

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH WITH ST CATHERINES, LONG MELFORD

## Safeguarding Report for the Annual Church Meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### 1. Overview

This year the church has continued to prioritise **safeguarding as a core part of our mission**, ensuring that children, young people, and adults at risk are protected and supported. Our policies, training, and reporting processes remain aligned with national church guidance and statutory requirements. Safeguarding is overseen by the **Safeguarding Officer** and supported by the leadership team.

### 2. Policy and Governance

- The **Safeguarding Policy** and **Safer Recruitment Policy** were reviewed and re-adopted by the PCC/Leadership Team..
- All ministry areas involving children or vulnerable adults continue to operate under these policies.

### 3. Training and Awareness

- All volunteers working with children or adults at risk have completed **[Basic/Foundational]** and **[Leadership]** safeguarding training as required.
- The church ran **one safeguarding awareness session** for the wider congregation on Safeguarding Sunday to reinforce a culture of vigilance and care.

### 4. Safer Recruitment

- All new volunteers underwent **DBS checks** as appropriate.
- A central register of checks and training is maintained and reviewed regularly.

### 5. Safeguarding Concerns and Casework

- A number of safeguarding concerns were raised this year.
- All concerns were handled according to national church procedures, with advice sought from the **Diocesan/Denominational Safeguarding Team** where appropriate.
- No concerns remain open at the time of this report.
- The church continues to encourage a culture where concerns are reported promptly and taken seriously.

### 6. Pastoral Support

- Pastoral teams have continued to support individuals and families, with safeguarding considerations integrated into all pastoral work.
- Where necessary, referrals were made to **statutory agencies** or external support services.

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- The church remains committed to providing safe, appropriate pastoral care.

### **7. Buildings and Activities**

- Regular checks were carried out on **rooms, equipment, fire safety, and first-aid provision.**
- The church continues to ensure that all activities are appropriately supervised and risk-managed

Cheryl Morgan

Parish Safeguarding Officer

May 2026