

Safeguarding report 2024 -2025

Prepared for St Mark's & St Stephen's APCM 18/05/2025

Compliance Issues

During this year I have undertaken the task of amalgamating the two parishes in terms of safeguarding. This has involved setting up a new account with our provider Thirtyoneeight who provides safeguarding services across the Church of England. All church officers and PCC members were obliged to renew their DBS checks in order to comply with regulations - quite a big undertaking. I also had to apply to become the official checker for the Parish, authorising me to check documents to ensure that all employees & volunteers were eligible for their roles. I also registered as lead recruiter for the Parish, a role I share with Mother Claire.

At time of writing, everyone on the PCC has now completed their DBS application, with only 3 people awaiting confirmation. A fantastic result! Thanks to everyone who has co operated with this.

Training

At time of writing, most people on the PCC have completed their statutory basic training and there has been good participation in other recommended safeguarding courses. We have recently recruited new members onto the PCC and their take-up of safeguarding training has been exemplary.

Parish Dashboards

Safeguarding in the Church of England is monitored through the Parish Dashboards, which sets out the centrally agreed standards to which each Parish must aspire. I am delighted to tell you that St Marks and St Stephens are scoring 100% in all areas.

Next steps

The main area to work on is that of display. The Church building ought to be seen as a refuge for people experiencing trouble in their lives. It is important, therefore that there are named people, who can be a source of help and information. Mother Claire has produced an excellent notice board at St Stephen's which provides this information and we are hoping that this will soon be replicated at St Mark's. Similarly, there is a board at St Mark's displaying details of agencies which can help people experiencing a wide range of problems. The next step will be to ensure that it is highly visible and also to replicate the information at St Stephen's

Safeguarding issues

Over the past year, three safeguarding issues have been brought to my attention. All cases were dealt with appropriately with excellent support from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

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Finally, I would like to thank Father Amatu, Mother Claire, the Church wardens and the PCC for all their help and support during the past year.

Janice Dickson March 2025