The Parish of Pattingham with Patshull
St Chad`s Church, Pattingham with Patshull

Registered charity number 1151604

Following Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, by living out our faith; taking the church to the community and growing the church.

Safeguarding Policy

Promoting a Safer Church

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 22nd November 2022. It has periodically been reviewed and agreed again without amendment and was last reviewed and agreed without amendment at the PCC meeting held on 17th November 2026.

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

1. Ensuring this policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress which has been achieved. We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in our lives.
    - We commit to considering this in our children's activities, undertaking supervision of staff working with and risk assessing activities and groups as a check and balance of our work.
    - We understand that illness, disability, race, mental health and other issues can put adults in a position of vulnerability. We accept that these can be long term or temporary. We commit to considering this in our adults' activities and events.
    - We commit to transparency in our actions and accountability for our work.
2. As members of this parish we commit ourselves to respectful pastoral care for all adults and children to whom we minister.
    - We will ensure that leaders of all activities that include children, young people and vulnerable adults have appropriate enhanced DBS checks.
    - The Diocese Social Media policy will be adhered to.
    - We will ensure that those who care for people in our parish access and complete appropriate Safeguarding training.
    - We commit to discussing Safeguarding and support of Safeguarding as a standing PCC agenda item.
3. We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of people who may be vulnerable, ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
4. We commit ourselves to promoting safe practice by those in a position of trust.
    - We commit to discuss safeguarding as a standing PCC agenda item

- We will ensure that those in positions of trust (Church Wardens, PCC members) and those with remits or leadership of groups involving children, young people or vulnerable adults have appropriate DBS checks and that these are updated every 3 years.
- We engage in Safeguarding training appropriate to role.
- Whilst we have a named Safeguarding Officer we accept Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- We will be transparent, open and have no secrets.
- Records relating to safeguarding issues within a Parish should be retained for 75 years. We will observe the recommendations for the storage of records.

5. The parish commits itself to promoting the inclusion and empowerment of people who may be vulnerable.
    - We will consider the impact of power, disadvantage, inclusion, disability, age and race on how we provide and plan our ministry.
    - We actively (but appropriately) challenge each other in our work in order to ensure we consider a wide range of perspectives and views -ensuring that we do not oppressively impose our own values or views to another's detriment.
    - When a person struggles with an activity due to disadvantage, disability or illness we will go the extra mile to assist them so they can participate and contribute as a full part of the church.
6. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable people and to report any such abuse we discover or suspect.
    - We will report without bias to our personal view.
    - We will record concerns factually in diocese suggested formats.
    - We have zero tolerance to abuse and put the welfare of vulnerable children and adults first.
    - We take seriously training and activities relating to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults and seek to ingrain this in our congregational culture.
7. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with people who may be vulnerable.
    - We will adhere to the Safer Recruitment guidelines and ensure relevant DBS checks are completed and updated every 3 years.
8. The PCC undertakes to appoint and upskill a dedicated Safeguarding Officer who undertakes to maintain a relationship with diocese level safeguarding team and ensure this policy is followed. When any concerns do arise following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.

9. The parish adopts the guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese.
    - The Parish will report and record in line with the Diocese policies and comply with local guidance for implementing national policies as defined in Diocesan policies.
10. The Parish will:
    - Create a safe and caring place for all.
    - Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults undertaken in the name of the parish.(Survivors of abuse often do not report abuse until later life, therefore all certificates should be kept for a period of 75years and should not be destroyed after the cover is finished to ensure cover was valid at the time the abuse occurred)
    - Display in church premises and on Parish Website the details of the Parish Safeguarding Officer can be contacted regarding any concerns or needs.
    - Undertake the Parish Checklist annually and an action plan instigated if necessary to ensure all duties and obligations to safeguarding are met.
    - Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
    - 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 the health and safety policy, procedures and practices are reviewed annually.
11. Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Tracey Williams as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Vicar	PCC Vice Chair	Church Wardens	
Rev Merry Smith	Philip Sims	Barbara Dias	Dorothy Steel