STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING

Great St Mary's Sawbridgeworth is part of the Diocese of St. Albans in the Church of England, the clergy and leaders are absolutely committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church.

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture and environment. This means we will promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused. We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others, and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

The Church of England affirms the 'Whole Church' approach to safeguarding. This approach encompasses a commitment to consistent policy and practice across all Church bodies, Church Officers and that everyone associated with the Church, who comes into contact with children, young people and adults, has a role to play.

The Church will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all and to practise fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children, young people and adults, responding sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone here at Great St Mary's Sawbridgeworth.

Jane Johnson is our **Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)** and can be contacted about any safeguarding matter on **07808 684357** or safeguarding@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk or please contact our **Vicar, The Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale** on **07925 292175** or by email: vicar@sawbridgeworthchurch.org.uk

Here is the link to the Sawbridgeworth PCC Safeguarding Policy

Jez Hirst is the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser on 01727 818107 | 07867 350886 | safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

Two very useful links:

More information on the Church of England's National Safeguarding can be found here: www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

More information about Safeguarding in the Diocese of St. Albans can be found here: https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/safeguarding/

Agreed by the PCC: Sept 2025