

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

If you have an concern about somebody's immediate safety, at any time, day or night, you should call 999 straight away.

If you have a safeguarding concern or query within the church, then you can speak to one of the ministers, or one of the Safeguarding Officers who are trained to deal with enquiries:

Emily Davis Safeguarding Officer for St. Andrew's
Email: emily@pathway-church.co.uk Telephone: 07464 292 353

Emily Davis Safeguarding Officer for St. Mary's
Email: emily@pathway-church.co.uk Telephone: 07464 292 353

Tracey Beaumont Safeguarding Officer for St. Thomas's
Email: tracey.beaumont@pathway-church.co.uk Telephone: 07968 876 421

Louisa Brookes Safeguarding Officer for Holy Trinity
Email: louisa.brookes@pathway-church.co.uk Telephone: 07928 791 282

MORE INFORMATION

Our Safeguarding Policy can be viewed at pathway-church.co.uk

If you require any additional information on the Church of England's safeguarding procedures and safe recruitment, you can send questions hello@pathway-church.co.uk; we will endeavor to respond with the appropriate information as soon as possible.

We want to thank all of our church members and team who are working hard to ensure that our church community is as safe as we can possibly make it for the children and vulnerable adults whom we want to serve.

Safeguarding

as an everyday part of our faith, mission & ministry



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

PATHWAY CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO SAFEGUARDING & GOOD PRACTICE

At Pathway Church (encompassing the ministries of the Parishes of Whittlesey St. Andrews & St. Mary's, Pondersbridge St. Thomas and Coates Holy Trinity) we want to be a part of building a society that is free from abuse. This is a central Christian issue for us because we believe in the God who loves and values every person and so we want to share in God's will for the people whom we serve, and who surround us.

Safeguarding and Safe Recruitment are not tedious or unwanted additional work for us. They are essential work that we must do to help make society a safer place. Spending time and resources on safeguarding is as important as any other major part of our church life and ministry.

As a church we commit to creating our own safe spaces by implementing our agreed safeguarding policy and risk assessments, and by ensuring that staff and volunteers are properly trained to recognise and deal with abuse, allegations and disclosure of abuse wherever it may occur, whether in the church or in communities.

Therefore, our safeguarding training, procedures and safe recruitment are for everyone. It is not accusatory, but rather inclusive of all who want to fulfil roles and offices within our church. This umbrella approach means that we can be sure that, to the best of our ability, we have worked to make our spaces safe for the vulnerable.

It is important that on top of the administrative procedures, that all of us within the church commit to treating all people with respect, and always to follow the Safeguarding Policy as agreed by the Parochial Church Councils (trustees.)

SAFE RECRUITMENT: WHAT IS IT, AND WHAT WILL IT MEAN?

Safe recruitment is the process by which we as a church introduce people into voluntary positions where there is a possibility that they meet vulnerable persons within their role. It is a standardised, comprehensive system to help make sure that anyone who's history might make them inappropriate candidates for voluntary work with vulnerable individuals cannot join in with that work through our church and our outreach.

The safe recruitment process includes the following steps:

- The completion of a self-declaration form
- The provision of two referees
- An appropriate DBS check for the voluntary work that the candidate will engage with
- Completing a basic awareness safeguarding course (and further courses depending on the role)
- Signing a Volunteer Agreement which sets out the role description and working practice
- For work with vulnerable persons, an interview or review meeting

Where safe recruitment has not been completed for volunteers and officers who are already in post, it will not be done retrospectively. If you're in a role already, then a Minister, Parish Safeguarding Officer or Churchwarden will liaise with you regarding how and when to complete the paperwork.

It is important that this process, even with its forms and courses, is seen in a positive light – not as an accusation, over-the-top paperwork, or a personal attack. As a church we must commit to engaging in best practice where the apparatus is made available to us. This will not in itself mean that abuse never occurs in our society, but it goes a long way towards creating safe spaces.