

## Safeguarding Report 2022

St Andrew's PCC takes seriously its collective responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable and have complied with due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

On January 1st 2022 the Learning and Development Practice Guidance 2021 came into effect and a new framework for Safeguarding has been adopted across every diocese in the Church of England. In the Church of England's words:

*"The Church of England is making a significant change in its relationship with safeguarding. Safeguarding is at the centre of our faith, in our practice. In other words, safeguarding needs to become integral to the Church's DNA rather than a bolt-on, with good safeguarding behaviours flowing naturally and intuitively. To aid this change, Theology, by which we simply mean clear thinking about God and the faith we share, has been interwoven into the learning and the development pathways. As the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) identified, this will require a significant shift in the Church's culture."*

In practice, for those at St Andrew's who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults and for PCC Members, it will mean more training and more frequent DBS checks. All training is now completed online through the Church of England portal. The Clergy, Readers and the Parish Safeguarding Officer undertake face to face training which will be delivered via Zoom.

DBS checks are carried out for us by Thirtyone:eight (formerly CCPAS). All those who work with children and vulnerable adults and PCC Members are required to complete an enhanced check.

Our Safeguarding Risk Assessment for all activities involving children and young people is reviewed annually. Many of these risks and measures associated with coronavirus remain for this year.

A copy of all St Andrew's policies which include 'Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults', 'Lone Worker' and 'Safer Recruitment' are kept on the church website. These policies are reviewed annually. In March 2022 we set up a Church GoogleDrive to store all Safeguarding documentation centrally with access to the Drive being given to the Priest, Parish Safeguarding Officer, Church Wardens and Parish Administrator.

The Diocese of St Albans support our safeguarding practices in a number of ways:

- Regular safeguarding newsletters ensure that parishes are kept up to date with current legislation and of any changes to policies, procedures and training requirements.
- The 'Parish Dashboard'. This is a useful online portal which records all the safeguarding measures we take as a church including training completed, risk assessments completed and policies and their review date.

- An online safeguarding training course is available through their website ([www.stalbans.anglican.org](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org)). This takes less than an hour to complete and is an excellent introduction to safeguarding, particularly in recognising potential safeguarding issues and knowing then what course of action to take. The PCC recommend that all those involved with church life complete the course, particularly sidesmen, choir members and those in coffee teams. Please let me know if you would like me to send you the link to the course.
- Also on their website is a comprehensive set of policies, procedures and information documents, many of which we use as templates for our own policies and procedures.

Catherine Sleath, Parish Safeguarding Officer