

Appropriate Boundaries Policy

All aspects of this Policy flow from our overall safeguarding policy, and are considered to be in accordance with national safeguarding advice and regulation.

1. Positions of Responsibility

Those serving in roles of responsibility (e.g. clergy, Churchwardens, licensed ministers, group leaders, pastoral visitors, safeguarding officers, choir leaders, youth/children's workers, etc.) hold positions of trust and influence. They must:

- Use authority to serve and empower others, never to exploit or harm.
- Maintain clear personal and professional boundaries.
- Avoid relationships of inappropriate intimacy or dependency with those in their care.
- Act transparently and accountably in all ministry.

Any breach of these responsibilities, including sexual activity with a person aged 16–17 under one's care, will be treated as a serious safeguarding concern.

2. Working with Vulnerable Adults

Vulnerable adults are valued members of our church. We commit to:

- Promoting inclusion and enabling participation in church life.
- Respecting individuals' rights to make their own decisions.
- Practising safe and transparent pastoral visiting: announcing visits in advance wherever possible, keeping records and sharing these with the Rector as required, carrying identification where necessary, visiting in pairs where possible, setting clear boundaries, and handling money or gifts transparently.

3. Social Media and Communication

We recognise the opportunities and risks of online communication. Therefore:

- Church officers will avoid one-to-one private online messaging with children or vulnerable adults.
- Official church/group accounts/email addresses will be used for communication, with more than one leader having access.
- Consent will always be obtained for use of images and online information.
- Behaviour online must reflect the same standards as in-person conduct.

4. Accountability and Reporting

As with our wider Safeguarding policy, all members of the congregation are encouraged to raise safeguarding concerns promptly. Concerns should be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Rector, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Records will be kept securely in line with data protection requirements.

This policy was adopted by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Clement's Parochial Church Council, Sandwich on 18th September 2025, St Peter and St Paul's Worth Parochial Church Council on 11th September 2025.

It will be reviewed on a 2 year basis.