**The Parish of St Silas, Blackburn**

**Safeguarding Policy**

The following Safeguarding Policy was agreed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on 19 March 2025.

Our church is committed to:

* Creating a caring environment and culture for the safety and wellbeing of all.
* Having a named **Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)** to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement the policy and procedures.
* Responding promptly to every Safeguarding concern or allegation.
* Safely recruiting, training and supporting all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence, and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
* Ensuring that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
* Displaying in church premises and on the parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
* Listening to and taking seriously all those who disclose abuse.
* Taking 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.
* Offering support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
* Offering support to and monitoring of 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.
* Ensuring that **health and safety policies, procedures and risk assessments** are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
* Reviewing the implementation of **Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Practices** at least annually.

***Every person who works/serves within the church community in a role/position that requires DBS checks and safeguarding training will be required to abide by this Safeguarding Policy and any additional guidelines established/adopted by this church***.

St Silas PCC has appointed Alison Ramsden as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Dedicated Safeguarding Email Address: safeguardingstsilas@gmail.com

Dedicated Safeguarding Mobile Number: 07593855329

Incumbent: Fr Paul Payton (Interim Vicar) E: frpaulp@yahoo.com M: 07866696891

Churchwardens: Joe Swinhoe and Matthew Talbot

Date reviewed and updated: 1 August 2025

Next review: March 2026