



**ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH**  
SHEPTON MALLET

# Towards a Safer Church

Safeguarding Advice

The Parent's Guide

*Updated 17/6/24 Ros Baldwin and Helen Bennett*

Dear Parents

Here at St Peter and St Paul's we take the safety and wellbeing of your children very seriously, alongside helping them to follow Jesus in their daily lives and to discover a sense of the wonder Of God's Word. We have a number of policies in place to keep them safe while they are attending church services or other activities that we run.

Our children's leaders are: **Steve and Carolyn Bruce-Jones, Simone and Andy Paull, Moira Knight, Diane Parsons, Suzi McKenzie, Helen Bennett, Zanna Wilson-Brown, Rose Sandquest, Jan Richards, Rosalind Ives, Jason Tsui, Debbie Dance, Alexandra Pearce and Chloë Baker.**

And you can contact them via: [admin@sheptonbenefice.org](mailto:admin@sheptonbenefice.org)

Our Parish Safeguarding Officers are: **Ros Baldwin and Helen Bennett**

And their contact details are: [rosbaldwin@btinternet.com](mailto:rosbaldwin@btinternet.com)  
[admin@sheptonbenefice.org](mailto:admin@sheptonbenefice.org)

Our Rector is: **Revd Jonathan Hunter Dunn**

And his contact details are: [rector@sheptonbenefice.org](mailto:rector@sheptonbenefice.org)

### **Keeping your children safe on Sundays and during other church activities.**

We make sure that we always have at least 2 safely recruited adults present at any children's activity, and more if it is a large group or has a number of very young children, in line with guidance from the NSPCC. This means that no adult should ever be on their own with your child or with a group of children. This may however mean that we have to cancel activities on occasion if we do not have enough adults to run safely, and we will always try to give you advance notice of this.

We will need to know your details and your child's details – we will ask you to fill in a form with this information. This is so that we can contact you if we need to, and so that we can take a register at activities and know which children we have present. This will also help us to make any particular arrangements needed for your child, such as allergy awareness, special needs, access issues or court orders. We may also

ask you to complete a form if we are doing any different activities than normal, such as going out of the Church, or taking photographs of children at a service, so that you will know what we are doing and can agree whether or not your child can take part.

You are always welcome to observe your child in their church activities, but to allow them to enjoy them fully we would ask that you don't interrupt them without discussing with a children's leader first. If you would like to come to the children's activities regularly, we would be happy to discuss with you how you can become a helper.

We will inform you as soon as possible if

- your child is ill or has an accident whilst in our care
- is upset whilst in our care or has caused upset to another child or adult by their behaviour so that the problem can be looked at and resolved.

Because we always have at least 2 adults working with a child or groups of children, our helpers will not take your child in their car to or from church activities on their own. Our helpers can take your child in their car if you come with them, or if we have 2 helpers free, as long as we have adequate insurance in place, and the right type of car seat available to keep your child safe. If you cannot collect your child from a church activity, please let us know in advance so that where possible, arrangements can be made for their safe return home.

## **esafety**

Older children may have their own phones, email addresses and social media accounts. Our children's team will only contact your child directly by these means with your consent, and will copy you into any message they send your child. In general, they will only contact them with information about church activities, such as information about the Sunday sessions, or a change of start time or date for an event. On occasion, your child may contact one of our children's team with a worry, or something they are upset about. In replying, our helper will encourage them to tell you, but will copy in someone else in the

Leadership team, so that all messages are supervised by someone to make sure they are appropriate. Children's team helpers will never arrange to meet your child on their own outside of church activities, nor will they "friend" your child on social media.

### **Staff Training and DBS checks**

Our children's workers are required to undergo a DBS check. They, and all other Church officers, such as the Churchwardens, worship leaders and pastoral visitors have had to take safeguarding training. Training is also available to you, as a parent so that you can understand how we safeguard people in the Church. The Introduction to Safeguarding Training (C0) is available free through this website under "Online Courses". <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

### **Raising Concerns**

If at any time you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of your child in relation to their attendance at church or contact with church helpers, or you think the above rules have been broken, please tell someone straight away. This could be one of the people in the list above, or if you are uncomfortable about that, the **Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Ben Goodhind, based in Wells can be contacted on 01749 588917 or 07834514842**

You can also always seek advice from the Police on 101, or in an emergency or if you think a crime has been committed, on 999.