

APCM Safeguarding Report 2023 to 2024

Safeguarding continues to be a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting, and this year there have been no safeguarding incidents. The PCC has resumed face-to-face meetings in the church which are generally well attended. All members of the PCC have completed the relevant training as have the volunteer helpers associated with the various church activities which might include vulnerable people.

Safeguarding continues to be a strong focus within the church and we are grateful for the many volunteers who undertake training. Safeguarding Sunday was observed in January and Anne Wall agreed to take over on a temporary basis from Olwyn Davison-Oakley who stepped down for family reasons. She has now completed the training modules including Leadership and is becoming familiar with the processes online.

Tsungai Muchegwa, Safeguarding Advisor in Buckinghamshire, offered an online drop-in session in February which was very informative.

All DBS checks are now current, and Confidential Declaration Forms are in place for everyone. Safer Recruitment Guidelines are a standard procedure for all new volunteers.

Safeguarding records are maintained in hard copy in the locked vestry. The Diocese has developed an online app which enables us to keep all necessary records safe; and Janine is training Anne on how to use this app. All leaders and volunteers are included together with their DBS details and individual training requirements.

Toddlers in the Woods, the 8 O'clock Club, Open the Book, Pastoral Care and the Bible Study groups have been reaffirmed as church-approved activities and safeguarding checks have been undertaken. Revd Jez Carr has also set up a new group aimed at teenagers called Teen Spirit which is proving popular. There is a Parish noticeboard which displays details of church leaders including safeguarding.

We have looked in more detail at the requirements for safer recruitment this year, and the PCC has reviewed our Safer Recruitment and People Management practices.

Our Safeguarding Action plan is at Level 3.

Many thanks to everyone for their constant support this year. We are grateful for so many members of a small but caring community.

Anne Wall
Safeguarding Officer, Holy Trinity Seer Green and Jordans