

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Divine, West Worthing

Safeguarding Policy Statement

- As members of this Parochial Church Council (PCC), we are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of all our members.
- We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- We are committed to implementing all safeguarding policies and practice guidance issued by the House of Bishops.
- We will carefully select and train all those who work or volunteer in positions of trust. We will use the Disclosure and Barring Service, amongst other tools, to check the background of each person.
- We will respond, without delay, to every concern made that a person for whom we are responsible may have been harmed.
- We will co-operate fully with statutory agencies during any investigation concerning a member of the church community.
- We will seek to ensure that anyone for whom we have pastoral responsibility who has suffered abuse is offered support that meets their needs.
- We will respond appropriately to those who have committed sexual offences who wish to join our fellowship, following House of Bishops' guidance and the advice of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.
- We will review this policy annually and as part of this process will ensure that all our procedures, particularly in relation to the Disclosure and Barring Service, are up to date.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is:

Deacon Rachel Bennett

c/o The Parish Office, St John the Divine, Elm Grove, West Worthing, BN11 5NQ

Telephone: 07810 350098

Email: safeguarding@stjohnwestworthing.org.uk



Any concerns about the wellbeing of a person, especially but not exclusively in relation to a child or vulnerable adult, must be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible.

Signed on behalf of the PCC:

Fr Thomas Cotterill Priest-in-Charge

Martyn Shanks Churchwarden

Date: 2nd June 2026

For information about how to contact the statutory authorities here in Sussex, please visit the Diocese's website:
<https://safeguarding.chichester.anglican.org/adviceandgettinghelp/>

The PCC has adopted the House of Bishops' *Promoting a Safer Church Safeguarding Policy Statement*.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor based at Church House, Hove can be contacted on: 01273 425792 or colin.perkins@chichester.anglican.org