

Safeguarding Report for St John the Baptist Church, Grove APCM 2026

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the *Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016* to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is a standing item on the agenda at PCC meetings.

- January 2025: The updated Safeguarding Policy and Procedures were approved and Anne Cheeseman was approved as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)
- March 2025: Anne advised that St John's have reached level 3 on the Parish Safeguarding dashboard; this is a positive development but also requires additional actions to be completed. Anne also shared the Safer Recruitment process flowchart
- May 2025: The Safeguarding Action Plan was approved
- July 2025: The PCC discussed the National Church decision to withdraw key Safeguarding policy documents and guidance and agreed to
- September 2025: The PCC discussed the data breach involving APCS, the DBS checking organisation used by St John's and the Diocese of Oxford. The PCC approved signing an interim agreement with the Diocese of Oxford for thirtyone:eight to complete our DBS checks – this continued until the start of 2026.

Safeguarding learning and development

Ensuring safeguarding training is up to date for all church volunteers remains an important and ongoing task. In addition to the National Church training the following was completed:

- 10/02/2025 - Steph Highton (GroW) attended an online Domestic Abuse Friends training, delivered by Reducing the Risk.
- 27/02/2025 - Anne Cheeseman attended an online Diocesan training session about managing the risk of those who have sexually harmed.

Safer Recruitment and People Management

Throughout 2025, all church volunteers had current DBS checks appropriate to their roles. The PCC Standing Committee have continued to develop role descriptions for leaders and helpers of all groups involving children and vulnerable adults/adults at risk of abuse.

Safeguarding roles

Parish Safeguarding Officer – Anne Cheeseman

DBS Verifiers – Anne Cheeseman (and Andrea Morgan until September 2025)

Safeguarding concerns

From January to December 2025, one safeguarding concern was raised with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on 23/01/2025.

Anne Cheeseman

Parish Safeguarding Officer