



St Andrew's
Chorleywood

Safeguarding statement

As many of you are aware, the Church of England Safeguarding investigation into Mike Pilavachi from Soul Survivor Watford reached its conclusions last July with some substantiations to allegations of breaching the House of Bishops guidelines on safeguarding. The latest updates are available on the Soul Survivor Website, <https://www.soulsurvivorwatford.co.uk/latestupdates>. More recently a video statement by Matt and Beth Redman has cast further light on some historic abuses.

Historically, Mike Pilavachi was the Youth Pastor here at St Andrew's Church before leaving to set up Soul Survivor, with Matt Redman, who was then our Worship Pastor, in 1993. St Andrew's Church takes the issue of any breaches of safeguarding practice very seriously and we would like to give assurances to everyone that we believe our current safeguarding procedures to be robust and thorough. We continue to uphold to the highest standards of safeguarding practice. Nevertheless, in the light of the most recent revelations we are currently reflecting on whether there may be yet more which we can or should do in this area.

Should anyone have any concerns in this area please contact either me, one of our Church Wardens or our Safeguarding Officer at St Andrews: safeguarding.officer@st-andrews.org.uk. Alternatively if you would like to speak to anyone connected to the earlier investigation or have been affected, please contact: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org or safeguarding@churchofengland.org. Please be assured that any concerns raised will be treated with the utmost sensitivity and support. Access to counselling is available.

If you or anyone you are in contact with are affected by this and want to talk to someone independently, please call the Safe Spaces helpline on 0300 303 1056.

Every Blessing,

Revd Tim Horlock (Vicar)

July 2023 (updated May 2024)