

Safeguarding Annual Report for 2024/25
for the APCM 29/4/2025

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. 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 few months, as we are all aware, there have been difficulties, challenges and, indeed, sadness and trauma for the victims following the outcome of the Makin Report. As a result of this there are likely to be ongoing changes and at this stage, we may not be sure what all those changes will be, but certainly at parish level we will strive to continue to work hard with the Diocese and follow guidelines to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all who use our church.

Huge thanks go to our safeguarding team. Angela Clark for assisting with DBS processing and supporting our safer recruitment paperwork and references and now Gail Hastilow who is working very hard to get through the revised training for roles within our church. 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. Do please ask if you have any queries around training, we are here to help.

I would also like to thank our Churchwardens Gwyn and Nicky and the ministry team who have helped with support during the interregnum, it has been invaluable. It is wonderful to have Revd Emily with us now and the safeguarding team look forward to working with Emily, particularly with the focus on working with Safeguarding groups within the Minster community work. We are now looking at setting up meetings with other safeguarding coordinators within the Minster Community having attended a meeting in March this year to form positive links which in time we hope may simplify our administrative process and enable us to share skills and support one another.

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 six enhanced new DBS reports for people. DBS renewals are now every three years. Persons who use DBS updates are recorded separately.

We are grateful for people at All Saints who volunteer for our various teams, groups and the PCC. Thank you for continuing to have firm commitment to a safe culture and one way to show this is a willingness to undertake the appropriate training which again proves invaluable to support and be aware of safeguarding in our church community.

The Safeguarding Dashboard and its generated reports are regularly presented at PCC meetings. This is 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 and remains a very helpful tool. There are changes to the Safeguarding Dashboard which safeguarding coordinators are working through with members of the Diocese Safeguarding Team

As an inter-cultural worshipping community, we do need to access more support in other languages. It is hopeful we can focus on this important issue over the next couple of months and to work with our colleagues in the Diocese Safeguarding Team to access this information.

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 two to three times throughout the year, or other times, as required. We are always happy to have new members join the team. We are friendly and very supportive. Please have a chat with one of us if you are interested in being part of the team.

Claire Gregson, Angela Clark and Gail Hastilow
Safeguarding Team