

# ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT TO APCM 2023

## Policies and practice

The clergy and PCCs of the benefice continue to meet the requirement to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding remains a standing item at every meeting of the PCCs

All safeguarding policies were updated and approved in May 2022 at the **Combined** PCC meeting. They are all in line with the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and meet statutory requirements whilst remaining relevant to our particular context. The next reviews will be in May 2023.

All PCCs in the Benefice have approved the Safeguarding Action Plan for their parish. These plans are being worked through to ensure that we are **compliant** with statutory requirements and also to ensure best practice is in place. As actions are achieved, the action plans are updated and redistributed accordingly.

## Safer recruitment

The online system for DBS clearance is now well established throughout the benefice. All renewals are complete and there are a few initial DBS checks still awaiting completion. The requirement for DBS renewals has now been changed to every three years (previously five years) so there will be a need for these to take place more frequently going forwards.

Several parishioners who are volunteering to help lead informal services are undergoing Basic DBS checks. Currently, there are no other volunteers who require DBS clearance, but this is always under review depending on any further church activities which may be introduced.

Members of the newly formed Bell Ringers group at Droxford are working through safeguarding training at appropriate levels depending on the level of responsibility. Vetting procedures are underway for those who have volunteered for positions of responsibility such as Tower Captain, Secretary and Treasurer roles.

Thank you to everyone for their willingness to go through this process, your cooperation has been much appreciated.

## Training

Thank you to everyone who has spent time completing the required training. The majority of the outstanding items on the Parish Action Plan are training requirements which still needs completing so this will need to be a priority in the coming months.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer and the churchwardens have completed additional Leadership training and will be undertaking their Safer Recruitment and People Management training in light of the current **vacancy**.

## Safeguarding concerns and incidents

No safeguarding concerns have been raised during the year. However, we all need to stay aware of those who are vulnerable in our communities, both adults and children and know what to do should an issue arise. Please do contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Ali Pepper**

**Parish Safeguarding Officer**

**February 2023**