

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST NICHOLAS, SEVENOAKS**

**COMPLAINTS POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is committed to its role which primarily includes “*cooperation with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.*” But there may be a time when you need to complain. This complaints procedure is for those who are unhappy about matters for which the PCC is responsible that have affected them.

Prior to using this formal procedure, the PCC encourages an informal approach to the Rector or one of the Churchwardens to see if the matter can be resolved in that way.

Rector:

Rev Canon Angus MacLeay ([angus.macleay@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org](mailto:angus.macleay@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org) )

Churchwardens:

Robert von Kaufmann ([robert.vonkaufmann@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org](mailto:robert.vonkaufmann@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org))

Mark Walkington ([mark.walkington@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org](mailto:mark.walkington@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org) )

But if your complaint is about:

**Safeguarding of Children or Vulnerable Adults;** please in the first instance contact the Parish Safeguarding Office ([safeguarding@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org](mailto:safeguarding@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org)) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser at [Greg.Barry@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:Greg.Barry@rochester.anglican.org)

**The Rector;** please raise the matter with the Churchwardens. If the matter remains unresolved you could contact the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, at [archdeacon.tonbridge@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:archdeacon.tonbridge@rochester.anglican.org).

**Another member of the clergy;** please raise the matter with the Rector.

**Bullying or Harassment** (by adults); you may find it helpful to consult the Diocesan policy on this at <https://d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/6154babbee922/content/pages/documents/antibullying-and-harassment-policy.pdf>

**Your employment by the PCC;** if you are a PCC employee please refer to and follow the grievance procedure provided for in the Staff Handbook.

## Making a complaint to the PCC

Complaints should be made in writing or by email to the PCC Secretary whose name and contact details are set out below.

PCC Secretary: Miss Beverlea Parkhill (during vacancy in role)  
(marked Private & Confidential)  
Communication address: c/o St Nicholas Church Office, Rectory Lane,  
Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1JA  
Email address: [pccsecretary@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org](mailto:pccsecretary@stnicholas-sevenoaks.org)

The PCC Secretary will ensure that your complaint is:

- treated seriously
- handled fairly without bias or discrimination
- treated confidentially.

You should complain within 3 months of the event that you are complaining about.

You need to set out:

- your full name and address
- what you think went wrong and how it has affected you, including enough details to show why you are aggrieved
- what (if anything) you think the PCC should do to put it right

If someone else complains on your behalf, the PCC will need written confirmation from you saying that you agree for that person to act for you.

## How your complaint will be dealt with

The PCC Secretary will

- log your complaint
- write to you or send you an email to confirm receipt of your complaint within 5 days of its receipt, and
- arrange for it to be considered by the PCC's Complaints Committee. If your complaint refers to particular individuals who are members of the Complaints Committee, it will meet without them being present.

The PCC's Complaints Committee will look fairly into your complaint including seeking the views on the matter from any individuals, whether members of the PCC or otherwise, to which your complaint refers. The Complaints Committee may appoint one or more persons to look into the matter on its behalf, but it will be the Complaints Committee that makes any decisions. The Complaints Committee and any such appointed persons will treat the matter confidentially.

The Complaints Committee may invite you to present your complaint to them. If so, you may attend with a friend / representative if you wish. The meeting should be

held as informally as possible. The Chair will explain the purpose of the meeting, introduce the members and emphasise confidentiality. The meeting will be minuted by one of the Committee members.

The PCC Secretary will write to you with the conclusions from the PCC Complaints Committee's review and reasons for that outcome. The PCC Secretary will aim to respond to you in this way as soon as possible, and no longer than 6 weeks from receipt of your complaint.

This will be the PCC's final response to your complaint.

If you remain dissatisfied, you may wish to consider contacting the Charity Commission as while Parochial Church Councils are independent bodies they are charities and as such are regulated by the Charity Commission. The Charity Commission can be contacted either via their website <https://www.gov.uk/complain-about-charity> or by writing to them at Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG.

**Approved by the PCC: June 2023**

**To be reviewed annually**

**Next Review: Summer 2026**