

St Andrew's Church, Rushmere

Annual Safeguarding Report to the PCC for 2025

The 2025 report begins with offering thanks for the appointment of the Right Reverend Dr Joanne Grenfell, the new Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich. Bishop Joanne is the current Lead Bishop for Safeguarding within the Church of England, but will shortly become Deputy Safeguarding Officer, when the Bishop of Tewkesbury, Robert Springett becomes the new lead in March 2026. We are blessed to have a person with the safeguarding skills of our new Bishop.

This year has been good for the parish, with only a small number of minor safeguarding concerns, and just one a little more serious. All were resolved successfully, with only the more serious one requiring the services of the Diocese.

Last summer was a good period for St Andrew's, in that every member of the PCC was DBS checked, and all had completed a period of safeguarding training. Additionally safeguarding skills were acquired by all the Lunch Club cooks, most of the drivers, the Open Door volunteers and the majority of Sidesmen and Sideswomen. Congratulations to you all! Approximately one third of our church congregation have now undertaken training. This is particularly helpful for people visiting the church who may have concerns and require guidance and advice. For anyone who has not yet undertaken training but wishes to do so, please contact the Safeguarding Officer who will be happy to help arrange this.

Our incumbent Rev. Alan and myself as Safeguarding Officer are available at any time for any people with a particular concern. I would personally like to thank each and every one of you who gives so freely of your time and energy, and help to make St Andrew's a place where everyone is made welcome and treated with kindness.

Can I wish you all a safe year ahead.

R.Batchelor

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Parish of St Andrew Rushmere.

RB, January 2026