

**Annual Safeguarding Report**  
**All Saints Church, South Cave**  
**30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

## **Introduction**

The past 12 months have seen a reinvigoration of the Safeguarding agenda in the Church of England, the Diocese of York under Archbishop Stephen's leadership, and locally in our 3 churches. The inter-regnum has placed additional pressure on our local church leaders and it has certainly been a time for reflection as to how our churches might function better, attract former and new members to our churches and be attractive to candidates aspiring to be our next vicar.

The National Report on the Church of England's Second Past Cases Review (on Safeguarding concerns) was published in October 2022. The review found 383 new cases, which are now all being actively managed by local safeguarding leads under the House of Bishop's guidance. Of the 383 new cases, 168 related to children; 149 to vulnerable adults; 27 recorded as both; and 39 had no recorded data. Data on the alleged perpetrators showed 242 cases related to clergy; 53 related to church officers; and 41 related to volunteers, whose role included engagement with children.

These statistics are painful for the Church of England to acknowledge and Archbishop Stephen reminds us in the Diocese's latest Safeguarding Bulletin that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility as it will rebuild trust and confidence in the church and ensure that everyone feels safe and welcomed within the church community.

## **Incidents / Issues of concern**

There have been no safeguarding incidents or issues of concern reported at All Saints over the past 12 months. A heightened awareness for the well-being of neighbours in the wider community, is another positive benefit of parishioners becoming more confident with the Safeguarding agenda.

## **Diocesan Support**

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team has expanded over the past 12 months. Rob Marshall was confirmed in post at the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser last summer and more recently Sara Dickinson as the Assistant DSA. Jenny Price, Safeguarding Trainer and Volunteer Co-ordinator, led the face to face training on 29<sup>th</sup> April at ASCC for those from our 3 parishes and other parishes locally, who are less comfortable or unable to access e-learning for their mandatory training.

I attend the virtual PSO Forum every 3 months. The Forum is useful to benchmark progress and to learn from others. Feedback to the JCC and PCCs from the PSO Forum where Modern Slavery was presented, stimulated support for a similar presentation to be held locally. This was arranged for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, when Dr. Alicia Heys from the Humber Modern Slavery

Partnership gave a lively and informative lecture at the All Saints Community Centre on the evils of this trade, to upwards of 40 church members. The last PSO Forum was on 27<sup>th</sup> April, when Dementia Forward was the focus for learning. This made me reflect on whether our churches are 'dementia friendly' – or could we do better? Something to consider over the coming months.

I attended 3 virtual sessions in the Diocesan Safeguarding Week in November.

## **Training**

All JCC Members have completed the mandatory Basic and Foundation Safeguarding modules. It was decided at the JCC on 12<sup>th</sup> January that all Members would undertake the Domestic Abuse module as good practice. However, on 8<sup>th</sup> March, the Diocese issued an edict that **ALL** JCC Members are now **required** to do this module, in the light of the Past Case Review findings. Face to face sessions have been arranged by the Diocesan Team but those who are able to undertake the e-learning should do so. The nearest face to face session will take place on **21 July at 10.30 am St Andrew's, Packman Lane, Kirk Ella HU10 7TL**. Please let me know asap if you want a place reserved for this course as spaces are likely to be filled very quickly. A realistic timescale for everyone to do this module is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.

Although not mandatory, it was agreed that Home Group Leaders, the Prayer Team and the outreach members of 'Church Links' would also do the Basic and Foundation modules, in case Safeguarding concerns were raised in the course of their work.

I have completed and am up-to-date with all the modules required for the role.

The record for training and DBS checks is attached.

## **Progress**

All JCC Members and the 'Jolly Tots' leader, Karen Clark, are committed to the Safeguarding agenda. All have an up-to-date DBS. Every JCC meeting has Safeguarding on the agenda, whether or not there is anything new to report. The Safeguarding Policy and the Domestic Abuse Statement have been approved and are/will be available at the back of church. The Diocese's Bullying and Harassment Policy was noted at the JCC meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March, along with the form for Reporting a Safeguarding Issue or Concern. *Promoting a safer church* posters with Safeguarding contacts are on the church and ASCC noticeboards. The Secretary of the JCC liaises with Sharon Vodden so that key documents can be uploaded onto the Safeguarding page of the All Saints' Church website. A folder with all relevant Safeguarding advice will also be placed at the back of church and will be kept up-to-date by the PSO. I am extremely grateful to Tara Filby, Parish Safeguarding Support, for her help in ensuring the Safeguarding agenda is moved forward at each JCC, when I have not been able to attend the meetings. It is hoped that, with forward planning, the JCC and the Parish Council meetings in Ellerker, which I chair, do not clash, so that I can attend the JCC regularly.

## **Diocesan Dashboard**

Safeguarding practice is monitored by the Diocese through the Dashboard. There are 3 levels and All Saints is currently at Level 2. On completion of the mandatory training and the delivery of the Annual Report, it is possible that Level 3 will be achieved.

## **Annual Audit**

The Diocese has announced that it will shortly be auditing Safeguarding in the parishes. The audit period will be between 15<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> June. The audit questions will focus on the following key areas:

- **Policies** - do you have the necessary policies, agreed and in place?
- **Activities** - do you have a clear record of the activities that go on in your church?
- **People** - do you have the right people in place?
- **Training** - is everyone up to date with their training and are your records complete
- **Checking** - does everyone who is eligible hold an up to date DBS certificate

If All Saints achieves Level 3 on its dashboard before 15<sup>th</sup> May, then it will not be audited.

## **Next steps**

It is important for residents of the Parish of All Saints to observe that its JCC and congregation are committed to ensuring that Safeguarding practices are in place and that their church is a safe and welcoming environment. It is also vital that candidates applying to be the new incumbent see that Safeguarding in the church is given the necessary importance and that structures and processes are indeed in place.

I will continue to respond to guidance from the Diocese and to support the Church Wardens and the JCC Members to do what is required, with the aim of achieving Level 3 as soon as possible.

This report will be placed on the church's website.

## **Appreciation**

Thank you to all Members of the JCC for their commitment to ensuring that Safeguarding is taken responsibly; to Liz Sanderson for her advice and help, particularly with DBS checks; and to Sandra Allison and Sally Todd for assisting with communications. It is great team work and much appreciated.

**Claire Wood**

**PSO**

**Updated 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

