

Safeguarding Report 2024

St Andrew's PCC takes seriously its collective responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

All those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults and PCC Members are required to undertake regular safeguarding training and to complete DBS checks.

All training is completed online through the Church of England portal, and everyone is required to complete both Basic and Foundation level training. The Foundation training is refreshed every 3 years. PCC members are required to complete additional training in Domestic Abuse. The Clergy, Readers and the Parish Safeguarding Officer undertake face to face training which is delivered via Zoom.

DBS checks are carried out for us by Thirtyone:eight. All those who work with children and vulnerable adults and PCC Members are required to complete an enhanced check.

Our Safeguarding Risk Assessment for all activities involving children and young people is reviewed annually.

A copy of all St Andrew's policies which include 'Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults', 'Lone Worker' and 'Safer Recruitment' are kept on the church website. These policies are reviewed annually and, along with other safeguarding documentation, are stored centrally in the Church GoogleDrive with access to the Drive being given to the Priest, Parish Safeguarding Officer, Church Wardens and Parish Administrator.

The Diocese of St Albans support our safeguarding practices in a number of ways:

- Regular safeguarding newsletters ensure that parishes are kept up to date with current legislation and of any changes to policies, procedures and training requirements.
- The 'Parish Dashboard'. This is a useful online portal which records all the safeguarding measures we take as a church including risk assessments completed and policies and their review date.
- The 'Parish Safeguarding Hub'. This stands alongside the Parish Dashboard and is designed to help with safer recruitment and people management. It contains details of all those who have completed training and DBS checks and generates automatic reminders when these are due to be renewed.
- Monthly Zoom drop-in sessions and an annual Safeguarding Forum for Parish Safeguarding Officers.
- An online safeguarding training course is available through their website (www.stalbans.anglican.org). This takes less than an hour to complete and is an

excellent introduction to safeguarding, particularly in recognising potential safeguarding issues and knowing then what course of action to take. The PCC recommend that all those involved with church life complete the course, particularly sidesmen, choir members and those in coffee teams. Please let me know if you would like me to send you the link to the course.

- Also on their website is a comprehensive set of policies, procedures and information documents, many of which we use as templates for our own policies and procedures.

Catherine Sleath, Parish Safeguarding Officer