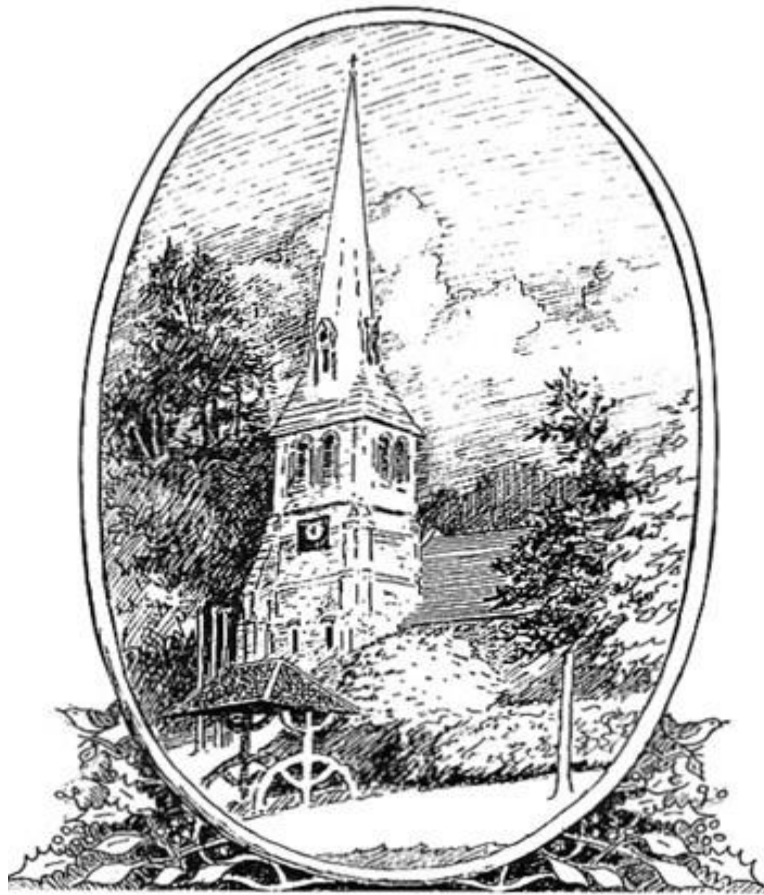


St Michael and All Angels, Chetwynd



Promoting a Safer Church
Safeguarding Policy, Procedures & Practice
2026 - 2027

Safeguarding Policy

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.

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 Practice at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

Safeguarding Procedures and Practice

The Parochial Church Council of **St Michael and All Angels, Chetwynd** will take all reasonable care to ensure the safety of the children, young people and vulnerable adults for whom it bears responsibility.

Name of Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Jenny Pritchard**

1. **Jenny Pritchard** is our approved Parish Safeguarding Officer for the calendar year **2026/27** and she is the point of contact through which concerns about child protection will be channelled.

2. She is responsible to the PCC for ensuring that these procedures are implemented.

3. The PCC will work towards adopting the recommendations of the House of Bishops as published in the policy *Protecting All God's Children (2010) and Promoting a Safe Church (2006)* or in any subsequent publication which will be looked at accordingly.

4. The PCC will ensure full compliance with Health and Safety Guidelines.

5. Although the PCC would be responsible for groups involving young children, we advise the Diocese that at the present moment there are no such groups.

- *Any young child within the church would be accompanied by an adult e.g. Sunday Worship, Baptisms and Weddings.*
- *When required by a wedding couple, a team of bell ringers are asked to ring bells at Chetwynd. The PCC liaise to assure safeguarding standards are in place and similarly, if a team of ringers are visiting Chetwynd at any other time during the year.*

6. Chetwynd Church does not have a Church Hall and at present, the PCC does not hire the church for any youth groups.

7. In any future instance of any such group working with children, there will be a leader aged 18 or over. Anyone under 18 wishing to assist with leadership roles will be supervised at all times.

- Applicants will be required to complete the Lichfield Diocesan Declaration.
- Applicants will be required to provide two references using the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy form.
- Before any appointment or the continuation of any appointment, appointees may need to apply for a supply and clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

8. Only suitable and responsible people are or will become key holders.

Key (porch) holders at present are the incumbent, churchwardens, treasurer and 4 other members of PCC for purpose of 'Open Church' and nearby residents re building maintenance. The bell ringers possess one key for access to the bell tower, but not to the church building.

Access and usage of Church Building will be monitored as far as is reasonably possible.

9. Any completed declaration forms and references will be confidential to and securely held by the incumbent or, as is currently the situation whilst in a period of vacancy, the Rural Dean or Archdeacon.

10. In the event of a 'leader' working within the church, the PCC will use the **Disclosure and Barring Service** (DBS) for checking leader's criminal records where appropriate. This will be done via the Safeguarding Office, St Mary's House, The Close Lichfield. WS13 7LD.

11. The only organisation at present using the church building, i.e. the tower, are bell ringers. Any other organisation would be at the request of the PCC for the social/ monetary benefit of the church. Any such event would involve members of the PCC and any necessary checks will be made.

12 Although at present, there are no groups with children or young people, the PCC appreciate that should circumstances change it must:

- Agree clear roles for leaders
- Set up structures to train and support their leaders in their roles
- Agree statements of working practice.

13. The PCC will provide any leaders and those working in Safeguarding access to guidance and training in the understanding of child/vulnerable adult issues.

14. The PCC will issue clear guidelines for avoiding situations where children or young people and vulnerable adults could be in danger.

The PCC will be aware of the age profile of congregation and be ready to offer assistance to the elderly or those in need when in the building or churchyard.

15. The PCC will publish on the notice board in the porch and in the churchyard a copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Flow Chart. Where appropriate, all validated leaders and key holders will be given a copy.

16. The PCC will carry public liability insurance and will insure where appropriate all leaders and staff for personal accident.

Any incidents will be recorded and acted upon immediately according to guidelines published by Diocese.

17. The PCC will implement a plan to monitor annually that the procedures are being followed.

18. The PCC will make a copy of this policy and its procedures available, if requested, at The Archdeacon's Visitation.

19 This Policy and its procedures will be monitored by the Parish Safeguarding Officer who will report to the PCC annually.

20. The PCC will review the policy and its procedures in the month of **April 2027**.

Date of the Parochial Church Council Meeting where this policy was approved:

Sunday 19th April 2026

Signed:

R Watson-Jones

**Robert Watson-Jones
Churchwarden /Vice-Chair**

Susan E Askín

**Susan Askin
Churchwarden**