

Safeguarding Policy Statement

The following policy statement was agreed at the Joint Council Meeting held on 21st May 2026.

The Thorngate & Blackwater Benefice has adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. In particular our churches are 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 Benefice will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have named Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) to work with the incumbent and the Joint Council and PCCs 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 Benefice and Parish websites 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 Manager (DSM) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Following advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager, support and manage the safe involvement 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.
- Ensure that procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- 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; the Church of England safeguarding policies and practice guidance; and the procedures/guidelines established by these churches.

This Benefice endorses the appointments of Parish Safeguarding Officers to:

East Dean, East Tytherley, Lockerley & West Tytherley – Sarah Peppiatt thorngatesafeguarding@gmail.com

Sherfield English - Clare Durham sherfieldpso@gmail.com

Wellow – Roger Venning stmsafeguarding2@gmail.com

Incumbent: Rev James Pitkin

Churchwardens: East Dean - Diana Ayles & Nicky Bell; East Tytherley - Rob Scoones; Lockerley - Sally Masters & Robert Wallace; Sherfield English - Clare Durham & Julia Noble; Wellow - Mel King & Lesley Mackay; West Tytherley – Lucilla Carr & Sheridan O'Shea

Signed on behalf of Joint Council



(Incumbent)

Date: 21st May 2026