

Safeguarding report April 2023

The Parish of St Peter and St Paul take our collective responsibility for safeguarding those most vulnerable in our community seriously.

We welcome Alyson Bleakley (Senior Minister for Families) and Di Dartnell (Parish Safeguarding Officer) to join Reverend Ben Thorndike, Reverend Wendy Carr and Paul White in our formal Parish Safeguarding Team. The Safeguarding team also includes all members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and all those in any role (employed or voluntary) across the four churches of our Parish. Whether your role is big or small, you are all essential to ensuring our churches are safe nurturing places of worship.

All policies in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults used in the parish are those of the Diocese of Rochester and Church of England in order to meet the requirements of the House of Bishops. This includes the Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework 2021.

Basic Awareness Safeguarding training is for everyone within the church community who require an awareness of Safeguarding. Foundations is essential for all those who hold positions of responsibility for the Safeguarding of others within the church.

Leadership training is for all those who play a lead role in shaping the culture of the church body. Safer Recruitment and people management is for those involved in the recruitment, selection or management of others within the church. Training needs to be updated every 3 years at the highest level previously undertaken.

The module Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse is essential for anyone holding the Bishops license, commission, authorisation or permission: Pastoral visitors and all members of the PCC.

This past year the Parish Safeguarding Team have met regularly and worked with statutory and voluntary agencies (as required) with support from the diocese (as necessary) to manage safeguarding concerns and provide appropriate support for all those involved.

The process of changing from 5 to 3 yearly DBS renewal has begun. If your DBS is nearing five years old expect to be contacted. Your timely compliance with this process (and any outstanding training) is greatly appreciated to enable the Parish to have high Safeguarding standards and meet requirements.

“Safeguarding... is at the heart of a Christian expression of community... It is gospel work” (1).

Amanda Harris

Parish Safeguarding Officer (stepped down end March 2023).

24/4/23

1. <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/mod/lesson/view.php?id=1543&pageid=1752>