



**ST PAUL, BENTLEY COMMON
SAFEGUARDING POLICY
2023**

A family, united in Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit and growing in faith to share and proclaim the love of God

St Paul's, Bentley Common Parish Safeguarding Policy 2023

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on

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.

A copy of the Church of England Safeguarding policy and guidelines can be found on the Diocesan website www.chelmsford.anglican.org/safeguarding

The Parish 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.
- 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 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.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Policy details specific to St Paul's, Bentley Common

For safety reasons, it is also recommended that there is a minimum of two checked leaders/helpers present in each group whenever possible. This is only a minimum and should be adjusted accordingly according to the activity/children's ability.

It is recommended that the ratio of helpers to children is as follows:

Age group	Adults	Children
0-3 years	1	3
3+	1	6
5+	1	8

Anyone under the age of 18 cannot be counted in the ratio as a helper and will not be left in charge of a group of children.

Junior Church 'JAM' (Jesus And Me)

Any planned activities must follow the good practice and health and safety guidelines contained in the Safeguarding Policy for activities on and off church premises.

Where appropriate, parental permission must be given in writing.

All Junior Church leaders must have a current DBS certificate.

Youth Group Y@B (Youth At Bentley)

Any planned activities must follow the good practice and health and safety guidelines contained in the Safeguarding Policy for activities on and off church premises.

Where appropriate, parental permission must be given in writing. All the Youth Leaders are in possession of a current DBS certificate.

Bell Ringers and Handbell Ringers

All involved in training bellringers have had DBS checks and have also completed safeguarding training.

Care Home Communion Visits

Anyone who undertakes this role will have the necessary checks in place according to the Safeguarding Policy.

Home Communion / Pastoral care visits

Anyone who undertakes this role will have the necessary checks in place according to the Safeguarding Policy.

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 **Sue Weil** as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.
She has completed all the necessary safeguarding training. As specified in GDPR, only necessary data which is required is stored - this is kept securely in a locked cupboard under the management of Sue Weil.

Incumbent

Churchwarden

Useful telephone numbers

Sue Weil	Parish Safeguarding Officer	07572 433930
Mark Skerry	Churchwarden	07579 965339
Amanda Goh	Safeguarding Manager	01245 294457
Diocesan Safeguarding Team		01245 294444
Brentwood Social Services		01277 221444
Social Services Emergency Team (out of hours)		01245 434083

National Helplines

Childline	0800 1111
NSPCC	0808 5008000
Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000247
Mencap Learning Disability Helpline	0808 8081111
Samaritans	08457 909090