

Safeguarding Annual Report for 2023/24
To present at PCC meeting, March 2024

At All Saints our culture has always been that the safety and well-being of all people, especially children and vulnerable adults, continues to be taken seriously. There are many changes which may happen nationally and for which at some stage we will be working with support from the Diocese. Also there are likely to be changes because of the proposal for Minster Communities. However, from a Parish Safeguarding point of view, we hope to continue to keep people safe, supported and informed as much as possible.

Within the past year there have been significant changes to the team with Revd Wendy leaving and also with Hannah working with Children's church and Kath moving from the training support role. We thank all of them for the work and care given during this time in varying roles which has been very much valued. We welcome Angela Clark who has been supporting with the administrative side of the DBS process and safer recruitment work, which is a significant part of Safeguarding work behind the scenes.

We continue to follow correct procedure and policy so that all people are recruited to teams and roles using the official 'Safer Recruitment' procedures. This year we have obtained seven enhanced new DBS reports for people. DBS renewals are every three years.

We are grateful for people at All Saints who volunteer for our various teams, groups and the PCC. They continue to have firm commitment to a safe culture and one way they show this is in their willingness to undertake the appropriate training in which they have been helpful, quick and responsive.

Training continues to be an important part of All Saints life and we would encourage and support people to be involved in looking at their training needs for the groups they are part of. Further information around support and courses are available both online and in person from the Diocese. The plan is to set up a training information point on the current safeguarding board in the church to advise of training needed for particular roles. This is ongoing work with the hope that we will also have a person in place within the team who can offer support and advice in this area.

The Safeguarding Dashboard and its generated reports that are presented at PCC meetings continue to be a helpful aid in ensuring that we continue to be compliant with the policies and procedures of Safeguarding. This also ensures we can move forward with any outstanding issues which are an important part of church governance work.

As a inter-cultural worshipping community we are also planning to address accessing helpful information in different languages.

Any formal Safeguarding incidents or any causes of concern are managed within the current Diocese Safeguarding Team. We are grateful to the Diocesan Safeguarding advisors who are always helpful with all queries we have and the guidance we require together with the support and acknowledgment of the confidential nature and sensitivity of any work undertaken.

We aim to meet at least three or four times throughout the year. We would like to see the Safeguarding team grow as we are currently very small in number and it remains very important that we can continue to ensure the safety, care and support for people in our church community. If you feel called to support in any way please feel free to have a chat with myself and Angela. We are a friendly team and would welcome new members.

Claire Gregson and Angela Clark
Safeguarding Team