

Safeguarding Report for APCM 2024

Introduction

Safeguarding is in place to ensure the protection and care of children, young adults and vulnerable people in our church. As part of the Diocese of St.Albans and led by the Church of England, we have adopted the Safer Church policy which enables all those visiting our services to feel safe in the knowledge that they can be included in our activities. And in accordance with Diocese guidelines our safeguarding policy is prominently displayed on our church website as well as on the church noticeboard.

How do we do it?

- Awareness – By adopting the Safer Churches policy, we have displayed this policy clearly at the back of church, complete with contact details for our Safeguarding officer, should any problems arise
- Obligation – Safeguarding is a statutory component of the monthly Standing Committee and PCC meetings where it can be reviewed and discussed. The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- Training – In accordance with Diocese's Training newsletter we have launched required training courses for all those working or involved with children, young adults and vulnerable people. Those training course are assigned individually and completed online in accordance with the requirements of the Safeguarding Policy Including all PCC members, Church wardens, sidemen and any role where needed.
- DBS Checks, DBS checks have also been carried out on all required individuals.

Performance

We have a good completion rate of required training courses and everyone in a position of trust has valid DBS. This process is ongoing as anyone who is new to a role will require to do a DBS check if required and appropriate training.

Actions

- Follow up on Parish Safeguarding Action Plan to ensure that all required steps are completed.
- The Diocese of St. Albans issues updated newsletters and we are using the Parish Safeguarding dashboard (Hub) which helps to ensure that all safeguarding requirements are met and up to date. It is a tool in that is also used to keep a record of DBS and Training courses completed.
- Safeguarding officer joins the monthly ZOOM drop-in sessions. This is a good way to keep up to date and ask any questions that arise.

Regards

Paula Sawers

Safeguarding Officer, St.Mary's Woburn

April 2024

