

Safeguarding Report for the Annual General Meeting 2018

This has been a year of consolidation and reflection.



Changes in the diocese about the leadership of Safeguarding, a new national framework of training and the introduction of online DBS have helped shape the way forward for all churches in the diocese of York.

Nationally, Safeguarding remains a high priority within the Church of England. There is a national training programme and online courses can be accessed.

Within the diocese there are now two full time officers in post. Both were appointed last year and between them they provide support, lead training, answer questions and provide guidance on managing specific situations which may arise.

Julie O'Hara, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, and Vanessa Kendall, Assistant Safeguarding Officer, come from strong social work backgrounds bringing a wealth of experience to their roles including delivering training. Becci Richardson continues to provide advice and guidance on DBS. The Safeguarding page on the diocesan website is easily accessible and has a host of relevant contacts and links.

At St Mary's we have been busy with the following:

- There is in the newly revamped porch a clear notice about safeguarding in our church.
- There is inside church the Safeguarding file which is accessible for all.
- In the Who's Who at the back of church the Safeguarding officer for the parish is identified.
- Both churchwardens, the Youth Leader and the Parish Safeguarding Officer have attended the C2 Safeguarding Leadership Module.
- The vicar has attended C3 module(for clergy)
- The vicar has also attended a module on Domestic Violence.
- As a result of the C2 training those who attended have clear 'job descriptions'.
- Colin Shaugnessey has guided people through the new DBS procedures – painlessly!

We are aware that there are jobs to be done following attendance at the C2 course and over time I will be attending to the list.

Finally I would like to thank those members of the congregation who have given up time to undertake training and attend meetings. Team effort is a critical factor in ensuring we keep up to date.

Gillian Dorman-Smith.
March 2018