

Parish of St Annes (Heyhouses)
SAFEGUARDING POLICY
PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 6th July 2026.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Denise Duke and can be contacted on 07771693068
email: stannessafeguarding@gmail.com

Promoting a Safer Church

St Annes Parish Church has adopted the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. And is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church. All receive safeguarding training.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.

The parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- We display the **Promoting a Safer Church** poster prominently within our church. This is in the entrance porch to Church along with relevant phone numbers and contact details. As well as the parish rooms on the safeguarding notice board.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.

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- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.
- Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.
- The church has appointed Denise Duke as the PSO.

incumbent: vacant

Church wardens : Ann Fletcher & John Pitches

Signed on behalf of the PCC  Dated 6th July 2026

To be reviewed by 6th July 2027

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Appendix

Reporting a concern

If you believe that someone is at risk of immediate harm, please call emergency services on 999.

Any safeguarding concerns in a parish should be brought to the attention of your local Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) in the first instance.

Denise Duke PSO can be contacted on 07771693068 or via email:
stannessafeguarding@gmail.com

The PSO can seek further advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team as necessary.

Concerns can also be raised directly with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding Team Contact Details

Email: safeguarding@blackburn.anglican.org

Tel: 01254 503088

Address: Diocese Offices, Clayton House, Walker Office Business Park, Blackburn, BB1 2QE

Safeguarding concerns in a school/university/prison/healthcare setting should be raised with the relevant organisation's Safeguarding team.

Finding support

SafeSpaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of their relationship with the Church of England, the Catholic Church in England and Wales or the Church in Wales.

If you have been affected, however long ago, Safe Spaces can provide you with support.
Contact Safe Spaces

We understand reporting abuse may be very difficult and that not everyone may want to contact the church directly. Below is a list of other agencies that are available to assist either on a 24-hour basis or through specialist helplines and services:

Thirty-one: Eight: 0303 003 1111 (out of hours and weekend safeguarding advice)

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline: 0808 800 5000 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are worried about a child.

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Child-line: 0800 1111 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are a child or young person and are worried about anything.

National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (lines free and open 24 hours). Phone if you are experiencing domestic abuse.

Samaritans Helpline: 116 123 (open 24 hours). Phone if you feel you are struggling to cope and need someone to talk to.

Action on Elder Abuse Helpline: 080 8808 8141 (free phone Monday to Friday 9-5pm).

You can access The Church of England safeguarding e-manual via
www.churchofengland.org