

**“Seven whole days not one in seven.
Inspiring people through worship and word, to live out God’s love in their daily lives.”**



The Parochial Church Council of Horne, St Mary the Virgin

Safeguarding Annual Report to St Mary’s Horne APCM April 2026

Safeguarding policy is aimed at protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm and adopting best care practice during Church activities. The policy is devised by the Church of England and cascaded to the parish via the Diocese of Southwark.

The policy and associated guidance that are used at St Mary’s are contained in a publication called ‘A Safe Church’ and this publication and related information exist both on-line on the Church of England and Diocesan websites, (for latter see <https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures/>) – there is also a hard copy of ‘A Safe Church’ that is kept in a folder held in the Vestry at St Mary’s.

For easy reference by the congregation there is a Safeguarding poster at back of church that includes:

- *A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops’ ‘Promoting A Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement’. This is signed on behalf of the PCC;*
- *Contact details of the Parish Safeguarding Officers and churchwarden(s);*
- *Information about where to get help with child and adult safeguarding issues including Diocesan Safeguarding Team contact details, local authority contact details, domestic abuse and key helplines e.g. Childline, NSPCC, etc.*

Every PCC meeting at St Mary’s has a standing agenda item on Safeguarding; this enables regular discussion when needed on any relevant matters arising such as updated information from the Diocese Safeguarding Team including revisions to A Safe Church, Safeguarding training opportunities, revised contact details etc.

Joint benefice Safeguarding training led by Ron Searle, a volunteer from the Diocesan Safeguarding team took place on 28th June 2025. 20 people attended and received certificates in basic safeguarding training. Training should be updated at least every 3 years. There is a useful on-line training portal which includes a table of the appropriate training to be undertaken for each role in the church, and the webpage includes links to allow registration and access to the various training modules, please reference :-

<https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/training/>

A copy of the training table is enclosed overleaf for initial reference.

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Role	Basic	Foundation	Leadership	Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse	Safer Recruitment and People Management
Incumbents and clergy, including those with PTO	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Licensed Lay Ministers, e.g. Readers and SPAs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Parish workers with children/vulnerable adults (paid or volunteer)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Leaders/Supervisors of work with children/vulnerable adults (paid or volunteer)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Parish Safeguarding Officers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Church Operations Managers	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Churchwardens	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
PCC Members	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Anyone else involved in the recruitment of employees and volunteers	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

There is a recommendation for all PCC members to take the Basic Awareness, Foundation and Domestic Abuse modules training, not just for those roles where safeguarding awareness is needed by church officers, Principal leaders (PSO’s, Churchwardens and our Director of Music and Organist).

If anyone has any enquiries or indeed any concerns regarding Safeguarding then would they please let us or any church officer know and as mentioned above there is a contact sheet on the noticeboard at the back of the church for further assistance and for access to relevant information.

Andrew and Helen Goudie, Parish Safeguarding Officers