

Christ Church Dartford  
APCM Safeguarding Report (May 2021 – April 2022)

**Jeremiah 29:11** *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

Sadly, the news tells us of the many historical problems of abuse in society and in the church. Too many people in authority and in congregations thought that 'it couldn't happen here'. Too many thought there were people whose position meant that they were above suspicion. Too many organisations had unhealthy pockets of power that went unchallenged and in some places there was no accountability or transparency.

Today, the church has learnt painful lessons and nationally and locally we are committed to the following:

1. Promoting a safe environment and culture.
2. Safely recruiting and supporting all those with safeguarding responsibilities.
3. Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
4. Caring pastorally for victims/ survivors of abuse.
5. Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse.
6. Responding to those that may present a risk to others.

**At Christ Church** we continue to remind people that everyone is responsible for safeguarding and they should do this by looking, listening and reporting any concern or worrying niggles to Richard or to me as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

We ensure that people are aware of the many types of abuse and know how to act should they see or hear something that is of concern. There is safeguarding training that is required in roles where people work with our children and youth and where those chat to and visit adults who may be vulnerable. As trustees, responsible for our church, our PCC and wardens are also required to be trained in safeguarding.

In the last year 32 people completed this training and a few others are catching up.

We follow the requirements when recruiting people, either paid or as volunteers. There are many roles in church where a person must hold a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate. In the last year, 8 people have renewed their certificates. We are now required to renew DBS certificates every three years.

As we have started up church groups and activities following the covid lockdowns we have ensured there is always an updated risk assessment in place.

When filming the church service to be uploaded to YouTube we have made sure that everyone taking part is aware how the recording is to be used and has given their written agreement.

There are posters in the church and hall and information on the church website as well as our church publications that explain who to contact for help and advice if you have a safeguarding concern.

So that emails are confidential, Richard has a dedicated email address for safeguarding:  
[vicar@christchurchdartford.org.uk](mailto:vicar@christchurchdartford.org.uk)

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 have a designated Parish Safeguarding Officer, responsible for recruitment, training and dealing with safeguarding concerns.

Gill Smith (Parish Safeguarding Officer) 07828 082515 or email: [safeguarding@christchurch.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@christchurch.org.uk)