Llandaff & Monmouth DACBR Safeguarding Policy

Purpose

All those engaged in bellringing activities in the Church in Wales are required to comply with the Church in Wales Safeguarding Policies, Practices and Procedures.

This document defines the Llandaff & Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers' Safeguarding Policy as updated in January 2026. It replaces the safeguarding guidelines adopted by the Association in 2016, being updated in line with the Safeguarding Policy of the Church in Wales.

Scope

This document covers the actions required by members of the Association to ensure that adults at risk and children are safeguarded from harm.

The Safeguarding Policy is applicable to all members of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers.

Note:

- The Church in Wales Safeguarding Policy is applicable to all church bell ringers in Wales, regardless of whether they are a member of the Association.
- Although the Central Council of Church Bell Ringing provides advice on safeguarding, the Church in Wales Safeguarding Policy should take precedence.

Review

The document should be reviewed annually, using the Annual General Meeting of the Association as the review date.

Glossary

Adult at Risk	The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 defines an adult at risk as being an adult who: - (a) is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect; (b) has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs); and (c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.
CCCBR	Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
Children	The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and accompanying guidance define a 'child' as a person who is aged under 18.
CinW	Church in Wales
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service

Supporting Information

Church in Wales Provincial Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Forms

CCCBR Safeguarding guidance

CCCBR Guidance on Maintaining a Safe Environment in the Belfry

Safeguarding Policy

It is the policy of the L&MDACBR to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from bullying, neglect, physical, sexual and emotional harm, and extremist behaviour.

In particular, the teaching of young people is vital to the future of bellringing in South Wales and it's important to provide an environment where young people feel safe, welcome and included.

We will achieve this by following the Church in Wales's Safeguarding Policy.

All Association Officers and Tower Captains should fully acquaint themselves with the Church in Wales's Safeguarding Policy.

A copy of L&MDACBR Safeguarding Policy should be kept in each tower so that all bell ringers can familiarise themselves with it.

Safeguarding Coordinator

The Association will appoint a Safeguarding Coordinator who is responsible for:

- promoting safeguarding best practice to members
- encouraging organisers of Association activities to comply with CinW Safeguarding Policies, Practices and Procedures
- signposting members to appropriate resources should they need further information or to report a concern
- acting as a point of contact between the Association and the Church in Wales Safeguarding Team

Protecting Children and Adults at Risk

Page 17 of the CinW's Promoting Safer Practice for Children and Adults at Risk document states:

"Bellringers must adhere to the principles of good practice set out in this guidance. The tower captain should be compliant with safer recruitment and have a current criminal record disclosure certificate. The tower captain will take responsibility for the safety and well-being of all children in the bell ringing team both at services and practices. All adults involved in bellringing should be aware of safeguarding risks and know how to respond to safeguarding concerns. The tower captain must know how to report safeguarding concerns to a Provincial Safeguarding Officer."

All Tower Captains, those engaged in instruction and any other activities involving working with children or adults at risk are required to have a valid DBS Check.

In the absence of the Tower Captain, it is recommended that there is at least one other bell ringer who has undergone a DBS check.

The Ministry Area Safeguarding Officer should be contacted to arrange a DBS check. Local clergy will be able to provide guidance on how to do this.

For activities organised by the Association or its Branches, there should be an Association member present who holds a valid DBS certificate obtained through the CinW. The individual must also have completed the CinW Module A: Safeguarding Awareness course.

Where a child is in attendance, their tower is responsible for ensuring the appropriate written consent has been obtained from the child's parent/guardian.

Keeping People Safe

Bell tower activities and events should be risk-assessed at a local level and those risk assessments reviewed regularly – at least once per year and following any significant change to the environment, circumstances, or personnel involved.

A template risk assessment form is available from the CinW website here

As an Association we recommend you follow the
Central Council Good Practice for Maintaining a Safe Environment in the Belfry

and the Central Council Code for Ringing which reminds us of the values of the ringing community and how to create an environment where everyone feels safe, respected, welcome and valued.

Safeguarding Training

To support all those who offer their service to the church, the CinW has created a number of modules that provide information, advice and guidance around the topic of safeguarding.

It is the responsibility of the respective Ministry Area to ensure those who undertake activities within the jurisdiction of the church have undertaken appropriate training. This includes church bell ringing.

Details of the CinW's safeguarding training can be found on the website:

https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/

All bellringers are encouraged to do Module A: Safeguarding Awareness Course.

The Safeguarding Awareness Course is an online, self-paced, e-learning course and can be accessed via this link:
https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/church-in-wales-safeguarding-awareness-module-a/

It takes about forty-five minutes to complete. The course is aimed at all of those within the church community and is intended to equip people to help make the church, and keep the church, a safe place.

In addition, Tower Captains, those engaged in instruction and any other activities involving working with children or adults at risk are required to do Module B: Understanding safeguarding in the Church.

The CinW has produced a version of the Module B course tailored to the needs and experiences of bellringers which is delivered online from time to time.

The training takes about 2½ hours to complete and needs to be repeated every three years

To book your place on a safeguarding training course:

Safeguarding Training – Llandaff Diocese

Safeguarding Training - Monmouth Diocese

On completion of each course, you will be issued with a certificate and a record held on the Church in Wales database.

Dealing with a Safeguarding Issue

Anyone being aware of a safeguarding issue has a legal duty to report it as soon as possible. If it has been identified that a child or adult at risk is in immediate danger, then the police should be contacted immediately using the 999 service.

The CinW advises a four-step approach if you come aware of a potential safeguarding issue:

Recognise:	Be aware of the potential indicators for abuse or neglect for children or adults at risk
Respond:	Reassure the individual that they have taken the right step in sharing the information, **DO NOT** make promises to keep the information confidential, but tell them that you will be sharing the information in confidence with the CinW safeguarding team and that they will be kept informed **DO NOT** attempt to investigate the concerns raised **DO NOT** discuss the concern with anyone other than the Provincial Safeguarding Officer
Record:	who / what / when / where
Report:	to the CinW Provincial Safeguarding Officer within 24 hours. The quickest and most secure way of reporting a concern is to **message the safeguarding team here**. When completed, the report must remain completely confidential

Points of Contact

All the contact details for the Church in Wales Safeguarding Team can be found here: Meet the team - The Church in Wales

For safeguarding concerns, allegations or to report a child or adult at risk contact the Provincial Safeguarding Officer

For queries relating to safeguarding training or safeguarding processes contact the Safeguarding Training and Engagement Officer

If you want to talk to someone about the overall approach to safeguarding within the Church in Wales or have a question relating to the responsibility for safeguarding by those in a leadership role, please contact the Director of Safeguarding

Other Useful Resources:

Church in Wales Bullying and Harassment Policy
Church in Wales Social Media Guidance