



Benefice of The St. J's Group with Wellow

ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT TO APCM 2024

Policies and practice

The clergy and PCCs of the benefice continue to meet the requirement to have due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every meeting of the PCCs.

All safeguarding policies were updated and approved in February 2024 at both PCC meetings (PCC of the St. J's Group {Peasedown with Foxcote and Shoscombe} on 1st February 2024 and PCC of Wellow on 8th February 2024). The next reviews will be in February 2025.

We continue to use the Parish Safeguarding Hubs to track our compliance with all Safeguarding matters. Bath and Wells are due to be audited in March/April 2025. A lot of the focus will be on parish safeguarding. The diocese is using a website called Parish Dashboards and I'm pleased to say we have worked through and have achieved the highest level - Level 3 (green).

In the Benefice of the St. J's Group with Wellow, we recognise that the few who are determined to harm children or adults, deliberately seek out groups or organisations where they can meet children or other vulnerable people. The Church is particularly vulnerable to these people. Creating and maintaining a safeguarding culture will discourage them from becoming involved for the wrong reasons and make it difficult for them to harm or abuse children or adults if they do. We do this through talking about Safeguarding in our services and we did this as part of the national Safeguarding Sunday during November 2023.

Safer recruitment

The online system for DBS clearance is now established throughout the benefice.

DBS Checks

We have safely recruited and completed a DBS check for:

- Kim Cottle; for Open the book and All Age Worship.
- Elizabeth Alden; for Youth Worker with Movement.
- Oliver Morris; for Youth Worker with Movement.

All DBS checks are completed every 3 years on those that require it.

All members of the Wellow All Age Worship team need to have a DBS check. This is proving quite tricky and still a few members need to do this.

Thank you to everyone for their willingness to go through this process, your cooperation has been much appreciated.

Training

Thank you to everyone who has spent time completing the required Safeguarding training.

All members of the PCC have at least done BASIC AWARENESS. Some members of the PCC will need to re-do the training in 2024 (as the training needs to be redone every 3 years).

Also our church wardens and one of our readers need to complete the LEADERSHIP Course this year (2024).

All volunteers are being reminded to complete the foundations safeguarding training using the online module. I'm pleased to say most volunteers have undertaken the foundations training and some are continued to being encouraged to complete it.

Safeguarding concerns and incidents

No safeguarding concerns have been raised during the year.

Rob Bubyer
Parish Safeguarding Officer
March 2024