

Annual Safeguarding Report

The Church of England is involved in every community and can potentially play an important role in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people in our society. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all. The House of Bishops' safeguarding policy states:

“Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused. We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks”.

During the past 12 months of living in a pandemic and with Covid-19 restrictions, much of the activities that take place within our churches and their buildings have been curtailed while buildings have remained closed. It has been still vital however that we continued to safeguard those who need our help. Anyone with a pastoral or safeguarding role within the Church has had to consider how to safely reach out to those who are isolated, while thinking about families or individuals who have been finding this time particularly challenging and considering what 'non-contact' support could be offered.

It is important that we continue to encourage and promote ongoing social support with our community while paying regard to the restrictions of the pandemic. As the Archbishops of Canterbury and York so eloquently explain, “despite these very harrowing restrictions, please do all that you can to minister to your people safely, especially to the sick, the vulnerable and the poor. We must take a lead in showing our communities how we must behave in order to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus. We must also do all that we can to provide resources and support for those who are isolated, fearful and vulnerable. But we have to do this from our homes.”

Safeguarding Policy

The safeguarding policy is based on the Church of England model policy and has been reviewed and updated in line with the guidance from the Church of England. It

awaits ratification and adoption by the PCC in the Annual Parochial Council Meeting. The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Areas for Development

As church and community life begins to resume there are a number of areas for review and development to ensure our policies and practices reflect the latest guidance during the forthcoming months:

- Review our policies and practices against the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Checklist
- Review and improve the displays within our churches and church buildings
- Review and improve the safeguarding information available on the Parish website

Safeguarding Prayer

Loving God,
we pray that our churches may be places of welcome,
security and compassion.
Keep us watchful yet caring,
trusting yet ready to question,
that all who worship here may do so
in safety and in the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Karen Sudworth

April 2021