

Safeguarding report for APCM at St Michael's Church Bishops Stortford

Flagging safeguarding concerns or incidences

We welcome everyone at St Michaels Church. We recognise our congregation consists of people of all ages ranging from newborn to the elderly. Our aim is for everyone to safely enjoy our services and facilities. Whilst we look out for the safety of all our members, we have a particular focus on the elderly, babies, toddlers, children and the vulnerable.

We encourage everyone to please feel free to raise any concerns, risks (perceived or actual) related to the safety and wellbeing of a member of the church. We aim to help in every situation. It is much better and safer even if unsure of the full details to flag concerns which could keep someone safe than let people get into a situation where they are unsafe.

Safeguarding concerns or incidents (past, current, future) should be reported to any of the following:

1. Parish safeguarding officer: Dotun Akinde
2. Vicar: Derwyn Williams
3. Church Wardens: Claire Conquest or Gill Johnson

Information about the concern or incident would be passed onto the Parish Safeguarding officer for appropriate support to be provided.

Risk assessment

To keep us all safe, an overall risk assessment has been carried out. The risk assessment is attached. We would encourage our members to review the risk assessment and follow guidance for each risk.

Role descriptions for volunteers

We will be introducing descriptions for roles that people volunteer to help which have a safeguarding touch point in terms of working with children, elderly and the vulnerable. These descriptions would help volunteers understand expectations of the area they are volunteering and confirm safeguarding requirements of the area.

Safer recruitment

Safer recruitment is our first line of defence in ensuring wrong people do not gain access to children, the elderly and the vulnerable. This audit could result in a request being made to complete training course(s). Where a request is made to complete a training course, we ask that you kindly oblige us and take the course.

Statement: 'The PCC is working positively towards fulfilling its responsibilities to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in the Church's activities.'

Dotun Akinde, Parish Safeguarding Officer and DBS Lead Recruiter
May 2025