# The Benefice of Shrivenham & Ashbury
# Ashbury, Bourton, Compton Beauchamp, Fernham, Longcot, Shrivenham & Watchfield
# SAFEGUARDING POLICY
# PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the meeting of Benefice Churchwardens held on 23 September 2020.

It was subsequently ratified by the Parochial Church Councils (PCC) of Shrivenham with Watchfield and Bourton, Ashbury, Compton Beauchamp, and Longcot with Fernham, and is reviewed annually at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our Benefice, parishes and churches are committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture within our churches, at all church organised events and in our online activities.
- 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 appropriately to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all both online and within the whole church community.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) [normally the Benefice Safeguarding Officer] to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those in positions of responsibility, (especially 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 front page of 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 Team 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.
- Inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if we use an alternative DBS Umbrella Body to APCS and if we receive any DBS Disclosures that are not clear.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

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

This Benefice appoints Mrs Lucy Laird as the Benefice Safeguarding Officer.

**Reviewed 2026**