

Safeguarding Policy

As adopted February 2022

1. Background and Scope

The Society of Roving Ringers organises a ringing tour for members on cycles in July each year, with a Reunion weekend with AGM and dinner each February. Tourers have to be competent with bell handling and change ringing, so Rovers do not undertake face to face teaching. If a tourer is under 18 and is not accompanied by a parent then their parents must sign a permission form detailing their contact details and which member will be responsible for their child (*in loco parentis*) until they are returned to their care. Peals organised by members and attributed to the Society would also be covered by this policy.

2 Safeguarding

Safeguarding relates to the protection of the health, well-being and human rights of individuals, to allow people, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults, to live free from abuse, harm and neglect.

All members should have safeguarding in mind and treat others with respect. Of particular relevance to the Society is that safeguarding relates to adults at risk as well as children. Currently 'adult at risk' is defined as "a person over the age of 18 who is unable to take care of him or herself OR unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation" [NB This may include someone temporarily at risk due to illness or disability]

For Society events the Society Safeguarding Officer will be present and responsible for safeguarding. If not, a list of those with DBS checks and who are up to date with appropriate training (currently at least C0 and C1, now entitled 'Basic Awareness' and 'Foundation') will be kept by the Officer and also by the Secretary/Master who will ensure that someone from that list will step in.

Any under 18 year olds coming on tour or Reunion must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or a responsible adult standing *in loco parentis* appointed by their parents. If a tourer is under 18 and is not accompanied by a parent then their parents must sign a permission form detailing their contact details and which member will be responsible for their child until they are returned to their care. [All under 16s coming on the Reunion weekend must be accompanied by a parent]

Nationally, a very small number of ringers have been convicted of offences against young people. Conditions may have been applied by the court which restrict their ability to take part in mixed age activities.

A known offender may be able to take part in ringing activities depending upon

- (a) the nature of their offence,
- (b) any court restrictions on their activities,
- (c) perceived risk and
- (d) the level of supervision that can be afforded.

Both the Church of England and the Police have agreed procedures known as Multiple Agency Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) for dealing with offenders returning to circulate in society. The church position is set out in Section 8 of the House of Bishops document Protecting all God's Children.

Any proposal for such a person to be included on a Rovers event must be reviewed very seriously with all concerned parties [the Safeguarding Officer of the area in which the person resides as well as the person's Probation Officer] including the Society President and Society Safeguarding Officer, and must have due regard to absolute safety of children and the reassurance of their parents, and also with regard to adults at risk. A written agreement with the Society must be obtained. This generally is between the individual, the Society and the Society Safeguarding Officer.

Any individual attending an event who is subject to restrictions should provide details to the Safeguarding Officer, who should ensure full adherence to those conditions, and will liaise with the Safeguarding Officer of the area in which the person resides as well as the person's Probation Officer

3 Training

The Safeguarding Officer and members with DBS checks etc whose names are on the list held by the Secretary/Master will receive suitable training on safeguarding matters; this will be refreshed as appropriate. The Safeguarding Officer will retain evidence of this training. The current level of training regarded as suitable are 'Basic Awareness' and 'Foundation' (C0 and C1 in the past). Currently all bellringers are required to do the Basic Awareness training (online, takes about an hour, and needs to be repeated every 3 years. Please let the Rovers' Safeguarding Officer know when you have completed this)

Suitable training can be obtained using on-line courses available such as that accessible through [The Church of England's National Safeguarding Training Portal](#)

4 Raising Concerns

Any concerns should be raised with the Rovers' Safeguarding Officer. In his/her absence with the nominated 'deputy'. If the concerns relate to the Safeguarding Officer themselves, the matter should be raised with the Safeguarding team in the Diocese of St Albans safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org .

If the young person or adult at risk is in danger then the police should be notified immediately by dialling 999. [If not in immediate danger then remember that concerns about a young person can be referred onto services without their permission (although you would obviously want to involve them at every stage), concerns about an adult needs their permission to take further unless they lack capacity to make any decision about the situation.]

Anyone attending a Rovers' event can also raise concerns with the NSPCC or Adult Social Care, or Safeguarding team in the Diocese of St Albans safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

5 Handling allegations, incidents and disclosures

In the event of an allegation, incident, or disclosure (however historic) the Safeguarding Officer, or other responsible officer, will refer the matter as soon as possible to the Safeguarding team in the Diocese of St Albans safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org (and maybe to the Safeguarding Officer of the Diocese or Local Authority in which the person resides)

In the handling of safeguarding issues, those involved must ensure any information is kept strictly confidential in line with the handling of sensitive data under data protection legislation.

6 Contacts

Rovers' Safeguarding Officer, Kevyn Hopkins Hall	07860 384572
St Albans Diocesan Safeguarding team	
Jeremy Hirst	07867 350886
Martyn Hedley	07391 010033
NSPCC	0808 800 5000
National Domestic Abuse Helpline	0808 200 0247

<https://safeguarding.culture.gov.uk/>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/SafeguardingLearningAndDevelopmentFramework2021.pdf>

7 Approval

This policy was agreed by the Society of Roving Ringers at the AGM held on 26th February 2022. Any amendments to this policy require the approval of an AGM meeting. The policy will be kept under continuous review to ensure its relevance and compliance with the law, and the Safeguarding Officer will report on it at each AGM.