

APCM 2021 – Paper 6

Annual Safeguarding Report to APCM 21st March 2021 11.00am

Major safeguarding developments since last April's report:

The Parish has adapted extraordinarily well to the pandemic, moving a number of its regular activities online with due regard to safeguarding protocols for the various youth activities that take place.

Robert Cotton, Grayson Jones and I completed the mandatory **Parish Safeguarding Audit** in early September 2020 and submitted it by 30th September 2020. Avril Walker attended our meeting as PCC member. We are in excellent health, safeguarding-wise due, in no small part, to this Parish's commitment to safeguarding. The report below follows the template and guidance issued in the Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Handbook 2019 and confirms that we have due regard *to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance*.

1. Adopt and implement

Annual adoption of the The House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church'

Comment: Formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement'. This will be signed on behalf of the PCC. This will be done at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

2. Appoint

An appropriately experienced, named Parish Safeguarding Officer to work with the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council or join with other parishes to share a named Parish Safeguarding Officer

Comment: We have a PSO and a DSL in place. From March 2021 Sarah Stewart will step down from this role and Mari Gardner will take over at PSO.

3. Safer recruitment, support and training

Have a policy statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders and ensure all those responsible for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults on behalf of the church are safely recruited

Comment: We follow the guidance provided by the Church of England in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook 2019 and recruit all those working with children, young people and adults safely.

Ensure all church officers are aware of the safeguarding policy/guidance and are trained appropriately for their roles

Comment: All PCC members complete Basic Awareness Module. Records kept of training undertaken by church officers and clergy.

Parish Safeguarding Handbook link available through HTSM website

Provide appropriate insurance to cover for all activities undertaken in the name of the Parochial Church Council which involve children, young people and adults.

Comment: We are fully compliant; all risk assessed activities are covered

4.Display

A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement'. This should be signed on behalf of the PCC.

Comment: The policy is adopted in the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

Ensure information is displayed about how to contact the DSA(s), Parish Safeguarding Officer and how to get help outside the church with child and adult safeguarding issues (see Model Safeguarding in Your Parish – Who's Who).

Comment: posters with contact details on display in HTSM churches and information on website

Ensure that safeguarding arrangements are clearly visible on the front page of the parish website.

Comment: yes, fully compliant

5.Respond

Have a procedure in place to deal promptly with safeguarding allegations or suspicions of abuse

Comment: yes, fully compliant and guidance on poster and via website.

Report all safeguarding concerns or allegations including those against church officers to the Parish Safeguarding Officer/ incumbent and the DSA

Ensure that known offenders or others who may pose a risk to children and/or vulnerable adults are effectively managed and monitored in consultation with the DSA.

Comment: yes; DSA contacts PSO who informs incumbent of any risks.

Comply with all data protection legislation especially in regard to using (e.g. storing) information about any church officers and any safeguarding records.

Comment: yes; files stored in Parish Office

Ensure an 'activity risk assessment' is completed and reviewed regularly for each activity which is associated with either children or vulnerable adults and run in the name of the church

Comment: yes; fully compliant. Risk assessments were reviewed Jan 2020. After lockdown these were reviewed for those activities that moved online. Once restrictions are lifted risk assessments for face to face activities will be reviewed.

6.Review and report progress

The PSO should regularly report on safeguarding in the parish.

Comment: yes, annual report at APCM; DSL attends PCC meetings

Safeguarding should be a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting.

Comment: Yes, Safeguarding is a standing item at each PCC meeting.

At the APCM the PCC should provide an annual report in relation to safeguarding.

In the PCC's annual report will be a statement which reports on progress and a statement as to whether or not the PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Comment: yes, annual report presented at APCM

Report prepared by S.A.Stewart February 16th 2021