

Safeguarding report for APCM 2026 at St Michael's Church Bishops Stortford

Flagging safeguarding concerns or incidences

We welcome everyone at St Michaels Church. We recognise our congregation consists of people of all ages ranging from newborn to the elderly. Our aim is for everyone to safely enjoy our services and facilities. Whilst we look out for the safety of all our members, we have a particular focus on the elderly, babies, toddlers, children and the vulnerable.

We encourage everyone to please feel free to raise any concerns, risks (perceived or actual) related to the safety and wellbeing of a member of the church. We aim to help in every situation. It is much better and safer even if unsure of the full details to flag concerns which could keep someone safe than let people get into a situation where they are unsafe.

Safeguarding concerns or incidents (past, current, future) should be reported to any of the following:

1. Parish safeguarding officer: Dotun Akinde
2. Vicar: Derwyn Williams
3. Church Wardens: Claire Conquest

Information about the concern or incident would be passed onto the Parish Safeguarding officer for appropriate support to be provided.

Safer recruitment

Safer recruitment is our first line of defence in ensuring wrong people do not gain access to children, the elderly and the vulnerable.

This audit could result in a request being made to complete training course(s). Where a request is made to complete a training course, we ask that you kindly oblige us and complete the course.

We monitor DBS certificates that are due for renewal every 3 years to ensure applicable volunteers have a valid DBS clearance. We ask people whose DBS certificate have expired to resubmit a DBS application

DBS

Thanks to all who have undergone the safer recruitment process which is one of our first line of defence. Also encourage new/future volunteers to undergo and support the safer recruitment process which is a prerequisite. Where we ask for certificates to be renewed.

These activities will ensure volunteers engaged in activities with a touch point involving children, young people and the elderly have been cleared (to enhanced level where appropriate) via the DBS process.

We continue to monitor DBS certificates that are due for renewal every 3 years to ensure applicable volunteers have a valid DBS clearance.

Oversight

We continue to maintain an oversight on all church activities with a touch point involving children, young people and the elderly.

Statement: 'The PCC is working positively towards fulfilling its responsibilities to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in the Church's activities.'

Dotun Akinde, Parish Safeguarding Officer and DBS Lead Recruiter
May 2026