

2018 APCM Safeguarding Report

Promoting a Safer Church: Mandatory Church of England Safeguarding Training.

As the designated benefice-safeguarding officer, I have to inform both parishes that the Church of England has published a clear framework for safeguarding training across all C of E communities. This is a huge undertaking to make the Diocese a safer Christian community, which nurtures the wellbeing of all of us.

Who is responsible for safeguarding in the benefice of St Leonard's and St Peters?

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, but it is the responsibility of the Vicar and myself to ensure our benefice is compliant. Safeguarding training will help all of us to develop safe working practices and identify how to respond well to concerns, so we can all positively live out the gospel.

How will we ensure good practice in our benefice?

The Church of England has produced both core and specialist safeguarding training modules, from basic awareness to leadership level. Following these modules will ensure good safeguarding practice throughout the benefice. Therefore, it is important that all training is completed within the C of E framework. Even if you have completed safeguarding training through different agencies (e.g. schools, social services, NHS etc.), you will still be required to complete the C of E specific modules.

How are we going to provide help and support?

I understand that this may be a daunting prospect for many of us! Please don't worry - we will provide help and support through every level. In particular, there will be support provided for anyone unfamiliar with online learning. We will take you step by step through the course either one on one or in small groups, fuelled by tea and cake!

What level of training will I need to complete?

The level of training you will need to complete depends on the role you have in the church community. You may be surprised at how many people will need to complete the basic training. The Vicar and I will be in contact with everyone who needs to complete a training module and will provide all the relevant information they might need

The levels of training are:

- Level C0. This is an online E-learning module and covers a basic awareness of safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. The course can be stopped and restarted at any point.
- Level C1. This is face-to-face training within the parish, for anyone who has contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Level C0 will need to be completed prior to course attendance. A training date has been booked for the morning of Saturday 19th May.
- Level C2. This is a face-to-face module of training delivered by the Diocese. This is now mandatory for: pastoral visitors, the safeguarding lead, employed children's and youth workers, leaders of activities with children and vulnerable adults, both paid and unpaid, Church Wardens, music group leaders, and bell tower captains (if they are in direct contact with any under 18s). Levels C0 and C1 will need to have been completed prior to attendance.

When will I need to have completed my training?

The PCC has agreed that we must be compliant with the Church of England's safeguarding policy, 'Promoting a Safer Church' by December 2018, so all training must be completed by then.

What happens next?

Over the next few weeks the Vicar and I will be in contact with anyone who requires training, we will provide a list of training dates and further information. In the meantime if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I understand this is a big undertaking for our churches but I know you all understand how necessary and important it is.

Thank you so much for your support.

Sue Greenwood

Benefice Safeguarding Lead.

Tel: 07779 262850/01865 464238

Email: andyandsue4@gmail.com.