

## **Safeguarding Report, 2023**

This report focuses on issues around safeguarding in our church and wider community activities. Its purpose is to help ensure we look at our policies, procedures and safeguarding processes regularly, including looking at training and DBS clearance for key people within the church. This we do not only at the APCM but at each meeting of the PCC.

We follow the safeguarding processes laid down by the Diocese, complemented and reinforced by those of Northumberland County Council children and adult services.

Each year we review all we do to ensure our safeguarding practices are sound; that our community is one in which children, young people and vulnerable adults are supported; and that we take seriously our duty of care to all who have contact with our church community.

The PCC has reviewed all the necessary documentation, DBS lists and training requirements, and these are all in place and are updated as needed, as per the diocesan dashboard. Safeguarding is also a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting. This has enabled the PCC to comply with 'their duty' to have due regard to the house of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding.

We continue to take up Diocesan support and training (virtual and face to face) and note that it is important that all the clergy and key individuals complete all offered / stipulated training in a timely fashion.

We undertake safeguarding reviews of actual practice. Groups such as the choir and Sparklers have a safeguarding review annually.

Rev Handley does let me know if there has been any reason for concern: then we revisit what happened and our response, and see if there are any lessons to be learned.

Safeguarding is vital to protect all members of our community, those who have sustained contact with the church and those who have fleeting or one-off interactions.

It is important that we do everything possible to ensure that we adhere to guidance, and whenever possible our work is deemed to be best practice.

**Jan Casson, Parish Safeguarding Officer**

February 2023