

Church of England - The Benefice of Pottton with Sutton & Cockayne Hatley

SAFEGUARDING POLICY - Promoting a safer church

The following policy was agreed at the three churches Parochial Church Council (PCC) meetings held in July 2026.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our churches are committed to:

1. Promoting a safer environment and culture.
2. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people, and vulnerable adults within the church.
3. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
4. Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
5. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
6. Responding to those who may pose a risk to others.

The Parishes of this Benefice will:

1. Create a safe and caring place for all.
2. Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC, to implement policy and procedures.
3. 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.
4. Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of each parish.
5. Display in church premises and on the Parish websites the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
6. Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
7. 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. We understand that the DSA may inform the Charity Commission if they deem it necessary, and we delegate to the Incumbent and PSO for any decisions regarding this.
8. Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
9. 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.
10. Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments for all appropriate venues are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
11. Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

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

Every church in this Benefice appoints Mr George Price as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Contact details: 07922 421915 and gpoc1965@gmail.com

Incumbent Rev. Alex Wheatley

SIGNATURE

A. Wheatley

DATE 15/07/26

Ben Hall (St. Mary's Pottton) Rosemary Kimber (St. Mary's Pottton) William Hollington (All Saints Sutton). N.B. The role of churchwarden at St. John the Baptist Cockayne Hatley is currently vacant.