

Safeguarding Report and PCC Statement – 2023

The Importance of Safeguarding Procedures

The PCC believe that safeguarding our children, young people and vulnerable adults is a key part of our ministry here at St Michael's. As a Church, we are making every effort to prevent any safeguarding incident from occurring and we try hard to manage the risks of abuse in a proportionate and compassionate way. We also believe in the importance of supporting, in an appropriate way, anyone who has been a victim of abuse in the past.

We would strongly encourage all members of the congregation to read our Church's Safeguarding Policy and Action Plan which set out our approach to safeguarding both from a practical and Christian perspective. These are on the St Michael's Church web site:

<https://www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=224970>

DBS

The Church continues to ensure that all those engaged in 'regulated activities' with children, young people or vulnerable adults have been cleared (to 'enhanced' level) under the DBS process. The recent decision of St Albans Diocese to require all DBS clearances to be reviewed every three years (previously five years) created a considerable challenge. However, we are pleased to report that currently all those engaged in regulated activities have up to date DBS clearances!

In addition, we have also completed the DBS clearances of the Home Communion visiting team – at the 'basic' level advised by the Diocese.

Training

Whilst virtually all 'Church Officers' i.e. those carrying out any significant role on behalf of the Church, have completed the Basic (C0) Safeguarding training module online, many people are now also required to complete two further training courses (both online). These are the Foundation Course (C1) and Responding well to Domestic Abuse (S3). These must all be refreshed at least once every three years – quite a burden for all concerned, but worth the effort if it contributes towards the safety of children and vulnerable adults.

Statement: 'The PCC is working positively towards fulfilling its responsibilities to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in the Church's activities.'

Bill Macdonald, Parish Safeguarding Officer and DBS Lead Recruiter

April 2023