

SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS 2022

Background

- Safeguarding is a matter overseen at Benefice level
- It is normal practice is to have a Safeguarding Officer from one parish and Deputy Safeguarding Officer from the other parish
- Judy Gold from All Saints', Chilton, is Deputy Safeguarding Officer and has been 'holding the fort' on safeguarding on her own since the death in 2020 of Mel Gibson from St Matthew's, Harwell who was Safeguarding Officer
- Attempts to recruit a replacement Safeguarding Officer from St Matthew's have not yet been successful. This recruitment is now in the hands of the Churchwardens. Judy Gold is concerned at the lack of a candidate from St Matthews for this important position and requests that an appointment is made as a matter of urgency, given how long the post has been vacant

Recent progress with safeguarding systems and processes

1. **Safeguarding Policy** – this is agreed annually at a Combined PCC meeting. This was agreed most recently at the April 2022 Combined PCC meeting and has been signed by the Churchwardens and displayed in our church buildings in accordance with the guidelines of our Safeguarding Dashboard
2. **Safeguarding Dashboard** – the Oxford Diocese has subscribed to a Safeguarding Dashboard system and is encouraging Safeguarding Officers to use it. This system is a user-friendly online checklist of all the safeguarding matters required of parishes by the Diocese with links to all relevant documents. It uses a 'traffic light' (red, amber, green) colour coding system to indicate at a glance the status of each item. The dashboard has 3 levels. Judy Gold is now starting to complete the level 2 dashboard, covering "safer activities" having almost completed Level 1 ("safer foundations"). Any member of the Church who would like to view the dashboard by invitation please contact Judy Gold on jgold2@btinternet.com
3. **Safeguarding Action Plan** – this is an output of the Safeguarding Dashboard which summarises how the Safeguarding Policy is being put into action and is being reviewed. The Action Plan was reviewed at the April 2022 Combined PCC meeting and was adopted
4. **DBS checks** – the benefice keeps an electronic log of who has a church DBS check of what type and the expiry date. This is used to keep track of whether staff and volunteers have the correct DBS check in place and it flags when checks need to be done again. Leaders/coordinators who are responsible for church activities involving children or vulnerable adults need to alert the Safeguarding Officer if someone new needs a DBS check
5. **I can confirm** that to the best of my knowledge the PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops new Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance

Judy Gold

Deputy Safeguarding Officer for St Matthew's Harwell and All Saints' Chilton

April 2022

Report approved by Joint PCC on 25th April 2022 by correspondence.