

**Holy Trinity Church,
Leverstock Green**

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Safeguarding Sunday

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16 November 2025



Opening prayer lead by Diana

Loving God,

We bring before You all who have been hurt or abused – in homes, in schools, in churches, or anywhere that should have been safe.

We pray for those who still carry pain and fear in their hearts, that they may find healing, hope, and peace.

Remind us that Your love reaches every corner of this world – for every person, in every place and circumstance. Help us to reflect that same love here in our own community, so that our church may always be a place of light, safety, and care.

**Teach us to listen, to notice, and to act with courage and compassion.
In Jesus' name we pray.**

Amen.

Meet the Safeguarding Team

Holy Trinity Church Safeguarding Team



Miles Cooksey
Parish Safeguarding Officer
Tel: 07503 182 268
Email: HTLG_PSO@outlook.com



Revd Dr Diana Stretton
Team Vicar
Tel: 07807 341 638
Email: dr.dmstretton@gmail.com



Monty Onanuga
Parish Safeguarding Officer
Tel: 07949 094 541
Email: HTLG_PSO@outlook.com

Between us, we cover children, young people, and adults and we work closely with the diocesan team when advice or support is needed.

Why are we here?



What does a Safeguarding Team do?

X We're not the "Safeguarding Police".	✓ We are here to make sure everyone who comes to church feels safe, cared for, and welcome.
X We're not ticking boxes or creating bureaucracy for its own sake.	✓ We are here to listen and to help when something doesn't feel right.
X We're not here to judge, criticise, or spy.	✓ We are here to support, advise, and build confidence in keeping each other safe.

Our mission: "To make Holy Trinity Church a place where everyone feels safe, cared for, and welcome."

Safeguarding Learning

Part of creating that safe and caring environment is making sure the right people are in the right roles.

Everyone who works with children or vulnerable adults here at Holy Trinity Church whether that's Junior Church, youth work, or the Pastoral Team, has a current DBS check and has completed safeguarding learning.

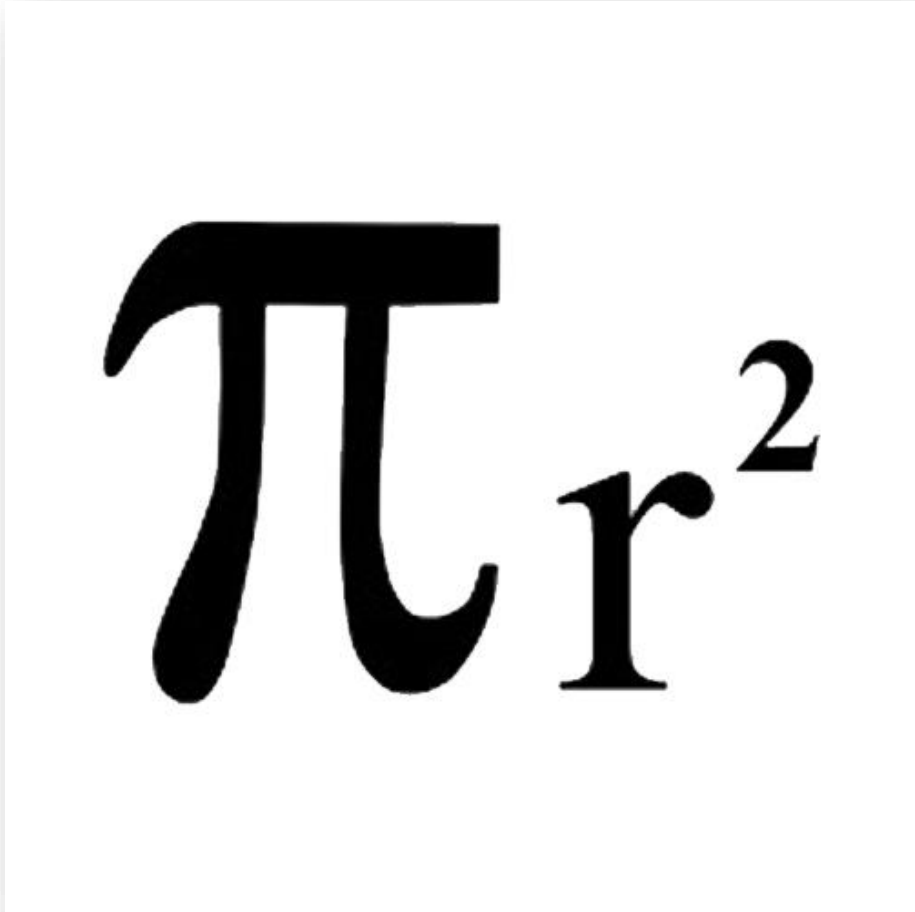
It's not just a rule - it's reassurance for everyone that we take safety seriously.

And speaking of learning, let's talk about what that really means...



Safeguarding Learning

- Safeguarding learning is different - it's something we live every day.
- It's about culture, not compliance.


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Who is responsible for Safeguarding?



Who is responsible for Safeguarding?

Jesus told the story of the shepherd who left the ninety-nine to find the one that was lost. (*Luke 15:4-7*)

Every single person mattered.

Safeguarding is our modern way of living out that same care – noticing who's missing, who's hurting, who might be at risk.

When Jesus said, '*Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,*' (*Mark 9:36-37*)

He placed protection and welcome at the heart of discipleship.

Safeguarding isn't policy – it's worship in action.



Learning from the past – child safeguarding



Imagine a school bus with thirty children on it...

- ❖ Around six will have seen or heard domestic abuse at some point in their lives.
- ❖ Two or three are young carers, helping to look after a parent, sibling, or relative at home.
- ❖ Three or more live in households struggling with poverty or food insecurity.
- ❖ One in ten may experience neglect or emotional harm.
- ❖ At least one may be dealing with something they've never told anyone about — online bullying, fear, or abuse.

Every child who comes to church should know: this is a place where they are safe, seen, and heard.

Learning from the past – adult safeguarding



If we imagine a pew of ten adults...

- ❖ Two may be unpaid carers and one of them may be caring full-time for a loved one.
- ❖ Four are living with at least one long-term health condition – sometimes visible, often not.
- ❖ One or two may be struggling to afford food or to heat their home this winter.
- ❖ Two may feel lonely or isolated despite being surrounded by people.
- ❖ One in four adults experiences a mental health difficulty each year.

Every adult who comes to church should know: this is a place where they are safe, seen, and heard.

Listening, being heard, and asking for advice

Safeguarding starts with listening and for those who've been hurt, it's about being heard

- ❖ **Listen** – Really listen when someone shares a worry or something that feels “off.”
- ❖ **Notice** – If something doesn't look or sound right, pay attention; small details matter.
- ❖ **Ask for advice** – You're never alone; talk to Miles, Monty, or Diana sooner rather than later.
- ❖ **Never promise secrecy** – You can keep information private but not secret if someone may be at risk.
- ❖ **Be kind, not curious** – Offer care and reassurance, not interrogation.
- ❖ **Trust your instincts** – If it feels wrong, it probably needs checking.
- ❖ **Safeguarding is Everyone's responsibility** – Together we keep this church safe, seen, and heard.



Safety and Care is who we are

Safeguarding isn't just paperwork or posters; it's who we are as a church family and as Christians.

Our faces on the walls aren't there for show; they signal visibility and accountability.

That visibility protects the vulnerable and deters those with ill intent.

Together, we're maintaining a culture of openness, vigilance, and care.

When each of us chooses to notice, to listen, and to care, this church becomes more than safe – it becomes a beacon of hope.



Closing prayer lead by Diana

Let us pray for all who keep others safe, and for this church – that it may always be a place of warmth, welcome, and care.

Safeguarding isn't the work of a few; it's the calling of us all.

Amen

