The United Parish of St Mary the Virgin (Speldhurst0, St Martins of Tours (Ashurst) & St John the Evangelist (Groombridge) Parish Policy Statement for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

The following policy was agreed at the United Parochial Church Council meeting held on 20 August 2025

- We recognize that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that all adults should be offered respect and given inclusion and empowerment within the Church.
- We are committed to adopting and implementing a Safeguarding Policy for adults when they are vulnerable, accepting as a minimum the House of Bishops' Policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults (Promoting a Safe Church). In addition, the Parish will follow the diocesan policy, procedures and recommended good practice, while being responsive to local Parish requirements.
- We will review and endorse all Safeguarding Policies annually, at the first meeting of the UPCC, so that new members are aware of their responsibilities and confirm the existence of the Parish Policy on safeguarding adults when they are vulnerable.
- We will undertake careful selection of all those who work with vulnerable groups and provide appropriate support and opportunities for training.
- We will respond without delays to every complaint made that a vulnerable person for whom we are responsible may have been harmed
- This Parish will cooperate fully with the statutory agencies in every situation and will not conduct its own investigations.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any adult who has suffered abuse.
- We will care for and supervise any member of our Church community known to have offended.
- The Parochial Church Council of this Parish acknowledges its responsibility for all work with young and vulnerable adults undertaken in the name of the Church and requires all those engaged in such work to be properly appointed and supported in accordance with current good practice and guidelines issued through the Diocese of Rochester.

Ian R. Rib

Churchwarden St Mary the Virgin Speldhurst