

APCM 23 April 2023 St Bartholomew's Church, Yarnton

Safeguarding Report

St Bartholomew's Church is working in line with Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at PCC. Other Safeguarding meetings have taken place on both a scheduled and by need basis

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Charlotte Rayner who is also DBS Recruiter and Verifier. Reverend Oliver Petter is a DBS Verifier.

The Safeguarding Policy was adopted by the PCC at their meeting on 26 January 2023, as was the Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders and the PCC also formally authorised the ongoing work with children at Little Sheep, Junior Church and Café Create. Churchwardens are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

The Parish Dashboard system is being used by the PSO and the incumbent to check that Safeguarding procedures are being followed and to create Actions Plans. Currently we are working through the Level 2 tasks.

Basic Awareness Training has been completed by PCC members, Welcomers, Little Sheep and Junior Church Volunteers either at a face-to-face session on 5 February 2023 or online. One volunteer each of PCC, Little Sheep and Junior Church is yet to complete the training. Foundation Level Safeguarding Training has been completed by all but one of the Little Sheep and Junior Church volunteers. PCC members are yet to renew /complete this. DBS certificates have also been issued to all above who have also completed training.

Work is currently taking place to complete all aspects of Safer Recruitment, including role descriptions.

Safeguarding concerns have been shared with the PSO on 1 occasion this year and a referral made to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team as well as contact with the relevant agencies for support and protection of those concerned.

Next steps are to complete the elements of Safer Recruitment and to improve accessibility of the overview of whose training will expire when, so that support can be offered for this to be completed in a timely manner. Alongside this there will be ongoing training.

What is very clear is that at St Bartholomew's Church, Yarnton, the language of Safeguarding is one that is spoken and understood by all and is underpinning the ongoing activities with children and vulnerable people. As PSO, I am very grateful to all volunteers who willingly comply with the requirements of the role that they have taken on unpaid and in their own time.

Charlotte Rayner

PSO

23.4.23