

St. Mary the Virgin, Temple Balsall

Parish Responding to Concerns and Allegations Procedure

Promoting a Safer Church

We seek to be a welcoming and caring church where all people are included, reaching out in God's love and compassion to a world in need.

'We love because He loved us first' (I John 4.19)

Agreed by the Parochial Church Council in November 2024

You have information about a serious safeguarding situation

If a child or adult is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention, call the emergency services on 999. If there are concerns about their immediate welfare, don't delay - call Children or Adult's Social Care Services.

Most situations are not emergencies.
Ensure if you can that immediate safety arrangements are in place for victim(s), and for others potentially vulnerable, with no contact with alleged abuser. Remember to protect yourself from harm too.

Immediately inform the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or incumbent of your concern – or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer if the concern is about one of these.

If you are unsure or worried about how serious a situation is, the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator or incumbent will contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for guidance and reassurance – or contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer yourself, if the concern is about the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator or incumbent

Make a secure written or electronic record of the concern the same day and all your actions – sign and date it and pass it to the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator who will add subsequent information and actions and forward to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

If the information concerns actual or potential harm at a church activity or by a church officer or by someone attending a church activity, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer MUST be informed within one working day

If you are advised to do so, refer to your Local Authority Children's Services or Adult Safeguarding Team or to the Police – the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, incumbent or Diocesan Safeguarding Officer will usually do this

Maintain confidentiality – don't talk to others about it and never alert the person who may have caused the harm - BUT - look after yourself – debrief with your incumbent or your parish safeguarding co-ordinator, and ask for further support if you need it



LOCAL CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator: Nicola Hammett 07970020115

Incumbent: Reverand Debbie Collins

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: 07342 993 844

Police: 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency)

Local Authority Children's Services: 0121 788 4300

Local Authority Adult Services: 0121 704 8007