

SAFEGUARDING TIPS FOR CHURCHES

10 Tips for Safeguarding Sunday from Emma Duncan, Safeguarding Trainer and Case Worker

Here are some top tips for how parish churches can keep people as safe as possible...

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Firstly, it's vital that everyone's training is up to date. Safeguarding is not a one-off event but requires an ongoing responsibility to keep informed.

Mark Safeguarding Sunday in your church calendar. It's a chance to highlight the importance of safeguarding and elevate the work of Parish Safeguarding Officers.

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Display posters around your church with details on how to contact safeguarding officers and signpost to other organisations that can help.

Include safeguarding contacts at the bottom of your emails and prominently displayed on your website.

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Always follow safer recruiting guidelines when bringing new people into your team.

Keep safeguarding as a standing item on your PCC agenda to ensure it remains a priority, using resources on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard such as the Safeguarding Action Plan.

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Encourage people to refer safeguarding concerns even if they're uncertain. Make sure people know that if they have a feeling that something isn't right, don't keep it to themselves or investigate it alone. And remember, GDPR and confidentiality are not barriers to sharing concerns.

Always listen with an open heart and open mind. It takes immense courage for a survivor to speak out about abuse - how you respond matters!

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Create a culture where everyone knows safeguarding is their business – we need to work together, stay vigilant, and support one another. This includes offering theological teaching on safeguarding and why it matters to God.

Finally, remember the 4 Rs of safeguarding: Recognise, Respond, Record, and Report. If something seems amiss, take it seriously, respond appropriately, record what happened, and report it through the proper channels.

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For a comprehensive list of resources and advice see [Parish Safeguarding Resources](#) and [Templates and Resources](#).