

Safeguarding Report

The Parish Safeguarding Officers, Vivien Herbert St. John's, Emma Williams Holy Trinity, Anita Hambling St. Leonard's, and Caroline Crook St. Mary's have worked well again this year ensuring that all those involved in working with children and young people are properly checked and made aware of their responsibilities. We are fortunate that we have so many dedicated people involved in this work.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Policy is the document that we use to guide us in our work. We also have Parish guidelines based on that document but in an easier form to handle. The Diocesan policy document is available on the Diocesan website and the Parish guidelines are available from the church offices.

As Church families we have a collective responsibility to children and young people and should not be afraid to report anything that causes them concern about their care to the incumbent, the Safeguarding co-ordinator or Officers so that a bad situation may be prevented from getting worse. We now have new guidelines in place to cover whistleblowers, as a result of SQP.

SQP, Simple Quality Protects, has been a major feature of work this year. This is a Diocesan requirement for all churches to complete to ensure that safeguarding policies are in place and up to date. It has been time consuming and challenging in many ways, but we feel that we are now getting on well with this. No major safeguarding issues have become obvious so far, but we are now providing more information in our churches so that anyone with concerns of any kind can easily find the right people to contact and better guidelines are in place so that any concerns are dealt with quickly, compassionately and efficiently. SQP is ongoing and there are several more sections of work to be completed.

We have had some successful sessions of Child Protection training in the Parish during the past year and one is planned for June this year. Training is now mandatory for all who work with children and young people and must be undertaken within six months of appointment; failure to comply will mean that that person cannot continue in their role.

We are fortunate to have the support of Colin Perkins and his team at Church House who are always available with help and support if required.

This Parish has always had a strong commitment to the care and protection of our children and young people and also our vulnerable adults and we must ensure that we do our best to continue in this way.

As this will probably be my last report, special thanks go to all those connected in any way with Safeguarding in the parish and especially to the Clergy team.

Joyce Brown

April 2018