Safeguarding report for 2024

I took over as Parish safeguarding officer (PSO) in March 2024 whilst All Saints was in vacancy. My first task was to bring all of the PCC up to date with DBS checks and the relevant safeguarding training. By the time our new Incumbent Rev Simon Cutmore was in post September 2024 I had all of the PCC members up to date and most of the adults of the choir also had completed the necessary training.

I have been able to update all of the relevant policies and paperwork for safeguarding. I work closely with Rev Simon and we have regular meetings to keep everything running smoothly and to share anything that needs our attention.

During the year I have attended three PCC meetings enabling me to share with them how everything is proceeding.

During August I organised a separate Safeguarding noticeboard assisted by churchwarden Mrs V Tranter, to enable us as a church to have all of the necessary paperwork appertaining to safeguarding visible for all to see on entering the church building and to comply with the House of Bishops policy on safeguarding.

I use the safeguarding hub to its maximum and find it a very useful tool to have. With all of the information I am able to input, it produces action plans to enable Rev Simon and the PCC to see at a glance where we are with all of our safeguarding training and DBS checks for all the relevant people.

All Saints held its first Safeguarding Sunday on the 17th November which was very well received. We also used the day to organise a training session after the morning service for anyone who couldn't access online training facilities at home. This saw quite a number of people attending. It was beneficial in that it gave a group of folk the chance to discuss issues that arose from the video that we watched together, with time for prayer and reflection.

Also in November after discussion with Rev Simon we began the task of looking at our church in the context of a healthy culture survey. This was given out to all members of All Saints. The response to the survey was quite good and after collating the paperwork, we set up a small focus group consisting of Rev Simon, Churchwarden Verity and myself to look at the results and to ascertain what as a church we already do to promote a safe and healthy environment and what still needs work. It is a very useful tool in moving our church forward.

I really feel that the year has been a positive one in relation to safeguarding at All Saints and I would like to express my thanks to Rev Simon, the churchwardens Verity and Janet, the PCC and all of our congregation for their continued support to me in my role as PSO.