

Christ Church Dartford
APCM Safeguarding Report (October 2020 – May 2021)

As a church we have adopted the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policies, follow the National Safeguarding Team Guidance and work closely with the Rochester Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

We follow new guidance issued in the last few months: Serious Incident Reporting Guidance (National safeguarding Team), DBS checks for working with children in places of worship (Disclosure and Barring Service).

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate at the appropriate level is required for certain roles within church. There were 6 people with a new or renewed DBS certificate in the reporting period.

Safeguarding training is also required for many roles in church. This has been undertaken by those new to the role and by those who need to renew their training after three years.

During the pandemic, every aspect of how we meet as church has changed. I have worked with the church leadership team to ensure that all activities undertaken during this time are safe for children, young people and adults who are vulnerable. Advice from the government, Church of England and the Diocese, in regard to safeguarding, has been followed. Risk Assessments are written, reviewed and updated as required for every church activity.

As a church we have the required policies in place, follow the appropriate guidance, review safeguarding matters at every PCC meeting and have experienced, excellent leaders heading up our Youth and Children Team. As Safeguarding Officer, I ensure that everything is in place to make Christ Church a safe place for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

However, we are all responsible and so it is important that should you have a niggle or concern, you talk it through with me, as safeguarding officer or with Richard or Laura. We have signed the safeguarding pledge with Thirtyone:eight *'speak up, put survivors first, conceal nothing, take responsibility, make change happen and hold each other accountable'*

Gill Smith (Parish Safeguarding Officer)