

Safeguarding Policy for Known Offenders

St Clement's Church Sandwich and St Peter and Church Worth

Guidance for Managing Risk and Ensuring Safety within Church Communities

The Church of England is committed to creating safe environments for all, especially children and vulnerable adults. When a known offender attends or seeks involvement in church activities, the parish must follow established safeguarding procedures. This includes conducting a thorough risk assessment in collaboration with statutory agencies, such as the police and probation services, to determine appropriate measures for managing their participation.

A safeguarding agreement, sometimes referred to as a 'contract', will be put in place outlining clear boundaries, supervision arrangements, and restrictions regarding access to church premises and activities. Regular reviews of this agreement are essential, and any breach should be reported immediately to the diocesan safeguarding adviser and relevant authorities. Confidentiality is maintained, but the safety of the congregation remains paramount.

All church staff and volunteers should receive training on safeguarding policies, including the procedures for managing known offenders. The parish must work closely with the diocesan safeguarding team to ensure compliance with national guidelines and to support both the offender's rehabilitation and the protection of the wider community.

Adopted by PCC: 21st May 2026

To be reviewed: May 2028