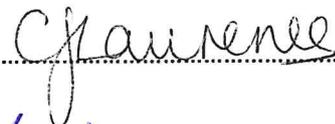
Local Authority Social Services:

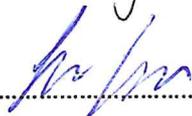
Phone: 0118 908 8002
Email: triage@wokingham.gov.uk

Signed:

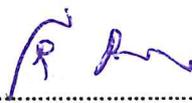
Vicar  (Mark Gould)

URC Minister  (Gordon Connell)

Parish Safeguarding Officer  (Claire Lawrence)

Churchwarden (St Mary's) 

Churchwarden (St James') 

URC Elder 

Date: 2nd March 2026

Based upon Diocese of Oxford Model Safeguarding Policy as revised September 2021