

Parish Safeguarding Report

This is a short report of Parish Safeguarding matters for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St. Michael's and St Paul's on Sunday 1st March 2021.

The purpose of safeguarding

As a quick re-cap, the purpose of safeguarding is to help members of the church community, in whatever role they take whether paid or voluntary, create a safe and respectful place for everyone, whoever they are and whether we meet them in the church buildings or outside.

My role, as PSO, is to help the church community know how to act in ways that promote safety for all. So, part of what I do is to make sure that we have policies and procedures covering safeguarding issues and to monitor how we are using and acting on our policies and procedures.

Recruitment of both paid and voluntary church workers falls within the area of safeguarding and the parish is expected to have and to follow policies and procedures that meet Diocesan standards. If you are a volunteer, you have probably been asked to complete a "self-disclosure" form or even a DBS check. If so, thank you for doing that.

Getting up to speed as PSO

I have to admit that it has been a bit of a confusing year for me in this role.

I had hoped to organise some safeguarding training or awareness last year, but I felt a bit de-railed by the lockdown. I am still intending to do this and hope that it will happen before the end of the year. I also hope to make that training and awareness interesting and rewarding.

I am required to report annually on safeguarding matters to PCC so that the church leadership knows what is happening and what, if anything, we need to be doing next. I am doing this through the APCM report.

In Conclusion

Safeguarding is about creating an environment where the wellbeing of all is attended to. Our parish safeguarding policies and procedures and training are there to help us protect the vulnerable and we are all vulnerable at times in our lives.

If you would like to learn more about parish safeguarding then please do let me know!

Patty Everitt 29 March 2021