

Alsager Christ Church Safeguarding Survey 2025

Foreword.

When it became apparent that the Church of England national survey would not be able to give any insight into what the local safeguarding picture looks like, it was encouraging that PCC asked about the possibility of doing our own local survey.

I want to thank members of the PCC who authorized us to conduct our own survey. I will encourage other churches to do the same.

I want to acknowledge the work of others to produce this report with a few words of thanks.

Firstly, thanks to Andrew Warren and Sonja Baker. Both spent some time with me ensuring that the questions we asked matched our intention as a church, and that we were able to measure the impact of what we do. A special thank you to Sonja, who was able to use her knowledge and experience to devise an alternative “voice of the child” survey which we used at Messy Church.

Thanks to Ben Edwards, who ensured the smooth running of the online part of the survey and was on hand to help me collate the results.

Thank you to the service leaders who took time to encourage the congregation to complete the survey, ensuring the kind of response we had. Lastly, thank you to members of the congregation, who wholeheartedly engaged, ensuring that we have a very good picture of what our church members think about key safeguarding matters.

I have tried to keep this report as short as possible. It should take no more than 10 minutes to read.

Stephen Bloor (Parish Safeguard Officer)

The Response.

The survey ran for four weeks from 16th November until 7th December. Parishioners could complete either a paper or online response.

During this period there were;

The two Sunday services (9am and 11am) had average attendances of 33 and 52 respectively.

There was a Messy Church – with an attendance of 55.

Two coffee and communion services, Cherubs, Tea on Tuesday and Chat and Chill.

121 responses were received.

The vast majority, 108 (89%) were completed in paper format.

15 young children completed a response. (12%)

The Data.

The questions are represented as in the survey. Responses from online and the paper survey are added together.

Q1

How safe do you feel when attending activities and events at Alsager Christ Church?

Very Unsafe	Unsafe	I Don't Know	Safe	Very Safe
0	0	4	3	114

Q2 How confident are you that you know who to report safeguarding concerns to?

Not at all confident	Not confident	I Don't Know	Confident	Very confident
0	1	9	7	104

Q3 How confident are you that your privacy will be respected if you raise a safeguarding concern?

Not at all confident.	Not confident	I Don't Know	Confident	Very confident
1	1	3	17	99

Q4 To what extent is the safeguarding message communicated in an accessible way at Alsager Christ Church?

Not at all clear	Unclear	I Don't Know	Clear	Very clear
1	1	21	19	79

Q5

Are there any times or places where you feel less safe?

- Kids' events in the church hall are dark at the end of the drive. Feels vulnerable able to someone coming in and doing unforeseen things.
- Open doors at 6pm services.
- I suffer from social anxiety so attending events and growth groups can be tricky, I do sometimes wonder if people think about these kinds of things. I often feel guilty and shame when declining an event.
- Sunday evening prayers
- When using the disabled toilet since a dipper changing facility has been added

Q6

Anything you want to raise?

- Thank you to the team for helping our family through a tough time. The safeguarding team was always happy to discuss their concerns as well as ours. Sonja went above and beyond - she became our daughters' safe person
- Give examples of what constitutes a safeguarding issue
- The "Wecolmers" awareness of dangers, threats etc. How do they cope and what to do?
- Open doors during services too easy access
- May be updates read out to congregation
- Could we please create a culture of listening not only when it's what we want to hear. Encourage this by listening and acknowledging that God speaks to everyone as this so discouraging when what you say is dismissed
- Sometimes I find communication is not good. Emails not answered and actions not followed up leave you feeling undervalued.
- Dipper changing table put into disabled toilet
- No safeguarding leads at 9 am

Analysis

I have made one or two key points, but there is always room for further interpretations.

- 117 respondents (more than 96%) felt safe or very safe at events at Christ Church.
- No one felt unsafe or very unsafe at events at Christ Church.
- 111 respondents (around 92%) said they were confident they knew who to report safeguarding concerns to.
- 9 respondents (around 1%) said they were unsure about who to report safeguarding concerns.
- 116 respondents (96%) felt sure or very sure that their privacy would be respected if they reported a safeguarding issue.
- 2 people (about 1%) were not confident that their privacy would be respected if they raised a safeguarding issue.
- 98 people (81%) felt that the safeguarding message was communicated well and in an accessible way.
- 21 people (17%) were not sure about how the message was communicated.
- 2 people (about 1%) felt that the safeguarding message was not communicated well and in an accessible way.

Recommendations.

1. That the results of the survey to be published on the church website and shared with both congregations and the wider church community.
2. That the Safeguarding team review how the Safeguarding message is conveyed. The aim will be to ensure that the message of what to do and where to go to report any safeguarding concerns is clear and accessible.